

# Beethovenfest Bonn

## Press Release

### Programme announced and tickets go on sale for Beethovenfest Bonn 2023

Bonn, 27 April 2023: From 31.8–24.9.2023, Beethovenfest presents a festival of »Music about Life« in around 70 concerts across Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-Kreis. For Ludwig van Beethoven, nature was a source of inspiration and a central theme in his work. Today, with the climate crisis and the technologization of society, this Romantic relationship between humanity and nature is severely compromised. Beethovenfest Bonn 2023 seeks to explore the foundations of life and the requirements for survival – and above all, it celebrates that which is vibrant and alive. Beethoven's experience of nature and his elementary power of expression are the point of departure for a musical programme across history and cultures.

#### Great symphonic music

The festival begins with a trilogy of great Ninth Symphonies: the **Ninth Symphonies of Dvořák, Bruckner and Beethoven** are all performed over the opening weekend, with the **Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich** under **Paavo Järvi** (1+2 Sep) and the **Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin** under **Cornelius Meister** (3 Sep). After these great humanist »life works«, the festival's symphony concerts explore various aspects of nature and life: **Gustav Mahler's »Song of the Earth«** with the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** (22 Sep), **Joseph Haydn's »Seven Last Words«** in an extended version with **ensemble reflektor** (10 Sep) and **Ludwig van Beethoven's Violin Concerto** with the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** under **Pekka Kuusisto** (23 Sep).

#### Focus on Beethoven

Beethoven's music is a central element in the festival. One particular highlight is the closing concert with the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** under **Robin Ticciati** performing **Beethoven's Seventh Symphony** (24 Sep). The programme also features Beethoven's first three piano concertos: **Piano Concerto No. 3** with the **artist in residence Fabian Müller** and the **Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich** (2 Sep), and **Piano Concertos Nos 1 and 2** in a discussion concert with **Alexander Melnikov** and the historically informed **B'Rock Orchestra** (8 Sep). The Beethoven focus is rounded off by numerous **chamber music formats**, including concerts with the **Sitkovetsky Trio** and the **Leonkoro Quartet** (both 21 Sep) as well as piano recitals featuring established soloists such as **Danae Dörken** (5 Sep), **Kit Armstrong** (10 Sep) and **Alexander Lonquich** (24 Sep).

#### Artists in residence

This year's artist in residence is the Bonn pianist **Fabian Müller**. In addition to his concert with the **Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich** on the opening weekend, he is also organising a **chamber-music city district festival-within-a-festival in Bonn-Endenich** (10 Sep). The festival's resident ensemble is the New York string quartet **Brooklyn Rider**, which is travelling – carbon free – to Bonn for a concert with the mandolin virtuoso **Avi Avital** (12 Sep), among other performances.

### Special formats & festival centre

One prominent project presented at the festival is the premiere of the »symphony of change« by the Stegreif Orchestra (8 Sep). Applying all the methods of classical symphonic music, improvisation and choreography, the ensemble engages musically with the United Nations' 17 sustainability goals. This special concert format is taking place in the production halls of the former Bonner Fahnenfabrik, which are being renovated for Beethovenfest. Unique experiences are also guaranteed at a vertical concert evening in the Post Tower (17 Sep), numerous fantastic concerts for children and teenagers, and parties at special locations. This year, the festival centre is in the Kreuzkirche, which will be turned into an attractive life and experience area. The venue will be used for concerts and discussions, and is perfect for informal conversations after events.

### Beethovenfest 2023 in figures

Total budget: €5.5 million

Number of events: 94

Number of tickets available: 27,500

### How to buy tickets

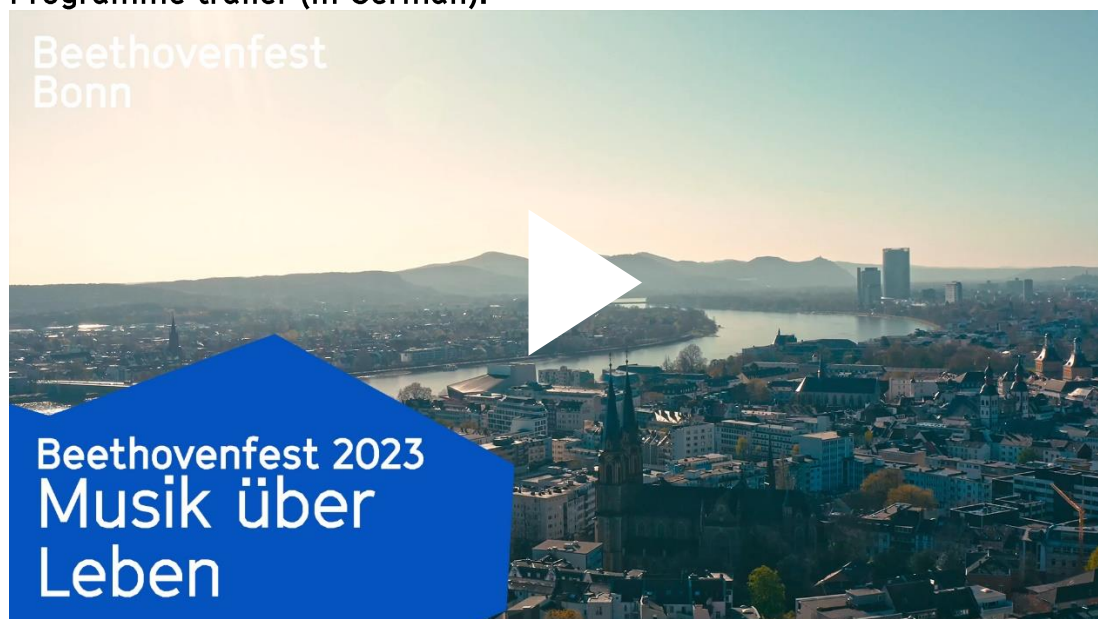
You can buy tickets now at [www.beethovenfest.de](http://www.beethovenfest.de) and by phone on +49 (0)228 20 10 3 44 (Mon–Fri, 9:00–17:00) and on Saturday, 29 April.

