
MENDELSSOHN- NEWSLETTER

OF THE FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATION



FELIX-MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY-STIFTUNG
PRÄSIDENT KURT MAJOR

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MENDELSSOHN-HAUS
INTERNATIONALE MENDELSSOHNSTIFTUNG

15 years Museum in the Mendelssohn House



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Dear members, dear friends,

On the 4th of November this year, we celebrate the 15-year anniversary of this museum.

The house was built in 1884/1845, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy moved in with his family as the first tenant. In 1847 he died in this apartment.

Since its opening, the aim of the museum in the Mendelssohn House was to be the centre of excellence of the musical and historical legacy of the composer. This aim goes back to the original historical content from that time and place in which Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy lived and died. The purpose of our activities is to present the life, the work, and the historical influence of the man who was a composer, conductor, piano virtuoso, the mediator par excellence between religions and Europeans, to facilitate education in general, and to enthuse people for his legacy through collections, exhibitions, concerts, and projects.

In awareness of Mendelssohn's importance for the history of European music and beyond, but in particular for the music city of Leipzig, the association has fulfilled its responsibility since 1991 as champion of the Mendelssohn House for a broader public, local, national, and international. This has an even greater significance, as the German history of the artist remains much in debt as a result of his Jewish origins.

Hitherto, our greatest success has been that in 2001, following a study conducted by representatives of the Federal Government for Culture & Media, the Mendelssohn-Haus was counted as one of the „most important and significant cultural institutions nationwide“ in the new Federal states, and was included in the so-called Blue Book of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The museum, which counts over 15 years' commitment by Maestro Kurt Masur, was opened on 4 November 1997. Encompassing over 350 m², it contains authentic parts of the building with its original capital. These include the unchanged main staircase, the floorboards, the doors, and other construction elements. The original appearance of the apartment is completed by the presence of numerous pieces of furniture from the possession of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy that, as a long-term loan from the Städtisches Museum Leipzig, have been returned to their original location.

Visitors experience an atmosphere that is unique to the Mendelssohn House Leipzig, one that captures the period around 1845, as well as a multi-faceted picture of the world of the artist. In addition, in the 15 years of its existence the museum collection has grown to over 1,000 items.

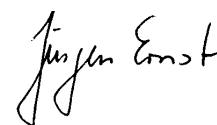
Why do I go into such presumptive detail here? It describes the content and the success of the work and engagement of our employees and the members of the association. The results include, among others, in excess of 500,000 visitors over the years. When we stop to think that in 1998, the first full year of our existence, we could only count about 7,000 visitors, it shows how powerfully the operation of the institution has evolved in the meantime.

For our recollections, here are some photos from the official opening of the museum in 1997:



I thank you all most cordially for your active cooperation, for your very impressive support, and for your broad encouragement.

Yours,



The pictures recollect the crowd of journalists at the opening ceremony (above), members of the Japanese friend's circle of Mrs Tsuji and Dr Thomas Wach, great-grandson of Mendelssohn, with his wife and with Volker Stiehler, board member (below, centre).

Mendelssohn Prize 2012

Every year the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation invites guests to a Gala Concert in Leipzig, at which the International Mendelssohn Prize is awarded.

This year the event has been organized for 29 September at 19.00 in the Great Hall of the Leipzig Gewandhaus. The Concert will honour the Prize Winners for 2012, and also Maestro Kurt Masur on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

Kurt Masur was the first winner of the Leipzig Mendelssohn Prize, which was awarded to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2007. Subsequent Prize Winners are; Anne-Sophie Mutter, Iris Berben, Riccardo Chailly, Peter Sloterdijk, Helmut Schmidt, Armin Mueller-Stahl, the pianist Lang Lang, Peter Schreier and Marcel Reich-Ranicki.

Tickets: Gewandhaus, telephone +49 341 1270 280 or online.

