



The Beethoven Orchester Bonn views itself as an ambassador for both Beethoven and the City of Bonn, as a connecting link between the great composer and the people of our society.

Our mission is to search for the young firebrand Beethoven in the city of his birth and to present him to the population at large. The conductor Dirk Kaftan has stood at the helm of our orchestra since the beginning of the 2017-18 season. Together we seek to discover worlds of music at the highest artistic level, regardless of whether the music is 300 years old, whether it dates from Beethoven's era or our own day, whether it comes from cultures half a world away or whether we have to explore uncharted territory in order to find it. Our goal is to implant the spirit of the orchestra in the hearts and minds of all citizens, not only of Bonn but far beyond its borders and surrounding region.

In the past, our artistic work has included extraordinary concert projects and various award-winning recordings, such as Eugen d'Albert's opera *Der Golem* and Maurice Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* (both recipients of the Echo Klassik Award) as well as Franz Schreker's opera *Irrelohe* (German Record Critics Prize and Echo Klassik Award). Not least of all, the Beethoven Orchester Bonn is specially committed to music appreciation; its outreach programme for young people has not only been welcomed by the audience, it has also received two Echo Klassik Awards.

The orchestra's history dates back to 1907, when Bonn finally received its own orchestra following the dissolution of the court chapel in 1794. Conductors of the stature of Richard Strauss, Max Reger, Volker Wangenheim, Dennis Russell Davies and Kurt Masur elevated it into the front rank of German orchestras. Most recently it was headed by the Swiss conductor Stefan Blunier (2008-16) and Christof Prick (2016-17).

Tours of Europe, North America, Japan and China have borne the fame of the Beethoven Orchester Bonn throughout the world, and further tours of Central Europe and overseas are currently being planned. In the coming years the orchestra's focus will increasingly centre on intercultural and participative projects, a search for unusual concert venues and formats, and up-to-date communication of artistic contents.

The Beethoven Jubilee Year, celebrating the 250th birthday of the city's most illustrious son, is already casting its shadow. The orchestra will pay obeisance to its namesake by vigorously exploring his life and work and presenting the results on the concert platform. Artistry and career, life and vision: Beethoven will become the lodestar for exciting artistic encounters.



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