Press Release
Bonn, 11. October 2019

Beethoven-Tour celebrates opening in Bonn
The Beethoven anniversary is casting its shadows ahead – 22 informational columns revive Beethoven in Bonn and the region

2020 is advancing steadily – the year that celebrates Beethoven 250th anniversary. As a precursor to the anniversary the Beethoven-Tour opens today. It is being installed permanently in Bonn and the region and will surpass the composer's birthday celebrations.

Among the speakers at the opening in the Beethoven-Haus' Chamber Music Hall were Bonn's Lord Mayor Ashok Sridharan, District Chief Executive Sebastian Schuster, and Ralf Birkner, Commercial Manager of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, who celebrates the composer's anniversary with a plethora of events and concerts.

Ashok Sridharan, Lord Mayor of Bonn: "The concept and the interactive elements allow everyone to experience Beethoven as a composer and an individual at authentic locations in Bonn and the region. The tour enables people of all ages to get to know the most prolific son of our city."

Sebastian Schuster, District Chief Executive of the Rhein-Sieg-District is equally euphoric: "The new Beethoven-Tour retraces Ludwig van Beethoven's connections of whereabouts in the Rhein-Sieg-region through 11 Stations. It invites you to to revisit these vestiges and to discover sceneries, people and structures that had a great impact on the young composer's life."

The informational columns were commissioned by the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH and designed by Monika Müller-Rieger (Müller-Rieger GmbH). They are 2,5 meters high and provide interesting insight into Beethoven's 22 years he spent in the region. Seven stations in Bonn for example show trilingual animations, informational content and photos that revive Beethoven. The tour was co-assigned by 'Bürger für Beethoven' who also supported the project conceptual and content-wise. The Beethoven-Haus was also closely involved.

BTHVNstory – 11 columns in Bonn
Throughout the city 11 steles were installed under the moniker of 'BTHVNstory', also at the brand new shop of the Beethoven-Haus, among other locations like the Breunig residency where the young artist used to roam. The Remigius Church or the statue of his that was unveiled in 1845 upon insistence of Robert Schumann are further milestones of the tour. The inner-city part of the tour is planned to take around 2 hours.
BTHVNregion – 11 columns in the region
Under the name 'BTHVNregion' 11 further steles were installed in the larger Rhein-Sieg district. They contain favorite destinations of Beethoven, among those the Peterberg, the Drachenfels, or the Benedict-Abbey Michaelsberg where 11-year old Beethoven enjoyed playing the organ. The regional tour spans from Rheinbach to Hennef and illustrates the composer’s sphere of activity.

Beethoven anniversary casts its shadows ahead
The tour marks the first of many projects for the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH. More than 300 projects were finalized under the brand 'BTHVN2020'. The anniversary year takes place under the motto 'Re-Experience Beethoven'. "The bandwidth of all the projects spans classical music, theatrical plays, festivities, public events, pop concerts even, to name a few. We will experience Beethoven in massive musical and colourful facets" says Malte Boecker, Artistic Director of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH. The preparations are in full swing. Further information will be revealed in a press conference this November.

Overview of the Beethoven Tour
Further reading: http://www.bthvn-story.de/

BTHVNstory – The tour in Bonn
1) Beethoven-House
Bonngasse 20, the starting point of Beethoven's life in 1770.

2) Remigius Church: Organ playing
Since 1806 you can find Beethoven’s baptismal font here, where he enjoyed playing the organ.

3) Zehrgarten Tavern
Here, on Nov 1st 1792, Beethoven gave his farewell party upon moving to Vienna.

4) Remigiusplatz: Beethovens baptism
Pfarrkirche St. Remigius was located here until 1800. Beethoven was baptised here on 17.12.1770.

5) Kurfürstliche Schlosskapelle
As a contractual court musician Beethoven performed here numerous times.

6) Rhine Shore
The Rhine played an important role in Beethoven's life - not only as itinerary to Vienna.

7) Breuning residency
The Breunig family and Beethoven entertained a deep friendship.

8) Beethoven-memorial
The memorial was unveiled in 1845 with intense support from Franz Liszt and Robert Schumann.

9) Old cemetery
His mother received an honorary grave.

10) Redoute
Here 21 year-old Beethoven met Joseph Haydn on his return from London in 1792.

11) Draitsch head
From here Beethoven went to play the organ in the monastery Marienforst near Bonn.

**BTHVNregion – The tour in the Rhein-Sieg-district**

12) Roisdorf Well / Bornheim
Family excursions to this well introduced young Beethoven to healing water.

13) Alfter
As a piano instructor he frequently visited the residencies in the greater Bonn area.

14) Odendorf / Swisttal
Beautiful and picturesque landscapes provided unending inspiration for the proto-romantic composer.

15) Rheinbach
The medieval city walls left a huge impression on him.

16) Meckenheim
He did a trip here with his father Johann in 1781.

17) Chapel Holzem / Wachtberg
Tenor Anton Raaff was a colleague of Beethoven's grandfather.

18) Michaelsberg Abbey
Here, Beethoven first played the church organ when he was 11 years old.
19) Hennef
While hiking, Beethoven and his father met Judge Franz Josef von Proff here.

20) Heisterbach Monastery
His birth year of 1770 saw a dramatic famine in the region. The monastery provided food and shelter.

21) Petersberg
The pilgrimage destination St. Peter chapel is the namesake for this hill that was a regular destination for Beethoven.

22) Drachenfels
For his time being, Beethoven remembered the wild profile of the Drachenfels.

About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH: The federal government, the land of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district instructed the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, founded by the Beethoven Haus, to coordinate the 250 year anniversary as a national event with international appeal, and to shape the anniversary regarding content and to anchor the brand regionally. The program spans more than 300 promoted projects. Here you can find an overview of all events: http://www.bthvn2020.de/en