

# BEETHOVEN Pastoral PROJECT

A GLOBAL STATEMENT FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF NATURE

## Press release

*Bonn, 14.11.2017*

As part of the World Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn (cop23.de), the Beethoven Jubilaeums Gesellschaft (Beethoven Anniversary Society) announces a first major project for Beethoven Year 2020.

In 2020 the world will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven. Today the City of Beethoven is a UNO city and seat of the UN's Climate Change Secretariat.

### The concept

The BEETHOVEN PASTORAL PROJECT ([www.beethoven-pastoral-project.com](http://www.beethoven-pastoral-project.com)) invites artists around the world to establish a network and join forces, to make their own interpretations of Ludwig van Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony, and through their creativity shape a powerful statement about environmental protection and sustainable development – for a better world for all of us!

### Implementation

Ensembles and individual artist from around the world are invited to perform Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony on June 5th, 2020, the United Nations World Environment Day. Before this, they are asked to share their artistic engagement with this work on the project website, linking this to the objectives of the Paris Climate Change Agreement with a statement about the protection of the environment.

**The project is supported by the General Secretary of the United Nations, António Guterres.**

**Registration for the BEETHOVEN PASTORAL PROJECT will be opened on November 15th, 2017.**

**BTHVN**  
2020



United Nations  
Climate Change

### Beethoven Jubiläums Gesellschaft mbH

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The project is divided into two phases:

### **1. PASTORAL NETWORK (2018-2020)**

Between June 5th, 2018 and June 5th, 2020, orchestras as well as musicians from all other disciplines, performance artists, filmmakers and environmental activists will develop their own creative interpretation of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, the "Pastoral", documenting their artistic contribution on the project website, together with a statement on environmental protection.

### **2. PASTORAL DAY (June 5th, 2020)**

On World Environment Day in 2020, the Beethoven Anniversary, as many orchestras and ensembles as possible will perform the Sixth Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven.

Christian Lorenz Artistic Managing Director of the Beethoven Jubilaeums Gesellschaft:

*Beethoven was a lover of nature. In it he sought relaxation and inspiration. His bond with nature is touchingly expressed in his Sixth Symphony, a work which, in several ways, thematises the relationship between nature and mankind. Would Beethoven have been an environmentalist today? In any case, Beethoven's 250th birthday offers an occasion to experience anew the relevance of his music. We invite all musicians, orchestras and other creative people to reimagine and make their own interpretation of Beethoven's 'Pastoral', against the backdrop of climate change and environmental destruction. We are curious and excited as to what creative results will be born out of the BEETHOVEN PASTORAL PROJECT.*

The following artists are already involved with the project: the Chinese composer and conductor Tan Dun, the American musician and composer Uri Caine, the German jazz musician Gregor Hübner, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and its Estonian conductor Paavo Järvi, as well as the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and its conductor Dirk Kaftan.

The BEETHOVEN PASTORAL PROJECT will be documented by DW (Deutsche Welle), who will feature the exceptional and especially creative contributions in a unique film project.

Cooperation Partners of the BEETHOVEN PASTORAL PROJECT are the United Nations climate protection secretariat UNFCCC, Deutsche Welle, the Beethoven House, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn as well as Beethovenfest Bonn and the Bonn Theatre, and additionally the Eliette and Herbert von Karajan Institute in association with the Munich-based company Unitel.