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# FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY FOUNDATION

## INFORMATION

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FELIX-MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY-STIFTUNG

PRÄSIDENT KURT MASUR

December 2005

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On 16th October 2003, Wolfgang Tiefensee, as Lord Mayor of Leipzig, put his name to the Constitution of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation, which had been carefully discussed and formulated over many months, thereby completing its formation. Without this action, and above all without his unwavering efforts for our goals, this formation, like much else in the Mendelssohn House, would not have been possible. Together with Town Councillors of all parties, and with Dr. Georg Girardet, the Culture Representative of the City of Leipzig, he focused above all on the continuing support of the Foundation for its responsibilities towards the Mendelssohn House. Thus the financial basis for the upkeep and development of the Mendelssohn legacy was successfully consolidated. This is of incalculable and lasting value. However, since the Chairmanship of the Foundation's Board is formally linked to the office of Lord Mayor of Leipzig, the new Federal Minister Tiefensee will not be able to continue in this function.

Our gratitude for his previous beneficial work is combined with the great

pleasure of knowing that he will continue to serve on the Board and the Kuratorium of the Foundation, and will share in the future of Leipzig's devotion to Mendelssohn.

We very much look forward to further flourishing and inspiring co-operation, and above all we wish Wolfgang Tiefensee strength and good fortune in his new and important Federal office.



Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy making music with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, contemporary drawing, Central Library Zurich

### Members of the Kuratorium

Dr. Wulff Aengevelt  
Tomoko Masur und Prof. Kurt Masur  
Hélène Mercier-Arnault  
Stadt Leipzig  
Emiko Tsuji

### Supporters' Circle

Dr. Jürgen Friedel  
Ulrike Krill de Capello  
Karin Martin  
Dr. Clauss Riedberg  
Heide Schwarzweller  
Dr. Undine Thofern

### Friends' Circle

Elisabeth Augereau  
Elke Weber-Braun

*Mendelssohn in London and in Hamburg*

On 28th September 2005 the German Ambassador in London Thomas Matussek and his wife invited guests to a Gala Event in their Residence. The occasion was the presentation in London

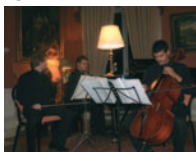


The host of the evening (right) with Kurt and Tomoko Masur and Dr Thomas Wach (Switzerland) a great grandson of Mendelssohn

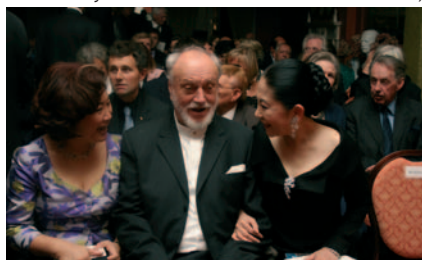
of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation and its work, to win new friends and supporters for the goals of the Foundation there.

After some words of welcome from the Ambassador, a short film in English was showed, with Sir Peter Ustinov talking about the composer and his last house in Leipzig. This was to set the mood for those guests not fully familiar with Mendelssohn, and was received with appreciation and applause.

Maestro Kurt Masur in a moving speech told the guests about his journey towards music and towards Mendelssohn. We then enjoyed a musical contribution from the Trio Belle Epoque (Patrick Savage, violin; Pavlos Carvalho, 'cello; Jakob Fichert, piano) with Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in d-minor, opus 49.



This was followed with a Reception hosted by the Ambassador and his wife,



Tomoko and Kurt Masur with Lady Rothermere (right), who has already indicated her support for further plans of the Foundation

which was an opportunity to talk informally with the guests about the Foundation and its aims. There were many interesting conversations and contacts, which can be developed in future.

The brochures, which had been prepared in four languages in the previous



Prof. Masur with Mr & Mrs Boden of London, long-standing supporters of the Mendelssohn House

us year and already used in Paris, were handed out. These were again greatly appreciated.

Many of the guests left their addresses, so that they could be kept regularly informed about further activities of the Foundation.

