

21.01.2020

The New Academy — a séance of Beethoven with François-Xavier Roth, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and the Gürzenich-Orchester Köln

Concerts on 9/10/11th February 2020 in Cologne, on 16th February in Munich, on 17th February in Lyon, on 21st February in London and on 24th February in Hamburg; "Night Academy" on 10th February in Cologne

With their Beethoven programme, François-Xavier Roth and pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard are building a bridge: the radical modernity of the works of Ludwig van Beethoven enters into a close dialogue with the tonal language of the composers of today. The concert combines extracts from the piano works and symphonies of Beethoven with works by Bernd Alois Zimmermann, Helmut Lachenmann, Francesco Filidei and Isabel Mundry.

"We want to celebrate the music of Beethoven with an ambitious counterpoint to exalt the musical and human revolutions that can be found in each of his pieces! The music of Beethoven isn't an abstract art; rather, it tells you directly about life." François-Xavier Roth

This special form of juxtaposition between Beethoven and new music, including an unusual mix (for today's world) of works for large orchestra, piano soloist + orchestra and solo piano, is characteristic of the work of François-Xavier Roth and Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

"What impresses me so much about Beethoven is the radical originality of his ideas: they are the ideas of an avant-gardist, a social innovator. A musical idea that one would never have dared to imagine before - develops such irresistible power."
Pierre-Laurent Aimard

The spirit of adventure and artistic freedom which Beethoven exercised in his Academy Concerts, at which he presented his own compositions, were the source of inspiration for this extraordinary programme. In close collaboration with director and choreographer Jörg Weinöhl and lighting designer Bernd Purkrabek, composer Isabel Mundry creates the transitions between the extracts of the different pieces. The music is supposed to "listen to itself", as it were. Time is intended to float, and out of this, a musical flow of surprising cross-references - which suspends the traditional processes of a classical concert - should develop.

The Italian composer Francesco Filidei has also addressed the great composer in this project. With his new piece, *Quasi una bagatella*, he responds to the imperial gesture of Beethoven's 5th piano concerto. Filidei's piano concerto, including virtuoso writing for percussion, will be premiered by the the Gürzenich-Orchester and soloist Pierre Laurent-Aimard in Cologne on 9th February 2020.

On Monday, 10th February 2020 at 10:30 pm Pierre-Laurent Aimard and members of the Gürzenich-Orchester will continue their exploration of classical and modern music at a "Night Academy" in a chamber music setting at the Alter Wartesaal in Cologne.



GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN

THE NEW ACADEMY — A BEETHOVEN SÉANCE

WITH MUSIC FROM LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, HELMUT LACHENMANN, BERND ALOIS ZIMMERMANN AS WELL AS WORLD PREMIÈRES FROM FRANCESCO FILIDEI AND ISABEL MUNDY, WHO RECEIVED A COMPOSITION MANDATE FROM THE GÜRZENICH ORCHESTRA COLOGNE AND THE KUNSTSTIFTUNG NRW.

SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT 6

Sun 9.02.20 at 11 am

Mon 10.02.20 at 8 pm + at 10:30 pm »Nacht-Akademie« at Alter Wartesaal Köln

Tue 11.02.20 at 8 pm. including live stream at www.guerzenich-orchester.de/livestream

[Kölner Philharmonie](#)

TOUR CONCERTS

Sun 16.02.2020 at 8 pm

[Prinzregententheater Munich](#)

Mon 17.02.2020 at 8 pm

[Auditorium Maurice Ravel Lyon](#)

Fri 21.02.2020 at 7.30 pm

[Southbank Centre London](#)

Mon 24.02.2020 at 8 pm

[Elbphilharmonie Hamburg](#)

Pierre-Laurent Aimard Piano

Jörg Weinöhl Choreography

Bernd Purkrabek Lighting

Patrick Hahn Dramaturgy

Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne

François-Xavier Roth Conductor

€ 43 / 34 / 27 / 18 / 14 / 9

Tickets at:

freiheit.go-tickets.de

Gürzenich Orchestra Hotline

0049 (0221) 221 284 00.