Here the programme:

Gewandhaus Orchestra and Maestro Kurt Masur, conductor
Sarah Chang - violin , N.N. - piano
Armin Mueller-Stahl & Ensemble
Armin Mueller-Stahl - voice, Günther Fischer - piano/saxophone,
Tobias Morgenstern - accordion, Tom Götze - contrabass

Gewandhaus Quartet

Frank-Michael Erben - violin, Conrad Suske - violin
Olaf Hallmann - viola, Jürnjakob Timm - violoncello

String Quartet of the Orchestre National de France

Sarah Nemtanu - violin, Bertrand Cervera - violin
Sabine Toutain - viola, Raphael Perraud - violoncello

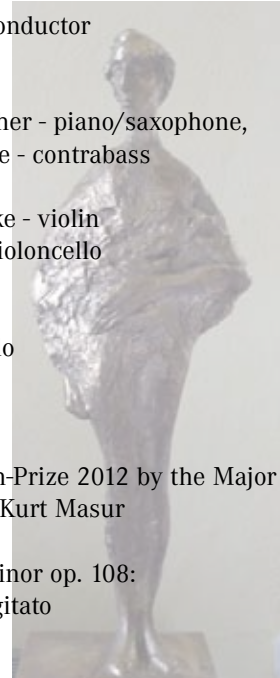
Armin Mueller-Stahl & Ensemble „Es gibt Tage...“

Awarding of the Leipzig International Mendelssohn-Prize 2012 by the Major of the city of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, and Maestro Kurt Masur

Johannes Brahms: Sonata for Violin and Piano d minor op. 108:
1st movement Allegro and 4th movement Presto agitato

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy: Octet for four violins, two violas and two violoncelli
in E flat major op. 20 MWV R 20

Modest Mussorgski: Pictures at an Exhibition
(Adaption by Sergej Gortschakow)



Festival Week in the Museum

To celebrate the first 15 years of the Museum in the Mendelssohn House, this year there will be a Festival Week from 28 October on to 4 November - *Mendelssohn Day*. This will include concerts with the music of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Michael Lauer, a premiere of songs by Rainhard Leuscher with texts by Hesse, linked to a reading by the actor Friedhelm Eberle in honour of the composer Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, at his monument in front of the St Thomas Church. A party for the members of the association will also be prepared.

Friends can get full details of the Festival Week from the internet or from Facebook on <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mendelssohn-Haus-Leipzig/440643222612503>.

Mendelssohn Festival Days 2012 – Religion and Faith

From 7 to 16 September the Gewandhaus and the Mendelssohn House once again invite guests to the Mendelssohn Festival Days in Leipzig. As usual there will be a challenging and witty programme of exhibitions, scholarly lectures, symphonic and chamber concerts, salon afternoons, readings and visits – this time on the theme of “Religion and Faith”.

Following are extracts from the comprehensive programme of the Mendelssohn House;

- 9 September at 15.30. Musical-literary salon

Dr Hans-Günter Klein – reader, Stephan Heinemann – baritone, Konstanze Hollitzer – piano. In the interval coffee and cakes will be served.

Tickets - 12 euros/concessions 10 euros + tax.

- 15 September at 16.00. Hellen Weiss - violin, Tobias Bäß - violoncello, Eva Sperl and Miki Wada - piano, in the Music Room of the Mendelssohn House. “Reformation Symphony” programme with sonatas and an arrangement of Mendelssohn’s 5th Symphony “Reformation”.

Tickets – 15 euros/concessions 10 euros + tax.

- 16 September at 17.00; A special concert to end the Festival Days – a festive concert again in the Music Salon. Lu Jianguo – Chinese violin, gourd-flute and xun, Friederike Frey – piano, play an exceptional programme of traditional Chinese compositions and adaptations of European music. The music can be discussed over a Chinese buffet in the Summer House afterwards.

Tickets – 25 euros + tax

Saxon Mozart Festival at Mendelssohn House

The Mendelssohn House Leipzig and the Sächsische Mozartgesellschaft have been cooperating for many years now. Whether Chemnitz, Leipzig, Dresden or other saxon cities – the concerts in the course of the Mozart Festival have become well established in Saxony's cultural life.

Once a year the assiduous organizers of the Mozart Festival (Sächsische Mozartgesellschaft Chemnitz) come to Leipzig to present popular notable artists in the music salon in the Mendelssohn House in Leipzig.

Until now Britta Schwarz, Angelika Fritzsching, Cornelia Osterwald, Bernhard Hentrich had, amongst others, performed at the Sunday concerts.

On May 20 this year Jana Büchner - soprano, Hans-Peter Fieber - horn and Brita Wiederanders - piano, presented a programme of songs by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert, Fanny Hensel and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

We are excitedly looking forward to continuing the cooperation during the following years.