"The UK Friends of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation"



HE Thomas Matussek, Dr Wach with his wife Prem and Jürgen Ernst Director of the Foundation - working for years to honour Mendelssohn

will be formed in London shortly. Those interested in joining should get in touch with the Foundation's UK Board Member and Representative, Desmond Cecil CMG; 38 Palace Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9DL;

tel; 020 8783 1998;

email; desmondcecil@dia1.pipex.com



Maestro Kurt Masur and his wife in conversation with the UK Representative of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation, Desmond Cecil

24th October 2005. We move to **Hamburg** and the Komödie Winterhuder Fährhaus. The Leipzig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation and the Hamburg International Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Society invited guests to an "Evening for Mendelssohn". Hannelore Greve, President of the Hamburg Society, and Kurt Masur, President of the Leipzig Foundation, had jointly proposed to dedicate a literary-musical evening to commemorate Fanny Hensel and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Very many music-lovers responded to this invitation, and experienced a programme of the highest cultural standard.

Dr Georg Girardet represented Wolfgang Tiefensee as Chairman of the Leipzig Board, and welcomed the guests.

Christian Quadflieg read from the letters and travel recollections of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. The composer's works formed a perfect framework for the sympathetic and graphic readings. The performers were Julius Bekesch and Ludovica Nardone, violins; Stefan Neuhäuser, viola; Hendrik Zwener, 'cello - all are graduates of the Hamburg Music High School. With their particularly felicitous interpretation they contributed emphatically to the success of the evening. When everyone got together afterwards in the Restaurant Allegria, the discussions lasted much longer than usual, which demonstrated the interest in Mendelssohn matters and the wonderful atmosphere of the whole evening.

Thanks are due to the Donner-Bank Hamburg for their repeated sponsorship, and to the many guests, without whom the success of the Gala would not have been possible.

Above all, warm thanks are due to Heide Schwarzweller, whose inexhaustible energy and generous advocacy of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy over the years made this evening both possible and so successful.



## *Tokyo and Osaka celebrate Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*



Tomoko and Kurt Masur at their joint appearance at the Gala on 23rd October 2005 in Osaka

Asia welcomed the Masur husband and wife team in October. After a concert tour through South Korea, they both arrived in **Tokyo** on 22nd October, to promote the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation in the German Embassy there. The clear aim was to assemble a circle of potential Japanese sponsors from all areas of society, art, science, economy and politics, who would also support the aims and tasks of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation in future.

His Excellency Henrik Schmiegelow welcomed the proposal with great enthusiasm, invited well-known representatives of the economy, politics and the arts, and offered the hospitality of his Residence.

Dr Kazoi Watanabe from the Board of the Mendelssohn House and for many years active in the support of his revered Mendelssohn also assembled a circle of interested guests, who might support future activities financially.

Thus the fund-raising concert in Tokyo in 2006 (see page 4) already has a sound basis of Mendelssohn friends.

The Mendelssohn tour continued to **Osaka**, where Mrs Emiko Tsuji, who for many years has been a tireless champion of the Mendelssohn House and who since last year has been a member of the Kuratorium of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation, organised a Gala Concert for 750 people on 23rd October.



Mrs Tsuji, the organiser of the Gala, welcomes the many guests

Mrs Tsuji warmly welcomed her guests, and invited them to watch a Japanese-dubbed version of the Peter Ustinov film about the Mendelssohn House in Leipzig. Afterwards Maestro Kurt Masur spoke to the assembled Japanese guests about the still unknown aspects of Mendelssohn and his actual role in the musical life of Europe.

After the interval the guests were able to enjoy a particularly attractive musical item; Tomoko and Kurt Masur together performed some of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's *Lieder*. This



Maestro Masur making his speech

opened the musical part of the evening, which Professor Okayama, a friend of the Mendelssohn House for many years, had put together, and which the students of the Tokyo Music Faculty performed. They played Mendelssohn's Octet opus 20, which he had composed at the age of 16.

