

BEETHOVEN FEST BONN

PRESS RELEASE

Beethovenfest Bonn 2021 to take place

Bonn – August 20, 2021

Following the postponement of the Beethovenfest 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the **2021** festival – the last under the direction of longtime festival director Nike Wagner – will now take place from **August 20 - September 10!**

Thanks to the decision by the **Beethoven Anniversary Society BTHVN2020** and its sponsors, the sponsorship periods have been extended so that a significant portion of the 2020 festival program will take place this year. The original 2020 festival motto **“Rise again, yes, rise again”** has thus proven itself not only crisis-proof, but also prophetic: the Beethovenfest Bonn will indeed “rise again” from August 20 to September 10, 2021.

Preview of the 2021 program

The nine Beethoven symphonies

Highly concentrated into one single weekend, five world-class “original sound” ensembles will perform the entire Beethoven symphonic cycle over the course of three evenings. The Ninth Symphony will be performed by **Le Concert des Nations** under the direction of **Jordi Savall**. The French baroque ensemble **Les Talens Lyriques** under **Christophe Rousset** will present Symphonies No. 8 and 7, and the **Hungarian National Symphony** led by **Stefan Soltesz** will perform Symphonies No. 6 and 4. The Flemish **B’Rock Orchestra** under **Alessandro de Marchi** will perform Symphonies No. 2 and 5, and rounding out the cycle will be Symphonies No. 1 and 3 by the **ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra** led by **Michael Boder**.

All nine Beethoven symphonies will also be performed in the form of **Franz Liszt’s** transcriptions for piano. Only the most virtuoso pianists can master these scores – among them **Konstantin Scherbakov** and **Cyprin Katsaris**.

To help honor the 2020 Beethoven anniversary – if a year later than planned – the **Orchestre des Champs-Élysées** under **Philippe Herreweghe** and the **Vienna Philharmonic**, led by

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Herbert Blomstedt, will also come to Bonn. The grand finale will feature the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** under **Maxime Pascal** performing Mahler's epic "Resurrection Symphony".

As **pianist in residence**, **Marino Formenti** will perform three evening concerts at the Beethoven-Haus featuring works by Beethoven, Schönberg, Webern, Lachenmann, Ives and Barraqué.

Dance / Installation: The **Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon** performs to the sounds of Beethoven quartets and world-renowned artist **Romeo Castellucci** presents his "Pavane für Prometheus" in Bonn's decommissioned "Viktoriabad" swimming pool.

Also on the musical program: **chamber orchestras** from Basel and Zürich, the **Auryn Quartet**, the **amarcord** vocal ensemble, performances by prize winners and youth orchestras, and some jazz. A dedicated **Education** section rounds out the 2021 program.

The complete 2021 program is available online at <http://www.beethovenfest.de/en>.

Facts and figures

The Beethovenfest Bonn 2021 is under the **patronage** of the Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia **Armin Laschet**. The festival is made possible by **grants from the City of Bonn**, the **Beethoven Anniversary Society**, and the **Rhein-Sieg Kreis** (Rhein-Sieg County) as well as through project-based funding provided by the **State of North Rhine-Westphalia** and the **Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM)**. In addition to the support of its main sponsors **Deutsche Post DHL Group**, **Deutsche Telekom**, **Sparkasse KölnBonn** and **Deutsche Welle**, Beethovenfest Bonn receives support from a large number of **event sponsors** and **foundations**. The festival also maintains **media partnerships** with Deutsche Welle, Bonn's *General-Anzeiger* daily newspaper, Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR), and Deutschlandfunk/Deutschlandradio Kultur. Beethovenfest Bonn is **cultural partner** to WDR 3. Deutsche Welle broadcasts Beethovenfest concerts worldwide via radio and podcast.

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Beethovenfest Bonn also maintains a presence on social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, Instagram und YouTube.

Photographs of Beethovenfest Bonn 2021 artists can be downloaded online at <http://www.beethovenfest.de/en>.

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