### Buying tickets in person: bee.mobil on tour

From May to August 2023, you can buy tickets at alternating Bonn weekly markets – from the bee.mobil, Beethovenfest's interactive electric car. You can find full details and dates at [www.beethovenfest.de/beemobilontour](http://www.beethovenfest.de/beemobilontour)

Event tickets are valid for journeys across the entire Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Sieg (VRS) network from four hours before the event until 03:00. You can find further information on accessibility, concessions and box office at [www.beethovenfest.de/ticketinfos](http://www.beethovenfest.de/ticketinfos)

### Programme trailer (in German):



## **What our sponsors and partners say:**

»For Bonn, as the city of Ludwig van Beethoven's birth, Beethovenfest has always had a special significance. That's why we as a city are, of course, supporting the festival financially once again in 2023. With this year's motto ›Music about Life‹, Steven Walter makes sustainability a focus for the festival and shows that a conscious and sustainable interaction with nature – as Beethoven demonstrated – can be thematised and interpreted in a myriad ways in music and in the cultural sector.«

***Katja Dörner***  
***Mayor of the City of Bonn***

»DW has been hosting the Campus Project with Beethovenfest for two decades. I am delighted to be presenting young musicians from Afghanistan and Iran this year. In both of those countries, artistic and cultural freedoms are currently coming under severe pressure, and so too are the freedoms of creative artists as a result. It is therefore all the more important that these young musicians from Afghanistan and Iran are given a stage as part of the Campus Project. Together with German musicians from the Bundesjugendorchester, they are developing a programme in the spirit of Beethoven. For the first time ever, we are showing a five-part series from the Tiny House, Steven Walter's new Bonn home. Together with the artist Coco Elane, he welcomes stars from the international classical scene, who then give very special private house concerts – which don't actually remain private because we show them to our audience. We will also be live-streaming selected concerts, and reporting extensively on others.«

***Barbara Massing***  
***DW Managing Director Business Administration***

»Vertical sustainability: the Post Tower was designed as a ›tower that breathes in the wind‹. Thanks to its sophisticated climate concept based on water, sun and wind, it uses 30% less energy than similar buildings. That makes it the perfect home for many concerts in Beethovenfest, with its growing aspirations to sustainability. Festivalgoers will be able to experience the Post Tower in the popular ›Post Tower Lounge‹ concerts. And those who like to aim high shouldn't miss ›Post Klassik Vertikal‹ on 17 September. Linked by high-speed lifts, concertgoers can, for an entire evening, experience a broad musical palette over five stages – a highlight in the true sense of the word!«

***Pedro Muñoz***  
***Group Communication, Sustainability & Brand Deutsche Post DHL Group***

»Steven Walter has provided fresh impetus in his first year as the artistic director of Beethovenfest. The tradition-steeped festival is embracing the diversity of the modern world, and is becoming younger, more digital and more multimedia. With its residencies, Beethovenfest makes sustainability a priority, and puts it – with the new festival motto ›Music about Life‹ – right at the heart of the artistic engagement. We believe that music has the power to actively shape the future and to have an impact on society. As a long-standing partner of Beethovenfest, we support the programmatic orientation. For Deutsche Telekom, acting sustainably means acting holistically – in all areas of society. From climate action and environmental protection to social engagement and company management. And of course – especially – in our shared home city of Bonn. We are therefore very excited about the two inspiring evenings in our Telekom Forum with the WDR Funkhausorchester and the cellist Abel Selaocoe alongside Manchester Collective. And we can't wait for the continuation of our project Telekom Electronic Beats X Beethovenfest with the German–Swiss music duo ›Grandbrothers‹.«

**Michaela Schwinge**

***Vice-President Corporate Communications, Deutsche Telekom AG***

»With the motto ›Music about Life‹, this year's Beethovenfest foregrounds the fundamental: the foundations of our existence, endangered nature, and the humans that depend on it. These existential themes inspired Beethoven to compose great works, which the festival now explores. As a savings bank that is committed to sustainability, we make a contribution to a livable environment in the region. For us, that means continuing, as in previous years, to support Beethovenfest so that music in all its diversity can be experienced by young and old as an elixir of life.«

**Ulrich Voigt**

***Chairman of Sparkasse KölnBonn***

## **Press info & contact**

You can download photos of the press conference at [beethovenfest.de/presse](https://beethovenfest.de/presse)

You'll find the full programme at [beethovenfest.de/programm-tickets](https://beethovenfest.de/programm-tickets)

If you have any queries or interview requests, or would like further information, please contact:

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