Tomoko Masur, delighted and visibly moved, accepted a generous donation for the Foundation, and in her speech thanked for such outstanding support for the future tasks of the Foundation.

The evening ended with an elegant dinner for the guests, who with their donations had contributed to the success of the Gala and to the support of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation. They were all owed a special thank-you from Leipzig, especially Mrs Emiko Tsuji for her great commitment to the growth of the Foundation's capital.

Professor and Mrs Masur were also warmly thanked for their generous support for the Foundation and for the planning of so many benefit evenings.

*Sponsors and supporters since August 2005*

Frau Karin Martin  
 Frau Dagmar Nollenberg  
 Herr Dr. Clauss Riedberg  
 Frau Dr. Ingeborg Schmidt  
 Herr Prof. Siegfried Schmidt

Frau Charlotte Schröter  
 Frau Dr. Undine Thofern  
 Frau Emiko Tsuji

*Many warm thanks!*

*A look forward to future international events*

In the coming years the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation will continue, and where possible develop its international work.

Currently the following events are planned;

26th February 2006.	Promotion or Benefit Event in Cambridge UK, organised by Cambridge University.
17th March 2006.	Promotion Evening for the FMBF at the invitation of and in the Residence of the German Consul in New York.
8th April 2006.	Benefit Gala and Concert with the Orchestra of La Fenice under Kurt Masur in the Teatro Malibran in Venice. Programme; Mendelssohn Midsummer Night's Dream Overture opus 21, Italian Symphony opus 90, Shostakovich Symphony No. 5.
13th April 2006.	Gala Concert for the FMBF in the Auditorio Conciliazione Rome, organised by the Toscanini Foundation. Works exclusively by Mendelssohn, Overture Ruy Blas opus 95, Violin Concerto in e-minor opus 64, Scottish Symphony opus 56. Toscanini Orchestra under Maestro Kurt Masur.
10th December 2006.	Gala Concert in Tokyo, organised by the FMBF. Kurt Masur will conduct the Geidai orchestra of the State High School for Music in an exclusively Mendelssohn programme.
28th February 2007.	Benefit Reception following a Concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra under Kurt Masur in the Avery Fisher Hall New York. Programme; Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture opus 26, Sibelius Violin Concerto, Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6.
2007.	Mendelssohn Ball in Leipzig to celebrate the 80th birthday of Maestro Kurt Masur.
March 2008.	Master Class for young musicians in New York on conducting Mendelssohn's works. Further information in Spring 2007.
4th February 2009.	Benefit Gala and Concert to celebrate the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy with the New York Philharmonic under Kurt Masur. The programme will include only works by Mendelssohn, including the Violin Concerto in e minor opus 64 with Anne-Sophie Mutter, and the First Walpurgis Night opus 60.

Members of the Kuratorium, of Friends and Supporters Circles, of the Mendelssohn House Society, and all music lovers who would be interested in the above events should write to the address opposite, so that we can send out invitations as applicable in due course.

*Imprint*

President:	Prof. Kurt Masur
acting Chairman of the Board	Dr. Georg Girardet, Councillor of Culture
Board:	Dr. Peter Krüger Prof. Andreas Schulz
Director:	Jürgen Ernst
Ambassador:	Tomoko Masur
Representative:	Desmond Cecil (London)
Address:	Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig Goldschmidtstraße 12, D - 04103 Leipzig
Telephone:	+49 (0) 341-1 27 02 94
Faksimile:	+49 (0) 341-2 11 52 88
E-Mail:	ims@mendelssohn-stiftung.de
Internet:	www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de
Account:	Deutsche Bank Leipzig bank code: 860 700 24 account 455 56 78

*More details*

Editor and Designer:  
 Christiane Schmidt (responsible)

Texts:  
 Jürgen Ernst  
 Tomoko Masur  
 Christiane Schmidt

English Translation:  
 Desmond Cecil

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 Archives Emiko Tsuji  
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