

### **“BEETHOVEN – the lonely genius”**

Silent film performance with live accompaniment by the Metropolis Orchester Berlin, based on music by Richard Siedhoff, 1 February 2020 at 7 p.m.

Vienna, early 1927: on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven, film director Hans Otto Löwenstein and author and screenwriter Emil Kolberg presented their film biography “Beethoven”, which chronicles the life of the composer. The great Austrian actor Fritz Kortner played the title role; his embodiment of the exceptional artist was considered pre-eminent for many years. The Viennese paper “Der Abend” wrote that the film – which hoped in particular to bring Beethoven the man closer to the audience – covered “his childhood in Bonn on the Rhine to the devastating tragedy of the increasing deafness of the creator of divine musical works (...). In between lie a number of his most charming experiences: how old Haydn listens to him play the organ in Bonn, recognises the young man’s genius, and supports him ungrudgingly; his love for beautiful Countess Gräfin Guicciardi, who doesn’t understand his genius.”

Bonn, early 2020: on the occasion of the year celebrating the composer’s 250th birthday, the Förderverein Filmkultur Bonn e.V., which organises the International Silent Film Days every August, also puts “the lonely genius” centre stage. In the context of the exhibit “Beethoven: World.Citizen.Music” at the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (the “Bundeskunsthalle”) and the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn, the organisers of the largest German silent film festival present the film “Beethoven” on 1 February 2020 at 7 p.m. in the forum of the Bundeskunsthalle, with orchestral accompaniment and new music. The film was restored in 2017. Young silent film pianist and composer Richard Siedhoff was commissioned by the Förderverein Filmkultur Bonn to arrange new music for the premiere. Born in Weimar in 1987, Siedhoff has accompanied silent films in cinemas and at film festivals since 2008, and curates and organises his own silent film events. Since 2012, he has played regularly at the International Silent Film Days in Bonn.

Siedhoff worked with excerpts of more than 50 works by Ludwig van Beethoven. His goal was to arrange incidental music for chamber orchestra for the premiere on 1 February that is more than a mere quotation or illustration. He concentrated on interweaving the film’s content with the historic and private context of the musical pieces. Siedhoff partly also rescored the works so that piano pieces became symphonic, and symphonies became chamber music.

The music will have its premiere in the Bundeskunsthalle with the Metropolis Orchester Berlin, currently the only silent film orchestra in Germany. The 17-piece ensemble is dedicated entirely to accompanying films from the early years of cinema. Established by conductor Burkhard Götze in Berlin in 2017, the orchestra has made a name for itself on the film scene within a short period of time. It performs regularly in well-known cinemas such as Kino Babylon, Theater im Delphi and the Zeughauskino.

Dr Nikolaus Wostry from the Austrian Film Archive, which played a leading role in the film’s restoration, will be a guest at the premiere. Wostry will introduce the film and provide insights into the restoration work.

Tickets for “Beethoven, the lonely genius” on 1 February 2020 at 7 p.m. in the forum of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany are available immediately from Bonnticket at [www.bonnticket.de](http://www.bonnticket.de) or 0228-50 20 10.



“Beethoven, the lonely genius” is organised by Förderverein Filmkultur Bonn e.V. in cooperation with the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany. This event has been made possible by the support of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH.

Press contact: Kristina Wydra | 0228. 94 69 75 93 | 0172. 285 64 81 | [presse@film-ist-kultur.de](mailto:presse@film-ist-kultur.de)