

Beethovenfest Bonn opens
Grand finale to BTHVN2020 anniversary celebration
Bonn – August 20, 2021



Originally planned as the core element of the BTHVN2020 anniversary celebration in 2020, the Beethovenfest 2021 now provides the grand finale to the prolonged celebration. The Beethovenfest has a special place BTHVN2020's anniversary celebration lineup. Nearly half of the 60 Beethovenfest performances and events are sponsored by BTHVN2020 (Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH).

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“We look forward to an outstanding artistic program at this year's Beethovenfest. With its motto “Rise again, yes, rise again”, it carries a message of optimism and new beginning after a very difficult time for the arts over the last one-and-a-half years,” says Malte Boecker, Artistic Director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH. “Nike Wagner could not have arranged a more appropriate final chord for the BTHVN2020 anniversary celebration, which was never cancelled, but which constantly had to re-invent itself.”

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Back in December 2019, the celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday kicked off to the motto “Beethoven neu entdecken!” (Rediscover Beethoven). With generous support from the German Federal Government, the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhein-Sieg County and the City of Bonn, an extensive anniversary program was created that included nearly 200 projects by independent artists, clubs and initiatives as well as major cultural institutions, with nearly 20 events organized by BTHVN2020 itself. Beethovenfest is the largest beneficiary of funds from the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, which, with the support of its funding bodies, has helped Beethovenfest realize a world-class program in the anniversary year. The joint decision by the federal government, state, county and city to extend the Beethoven anniversary year into September 2021 allowed the Beethovenfest to postpone its advance-stage projects by an entire year.

Last year saw the successful presentation of the “Bauprobe Beethoven” project in the Beethovenhalle, one of the core anniversary projects. This year, the focus is on the Beethoven Symphony Cycle performed by world-class orchestras, the German National Youth Orchestra's Campus Project, the “Pavane für Prometheus” performances in the “Viktoriabad” swimming pool, the chamber ballet “Gods and Dogs” in the Bonn Opera, as well as the performance of “Missa solemnis” under Kent Nagano in the Cologne Cathedral.

Additional projects – made possible by a special grant from the federal government through Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH – include the educational series “Vom Etikett zum Konzept” (from the etiquette to the concept), concerts by the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, the Basel Chamber Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic, as well as funding for Beethovenfest 2021 Artist in Residence Marino Formenti. The unique synergy effects of the Beethoven anniversary celebration are also exemplified by 2021 performer “Trio Egmont”, winner of the music competition “Beethoven in seiner Zeit” (Beethoven in his time), also sponsored by BTHVN2020.

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