



**Press release September 3, 2020
PODIUM Esslingen | #beethoven in Bonn**

**Beethoven's Spirit Today - A Visionary Window into the Future
Innovative Concerts & Performances / From Monteverdi's Vespers to
Beethoven's Ninth to experiments with AI / Oct. 16-24, 2020**

Today, Beethoven is regarded as a mascot of high culture. However, he has not always been as well-established as today, and his revolutionary character sometimes even infuriated his contemporaries. The project #beethoven picks up where Beethoven left off, opening a visionary window into the future of music-making with a series of very special and innovative concerts, performances and presentations in Bonn from October 16 to 24, 2020. The final projects of the twelve #beethoven Fellows, who have been able to realize their creative work on new formats and ideas in the last three years as part of the fellowship program, were largely funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation. The series will be presented in numerous concerts at the Bundeskunsthalle, the Kammermusiksaal of the Beethoven-Haus, the University auditorium and in a multimedia exhibition.

Among the highlights of the events are: GROSSER AUFTAKT: #BEBEETHOVEN on Sat. 17 Oct. 2020 at the Bundeskunsthalle with a multimedia insight into the work of the twelve young #beethoven artists, #BFREE, a re-composition of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the STEGREIF.orchester of #beethoven Fellow Juri de Marco, VESPERS AND DREAMS by Elina Albach, a musical juxtaposition of Monteverdi's "Vespers of the Blessed Virgin" and the contemporary cycle "Vespers and Dreams for a New Dark Age" by Missy Mazzoli. In addition, innovative events by #beethoven fellows working at the interface between music and artificial intelligence play a special role in this extraordinary concert series in Bonn: The concert performance PROTO by International Music Award winner Holly Herndon will have her band play music with the artificial intelligence "Spawn". The Berlin sound art collective Quadrature is setting up the radio telescope installation "C.R.E.D.O." on the roof of the Bundeskunsthalle. The telescope receives signals from outer space which in turn are transformed into sounds and visualized on the Post Tower. The composer Alexander Schubert experiments with avatars and presents "Wiki-Piano", a composition that was created on the internet and that enables internet users to participate in the compositional process.

With the support of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH and despite the Corona pandemic, it is possible to present all twelve Fellows with concerts and performances in Beethoven's birth city Bonn in the anniversary year, at the end of the #beethoven fellowship program.

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Steven Walter, Artistic Director of PODIUM Esslingen and designated director of the Beethovenfeste Bonn:

"It is a great pleasure for us to be able to play live again. Of course, Corona forces us to make deep cuts in the long-planned program. Space capacities are extremely limited. The intimate closeness between musicians and the audience as well as the free movement of everyone in the room is currently not possible. But especially in times of crisis it is vital to present ideas and formats for the future."

For Steven Walter, as much as digitalization manages to fascinate, offering countless new possibilities, the experience of live music is irreplaceable for PODIUM and for him as well. Therefore, he and his team have thoughtfully adapted the concert program and complemented it with interventions in public space. In addition, an extensive live streaming program of the concerts is offered for all those not able to purchase tickets. Steven Walter: "An exciting, versatile concert program with great radiance."

Malte Boecker, Artistic Managing Director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH:

"An important issue of the Beethoven Anniversary is the future of classical music. We are very pleased that #bebeethoven has created a laboratory for new concert and communication formats. Over a period of several years, twelve young, international Fellows were able to brush the classical music business "against the grain", in keeping with Beethoven's spirit. The final presentation in the Beethoven City of Bonn now promises to be one of the most innovative highlights of the anniversary year."

#bebeethoven is supported by the German Federal Cultural Foundation. The project is also supported by the state of Baden-Württemberg, the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung and the L-BANK. #bebeethoven Concerts & Performances in Bonn is a contribution within the framework of BHTVN2020, funded by Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH.

Advance ticket sales have started, tickets are available at all BonnTicket ticket offices and online under podium-esslingen.de.

[Link Photos #bebeethoven Concerts and Performances](#)

[Link General Press Release #bebeethoven 2020](#)

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