„Gedanken der Liebe“ – Concert title of the performance in the course of the Saxon Mozart Festival: Jana Büchner, Hans-Peter Fieber und Brita Wiederanders on 20 May 2012 at Mendelssohn House Leipzig, Lieder by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert, Fanny Hensel and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy



Mendelssohn House supports LMN-Concert

The association *Live Music Now*, again invited to a summer concert at Mendelssohn House. The house has been a long-term supporter of their concern to bring the music to those that are not able to visit the great concert halls.

Some of the *Live Music Now* scholarship holders – of whom each, by the way, keenly lobbys for the disadvantaged – performed in a special concert in the course of the Bach Festival Leipzig in the summer house at Mendelssohn House on 10 June and made the audience very happy.

The four excellent musicians Sarah Peng Zhai - soprano, Nico Treutler - violoncello, Aska Carmen Saito Jaen and Cristian Mihai Dirnea - piano performed works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Claude Debussy to an almost full house and received rapturous applause.

Proceeds of the concert are for credit of *Live Music Now* and the work of that association.

The Mendelssohn-House has been a long-term partner of *Live Music Now* and supports their activities in many-fold ways.

Live Music Now scholarship holders in front of the Mendelssohn bust in the garden of Mendelssohn House. Left to right: Sarah Peng Zhai, Aska Carmen Saito Jaen, Nico Treutler and Cristian Mihai Dirnea



Summerly Festive Concert at Marienkirche Rötha

A Midsummer Night's Dream was the title of this year's festive concert at Marienkirche Rötha. The two celebrated pianists from Leipzig, Konstanze Hollitzer and Christian Hornef enchanted the audience with breathtaking arrangements for piano for four hands of works by Handel, Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Weber.

„Music for four hands has a long tradition“, Jürgen Ernst, director of Mendelssohn House, stated in his welcome speech with reference to the so-called salon music. Many composers arranged their works this way to make them popular in the salons of the society and so did Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

The Mendelssohn House has been supporting the initiatives to restore the church for many years now. The almost 500 years old Marienkirche Rötha is well-known amongst Mendelssohn-connoisseurs because of in June 1840 the composer's stay there on the occasion of an hayride the Leipziger Singverein went on.

Mendelssohn visited both the Rötha Marienkirche and the Georgenkirche and played the famous Silbermann-Organs there. „Thanks to the proceeds from previous concerts the restauration of the church is advancing very well“, Stephan Eichhorn, head of the friend's association reported to the concert guests.



Altar of the almost 500 years old Marienkirche in Rötha, thoroughly restored.

Leipzig Music Trail opened – walk or tour the music city by bike

After long years of planning, preparation and trepidation about the approval of the necessary funding applications the Leipzig Music Trail was finally opened on 12 May. Steel intarsia now lead promenaders along the trail to the outstanding scenes and places of musical history in Leipzig.

Connoisseurs of music have known it for a long time: Leipzig's musical history is over 300 years old which can be traced back excellently in the city. But now, with the help of the 23 stations and the signs of the Leipzig music trail, those that are rather interested in history than in music can easily walk to explore the rich history of Leipzig, too. Another 32 stations of a wider trail can be visited by the guests and music lovers by bike. Descriptions of all the destinations are collected in a small book, written in English and German and easy to carry in small pockets.

The Mendelssohn House is station no. 2 on the trail and the Museum in the Mendelssohn House contributed to the opening with a free concert with the Ensemble TonART Leipzig performing choral works of the romantic period. The Ensemble TonART Leipzig enchanted the audience presenting not only a selection of Mendelssohn's „Lieder im Freien zu singen“, but also works by Brahms and Schumann.

The opening of the Leipzig Music Trail was actually planned as a promenade concert all over the city, but many visitors stayed, captivated by the authentic atmosphere, and enjoyed the music promenading the site – the music salon and the single rooms of the museum, the original staircase and the garden full of flowers.

All promenaders are invited to not only walk past the Mendelssohn House, but to visit the museum, which tells so much about it's eponym, too.



Top left: Waving flags outside the Mendelssohn House announce the opening of the Leipzig Music Trail; bottom left: many visitors enjoyed the musical atmosphere in the music salon.



