

Press Release

## 6 June 2021: All Nine Beethoven Symphonies from Nine European Cities – Live on ARTE

25.05.2021

Starting at 13.00 on Sunday, 6 June 2021, ARTE Concert will take audiences online on a tour of Europe like no other with all nine Beethoven symphonies performed in chronological order – seven of them live – from nine venues of symbolic significance all over Europe. At the Arkadenhof (arcade court) of the Kurfürstliches Schloss (today's university) in Beethoven's birth city Bonn in celebration of the Beethoven anniversary BTHVN2020, on the shores of Lake Lugano, and in Prague, Dublin, Helsinki, Luxembourg, Delphi, Strasbourg and Vienna, some of Europe's greatest orchestras with truly outstanding conductors at the rostrum will present their interpretations of Beethoven's most magnificent works. The programme is a collaborative project by ARTE together with its European public partner channels.

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Now that almost a year has passed since ARTE's Beethoven Day in honour of the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth had to be cancelled owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the European culture channel is determined that this year, this exceptional musical spectacle will go ahead. With its illustrious line-up of orchestras and conductors, it is now all set for its broadcast of all nine Beethoven symphonies from nine European cities starting at 13.00 on 6 June 2021.

The cycle will begin at 13.00 with the Symphony No. 1 played by the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** conducted by **Daniel Harding** in Beethoven's birth city of Bonn. The performance is in the spirit of the Beethoven anniversary, which has been extended up to and including September 2021, and is being produced in cooperation with **WDR** and **Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH**. It is followed at 14.00 by a rendition of the Second Symphony by Ireland's **RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Jaime Martin** from the National Concert Hall in Dublin.

At 15.00 the **Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra** under its new chief conductor **Nicolas Collon** will play the revolutionary "Eroica" Symphony in the rock church of Tempelaukio in Helsinki, while for the Fourth Symphony, ARTE will take viewers to Luxembourg. There, Gustavo Gimeno will conduct the **Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg** while a troupe of young refugee dancers will present a dance performance choreographed by **Sylvia Camarda** on the square in front of the concert hall.

Next stop is the Old Town Square in Prague, where at 17.00 the **Czech National Symphony Orchestra** under **Steven Mercurio** will present Beethoven's iconic Symphony No. 5. This will be followed at 18.00 by an unusual performance of the Symphony No. 6 "Pastoral" by the Swiss chamber orchestra **I Barocchisti** conducted by its founder **Diego Fasolis** on the shores of Lake Lugano.

At 19.00, against the amazing backdrop of the ancient Greek theatre at Delphi, the **musicAeterna** ensemble conducted by maestro **Teodor Currentzis** will present its interpretation of the Seventh Symphony, accompanied by a new choreography by Sasha Waltz & Guests, while at 20.15 it will be

the turn of the **Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg**, which under the baton of **Marko Letonja** will play the Symphony No. 8 on the Presqu'île André Malraux in Strasbourg.

The evening will close with the Symphony No. 9 performed by the **Wiener Symphoniker** with the American conductor **Karina Canellakis** at the rostrum. Beethoven's ode to freedom and fraternity will be broadcast live from Schloss Belvedere in Vienna, the city where Beethoven composed all his symphonies, where he lived for more than thirty-five years, and where, finally, he died.

Bernd Mütter, ARTE Programme Director, on Beethoven Day on ARTE:

*"As the European Culture Channel, we want our Beethoven Day on 6 June to signal hope and a new beginning for arts and culture throughout Europe. On this one day our viewers will be able to travel to nine different European cities while at the same time savouring music-making of the very highest calibre. Our sincerest thanks go to the participating orchestras and conductors as well as to our partner channels and other partners all over Europe, without whose support this unique, Europe-wide cultural event would not have been possible."*

*Beethoven – The European Tour. Nine Symphonies, Nine Cities* is a collaborative project by ARTE together with its public partner channels ZDF, WDR, RTÉ, YLE, CT, SRG, ORF and Film Fund Luxembourg. After the live broadcast on 6 June the concerts will remain online until 6 December 2021 for viewers to replay as and when they wish.

## **Beethoven – The European Tour Nine Symphonies, Nine Cities**

On Sunday, 6 June 2021

from 13.00 to 22.30, live on ARTE  
and online on ARTE Concert

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**About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH:** *Beethoven's 250. anniversary is celebrated worldwide. The Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, an affiliate of the Beethoven-Haus Foundation, is supported by the federal government, the land of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district and is instructed to coordinate a national program. Patron of the anniversary program with the slogan "Rediscover Beethoven" is President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The celebrations will continue up to and including September 2021. An up-to-date overview of the projects can be found in the calendar of events at [www.bthvn2020.de/en](http://www.bthvn2020.de/en)*