Every year in September the four-week festival brings together the unique blend of art, culture, tradition and Rhenish cheer that creates the unmistakable atmosphere of the festival in the city on the Rhine. Some seventy classical concerts with world-renowned international orchestras, outstanding ensembles, distinguished soloists and promising young artists take place during the enchanting period between the sunny days of late summer and the golden days of autumn.

The Beethovenfest hosts performances by renowned Beethoven performers and great stars such as Kent Nagano, Lorin Maazel, Kurt Masur, Hélène Grimaud, András Schiff, Paavo Järvi, Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Hope and Martin Grubinger. These and many other famous artists regularly return to Bonn to present programmes at the festival that they have worked on exclusively for the Beethovenfest.

Ludwig van Beethoven’s birth house in Bonn attracts almost 100,000 visitors from all over the world every year. The famous composer was born in the garden wing of the house at Bonngasse 20 in December 1770. Today the house accommodates a collection of over 100 memorabilia associated with the composer, including instruments, personal objects, original manuscripts, correspondence, portraits and much more, offering not only the most extensive Beethoven collection worldwide, but also a vivid insight into the composer’s life and work.

The Digital Beethoven House in the neighbouring building takes visitors on a virtual voyage of discovery through the world of Beethoven; and the modern Chamber Music Hall, also situated right next to the museum, allows visitors to round off their visit with a concert.

From Bonn to the World: Ludwig van Beethoven

One of the highlights of the festival in 2012 will be the performance of all Beethoven symphonies by the Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. Further information is available at www.beethovenfest.de
The success of the conductor with the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn has also awakened interest for music from Bonn beyond the city walls, with the Orchestra also earning a first-class reputation in the international music industry. General Music Director Stefan Blunier's merits include a total of four ECHO Classic awards and a nomination for the international EMA award.

The press has written about the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn: "Regardless of whether Puccini, Korngold or Franz Schreker, a world-class orchestra has been born. An evening of music […] is increasingly becoming nothing short of the standard that one has grown accustomed to at international festivals."

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As the ambassadors of Ludwig van Beethoven, the Bonn Opera House includes over 110 performances at music concerts and opera performances. The Orchestra's range from symphony concerts and the accompaniment of international competitions all the way to chamber music. A solitaire with countless facets, edges and curves: The design by the architect Zaha Hadid brings a "diamond" to the Beethoven Hall. The perforated façade shines splendidly during the day in many different directions and at night the "diamond" sparkles mysteriously from the inside, just as the music of Beethoven sets the world alight.

The envisaged new concert hall will emerge on the edge of the Rheinaue, Bonn's largest park and the foot of the Post Tower, the corporate headquarters of Deutsche Post DHL, and should be ready in 2020 in time for Beethoven's 250th birthday.

The position of Ludwig van Beethoven at the very highest level for over 1770 and remained faithful to his hometown even after moving to Vienna. He wrote of his years in Bonn, "I will always remember my time in Bonn as one of the happiest periods of my life."

Beethoven was very special and dear to Bonn, and the composer is ever-present in the city. His memory is honoured with the Bonn Orchestra that bears his name, the annual international Beethovenfest and the Deutsche Telekom sponsored Beethoven Piano Competition; not to mention various Beethoven monuments, Beethoven chocolate and a Beethoven wine.

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To the Diaries of Ludwig van Beethoven: "I will always remember my time in Bonn as one of the happiest periods of my life."