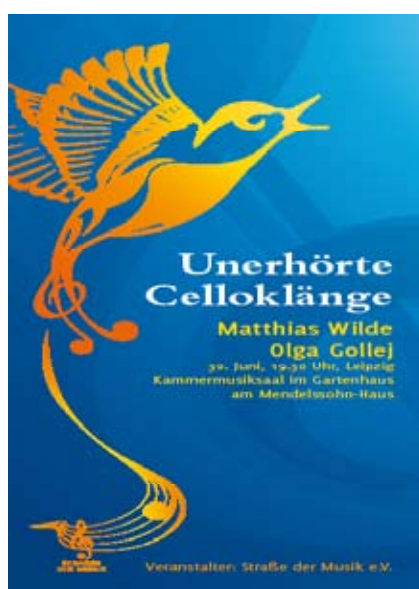
Straße der Musik – living musical history

The Mendelssohn House is a resident at the so-called *Straße der Musik*, an imaginary line that leads through more than 300 musically important towns and places in Saxony-Anhalt and the Free States of Thuringia and of Saxony, where, throughout history more than 1200 composers and musicians had lived.

Their annual highlight in the summer is the important music festival *Unerhörtes Mitteldeutschland*, a festival that presents mainly the works of rather non-famous composers, as the ambiguous name of the festival indicates. (unerhört: not heard (yet), actually meaning shocking or outrageous).

The concerts take place all over so-called central Germany, p.e. in Halle (Saale), Wittenberg, Zerbst, Weimar, Meiningen and Leipzig, in churches, smaller concert halls or salons like in the Mendelssohn House.

On 30 June 2012 the concert *Unerhörte Celloklänge* took place in the Mendelssohn House. Olga Gollej - piano und Matthias Wilde - violoncello performed works by Robert Schumann, Julius Klengel, Carl Reinecke and Julius Röntgen.



To give the audience the necessary background to understand the often very interesting, but wide-ranging musical and socio-cultural context and the old traditions in that cultural area, the concerts come with detailed descriptions of the compositions and information on the composer's biography.

The young association *Straße der Musik e.V.* is currently supported by its members like the Mendelssohn House. But further support by politicians and by the economic system is highly appreciated to present the rich cultural life also in future.

Leipziger Klaviersommer in the Mendelssohn House

In the year 2000 the Leipziger Klaviersommer took place for the first time a festival that offers connoisseurs high-level piano music at a time when the great concert halls at Augustusplatz close during the summer. From the very beginning of its establishment the small festival has enjoyed great popularity. Tourists from all over the world as well as locals make use of the opportunity to enjoy an hour-long concert in the intimate atmosphere of the music salon in the Mendelssohn House and listen to popular and famous piano works or discover something new, for it is always a matter of concern of the artists to present also works that are rarely performed.

Also this year we would like to cordially invite you to the Mendelssohn House and the music salon on this occasion. Every Sunday morning in August renowned artists present their ability to an expert audience.

This year Andrei Banciu (Leipzig) on 5 August, Ayano Shimada (Tokyo) on 12 August, Matt Rubenstein (Berlin) on 19 August and Min Young Roh (Dresden) on 26 August will play in the concerts. Thus four young pianists of international standing invite the guests. All four of them have already performed in the Mendelssohn House and appreciate the authentic and intimate atmosphere of the music salon very much.

After the concert you will of course have the opportunity to meet the artists for a conversation or tour the museum.

Reserve your tickets:

Leipziger Klaviersommer –

Tickets: 15,- euros/10,- euros + advance booking fee

Tickets may be bought in advance in most ticket sale offices and in the museum ticket office.

First performance of the Rhapsody in e minor in Leipzig, arrangement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

On 4 August 2012 an ambitious project will reach its climax:

Since January 2010, when the Chinese musician Sheng-Chung Gao, together with the Director of the Mendelssohn House, Jürgen Ernst, in front of a large audience in Peking, introduced the score of his version of Mendelssohn's violin concerto, transcribed for electric guitar, band and orchestra, the plan matured into a premiere for this unusual work. As the musician, better known under his artistic name as Guitar Gao, visited Leipzig in 2010, and presented a beautiful example of the score on a silk roll with gold leaf to the chair of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation, Mayor Burkhard Jung, Leipzig was set as the location for the premiere.

In this year, festivities will take place across the country to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and China – a welcome reason to provide an excellent contribution with the premiere of the e minor Rhapsody in Leipzig. Classic Open will baptise the piece on 4 August as part of the 18th Classic Open. Guitar Gao himself will play the guitar part, accompanied by the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra and his band, with Frank-Michael Erben as conductor.

One awaits a completely new perspective on Mendelssohn's masterpiece, which is part of the standard repertoire of every well-known violinist.

