

Vienna 2020. Capital of Music

Vienna and music – they belong together. The focus in 2020 is on those artists and institutions that make Vienna the world capital of music. Now and in the future. It started long ago, for example with Ludwig van Beethoven, whose 250th birthday will be celebrated in 2020. He was a "musical Viennese by choice" – having chosen Vienna as the focal point of his life and creativity. Like him, world stars of the present have chosen Vienna as their special place of music. Billy Joel, Yuja Wang, Hans Zimmer, Rebekka Bakken, Julian Rachlin, and Joshua Bell are just some of today's Viennese by choice. They draw on the valuable tradition that lives on in Vienna and appreciate the innovative powers that the creative music scene is now unleashing.

Ludwig van Beethoven was a radical, elemental force both as a human being and as an artist. A visionary who questioned and reinvented everything that had gone before – and thus gave impetus to music and to Vienna. Impetus that can still be felt today. Vienna was Beethoven's home for 35 years, a place of creativity and inspiration. In **Beethoven Year 2020**, his revolutionary music will be heard even more often than usual in concerts, for example at the Musikverein and the Wiener Konzerthaus. The Vienna State Opera and the Theater an der Wien present Beethoven's only opera "Fidelio". Special exhibitions, such as those at the Austrian National Library, the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, the Leopold Museum, and the Mozarthaus Vienna give insight into the many facets of his personality and the unbelievable genius of his works. Traces of the composer are manifold: original Beethoven homes (nowadays used as a large Beethoven museum, top restaurant or heuriger), places of his triumph and doubt, monuments, Klimt's Beethoven Frieze in the Secession through to the grave of honor in the Central Cemetery. Vienna's museum of sound, the House of Music, presents Beethoven in interactive form.

Vienna was Beethoven's creative environment and this creative spirit lives on: Today, like 250 years ago, Vienna is a musical city that sets the tone. **Musical "sparks of the gods"** fly and spread the joy of top-quality music. Such as the phenomena of the New Year's Concert and Summer Night Concert at Schönbrunn by the Vienna Philharmonic: no other **classical events** are experienced by so many people anywhere else in the world.

Those who pursue a first-class musical education try to get accepted into one of **Vienna's music universities**, such as the famous mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. The University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and the Juilliard School are currently ranked first in the QS University Ranking 2019. The stars of tomorrow can already be heard at public concerts today.

International and innovative – these are the attributes of many musical Viennese companies: Hollywood film composers such as Hans Zimmer ("Inferno") have their music recorded on the **Vienna Synchron Stage**. Herbie Hancock, Lenny Kravitz, Beyoncé and many others compose with the music software **Vienna Symphonic Library**. This gigantic sound database has been revolutionizing the music market for years out of Vienna.

Vienna leads the world in the making of musical instruments: the **piano factory Bösendorfer** "releases" 300 hand-made instruments with the unique sound to the world each year, while world stars swear by the legendary strings of **Thomastik Infeld**. Instruments such as Viennese oboe, Viennese horn and Viennese timpani are just some of the reasons behind the world-famous, specific **Viennese sound** of the local orchestras. There are around **110 instrument makers** in the city nowadays – over one third more than 20 years ago¹.

¹ Source: Vienna Guild of Arts and Crafts, Profession of musical instrument maker

In 2020, when the world turns its spotlight on the Beethoven city of Vienna, it will once again be proved that Vienna's musical heritage is a living world culture, that the **world capital of music** shapes the global music scene.

Interviews with music stars and information on Vienna's Beethoven year at music2020.vienna.info