The e minor Rhapsody is witness to the infatuation the of the artist with European culture, but simultaneously a bridge between the sound of Asian music and European romantic music. Thus, the work connects not only classic music with modern, but also combine elements of the music from different cultures.

Realization of the concert would not have been possible without the generous support of the administrators of Classic Open – the LVZ and fairnet. Our thanks go also to the long-term partners of the Mendelssohn House, Lufthansa and the Hotel Fuerstenhof, which supported the project as sponsors.

4 August 2012, 20.00, Leipzig market place, free entrance
Guitar Gao & Band (Peking) and Leipzig Symphony Orchestra,
Frank-Michael Erben, conductor.



Memorial Concert for Hanns Eisler

This year the music world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the death of Hanns Eisler, who was born on 6 July 1898 in Leipzig and died on 6 September 1962 in Berlin. In recognition of this the Mendelssohn House has organised two concerts with the outstanding Leipzig pianist Steffen Schleiermacher.

- 1 December at 20.00

Julia Henning – soprano

Steffen Schleiermacher – piano

Hanns Eisler – newspaper extracts,

Brecht songs, Hölderlin fragments

Stefan Wolpe – 2 marches; Alexander

Mossolow – newspaper extracts

Paul Dessau – Guernica

- 2 December at 20.00

Andreas Seidel – violin

Steffen Schleiermacher – piano

Hanns Eisler – travel songs, childrens' piano pieces; Anton Webern – 4 pieces for violin and piano; Georg Katzer – 5 miniatures for piano; Arnold Schön-

berg – fantasy for violin with piano

Tickets from the Museum box-office, or from all recognized ticket-outlets.

Hanns Eisler is reputed to be the leading Lieder-composer of the 20th century. If only for this reason, you should not miss these concerts.

Visitor to Leipzig

Professor Takashi Oshio is a founder-member of the first society to support the restoration of the Mendelssohn House, and for many years has been a friend, sponsor and supporter of the Mendelssohn House. In June this year, after a long illness, he again came to Leipzig with his wife to visit the Museum in the Mendelssohn House. He learnt about the developments over the last two years, and above all about the changes which are planned for the Museum from the summer of 2013.

Mendelssohn House on Facebook



Title photos of the Facebook sites of the Mendelssohn House Leipzig:

You will find latest information about the Sunday concerts and other events, about the festive week in October and November with the celebrations for the first 15 years of our museum, about courses of the International Mendelssohn Akademie Leipzig as well as articles about the history of the Mendelssohn House and its museum.

Technical progress brings with it great changes, and sometimes risks. Therefore it was not easy to decide whether to move with the times and to become active on Facebook.

However, since May 2012 social network users can now inform themselves about the Museum in the Mendelssohn House, its plans, its history, the Sunday concerts and other events on Facebook.

Just as the Mendelssohn internet website, together with printed publications, was one of the most important ways of learning about concerts, foundation and society activities, and of keeping in touch with colleagues in the Mendelssohn House, for example for booking tickets – now Facebook has provided a medium, especially for the younger generation to use and to be contacted. As well as the opportunity for the Mendelssohn House and its Museum to become better known around the world, there is now an increased possibility of linking up with other institutions.

Visit us on Facebook, and judge our visibility for yourselves: www.facebook.com/pages/Mendelssohn-Haus-Leipzig/440643222612503.

International Mendelssohn Academy

Last year three students of the International Mendelssohn Academy were invited to Leipzig, including for a conducting course with Maestro Kurt Masur. In close collaboration with the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, the young conductors received extensive instruction in working work with an orchestra, and especially guidance in interpreting the works of Mendelssohn.

Next September three conductors will again be invited to Leipzig/Böhlen, to work intensively with Professor Masur and other tutors. In addition, other young conductors will come to the International Mendelssohn Academy in Leipzig, who have applied to take part in the conducting courses. On this occasion the Ruy Blas Overture MWV P 15, the Midsummer Night's Dream Overture MWV P 3, and the Symphony No. 5 (Reformation) MWV N 15 will be prepared for a concert.

Visitors to the courses are warmly welcomed as spectators. The closing concert of the conducting course will take place at 19.30 on 23 September 2012 in the House of Culture in Böhlen, the home of the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra.

In addition, the Mendelssohn Academy invites applications for autumn courses under the direction of General Music Director Georg Christoph Sandmann. From 5 to 7 October a course for conductors of semi-professional ensembles will provide instruction for the preparation of Mendelssohn's 2nd Symphony (Lobgesang) MWV A 18. This will include: improvement in performance quality, rehearsal technique and preparation of works, control and improvement of baton technique, handling of scores.

Applications to the Mendelssohn website (Mendelssohn Portal): www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de

*Cooperative Project Bach-Mendelssohn-Schumann -
Music - printed, recorded and live in the concert hall*

News briefs...

This year's budget for books and music supplies of the Bach-Mendelssohn-Schumann-Project enabled the Mendelssohn House to enlarge its collection of the Leipzig edition of Mendelssohn's complete works, begun in 1995, by three volumes.

The steadily growing stock of books and scores is now enriched by wonderful works of Mendelssohn: the three late string quartets from op. 44 (MWV R 26/28/30), 1837/38, the two popular piano trios op. 49 (MWV Q 29), 1839 and op. 66 (MWV Q 33), 1845 and the more and more often performed sextet for piano (MWV Q 16), 1824.

Already before scores and secondary literature were purchased and can be used in the small library of the Mendelssohn House.

Summer Concerts in July

Also this summer the Bach-museum, the Schumann House, the Mendelssohn House and the Musical Instruments Museum are hosting concerts in the course of the cooperative BMS-project, which is supported by the Free State of Saxony (Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst) and the Federal Government (Bundesbeauftragter für Kultur und Medien). During the summer recess of the great concert halls the wide range of options is appreciated especially by tourists who wish to discover the musical city Leipzig and retrace the steps of the great composers in residence.

In the Mendelssohn House Philipp Goldmann - baritone, will present Lieder by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Robert Schumann and others with the title: „Es ist so süß zu scherzen...“, accompanied by Benjamin Hartmann, piano.

Complete overview in the flyer, enclosed to this newsletter.



New Release

In March 2012 the Leipziger Klangquartier's latest CD was released in the Musical Instruments Museum. Amidst the impressive exhibition of instruments the two musicians Tobias Koch - historical grand piano and Andrzej Mokry - guitar, both involved in the production of the CD, gave a sample of those two most popular instruments from Mendelssohn's time.

It would go beyond the scope of this text to introduce every single person involved in the production of the CD that impresses with a great musical diversity, concerning both the choice of pieces and the variety of instruments. However, the aim is to present a choice of works that matches that of the dominical „musikalische Morgenunterhaltung“ that was frequently on in the Gewandhaus during the 1840s.

Those special concerts were characterized by a wide range of genres,

and their occasionally rather fancy instrumentation. Correspondingly the CD contains, amongst others, works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Clara and Robert Schumann, Heinrich Marschner, Bernhard Heinrich Romberg and Carl Maria von Weber.

According to modern judgement the selection of instruments is by all means unusual, for instance the lyre-guitar, the (unknown) Csakan (a flute) and the glass harmonica. The selection of instruments includes historical instruments only, all of them belonging to the Leipzig Musical Instruments Museum that thus gives a little insight into their huge impressive collection.

The CD was published by the label *Raumklang* and is available at the respective outlets.

For more information see: www.klangquartier.de

Mendelssohn for kids

Join the concert

During the long summer holidays in Saxony the Mendelssohn House will host the first three interactive concerts of a new series called *Museumskonzerte zum Mitmachen und Entdecken* for children aged 6 and above.

The idea is not only to point out the essence and relevance of a museum and its collection, but to make the appendant world of sound comprehensible in a playful way, too, and thus, to gain insight into 18th century life and develop a passion for music via actively participating in the concert.

For this purpose the teacher Anna-Barbara Schmidt (moderator) and two musicians, Ivana Cirrincione - violin, and Thomas Kauba - piano, shall dress in historical costumes and embed Mendelssohn's music in scenic action.

The project again is supported by the Free State of Saxony (Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst).



The nosy maid snoops around at Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's 14/15/16 August 2012 10:30 a.m.
Music Salon, Tickets: 3,- euros for children aged 6 and above

...and for grown-ups

Night of Museums 2012

The not so easily convertible motto of this year's Night of Museums was *Nachtaktiv* (nocturnal). Yet, sometimes a composer is sleepless and spends the night musing.

An interesting and ambitious project informed the visitors of the Mendelssohn House on 5 May 2012 about the sleepless nights of the composer Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy – guided tours gave an insight into the artist's daily routine.

After that the visitors were invited to try their hand at turning sleepless nights into creativity by composing a *Song without Words* in the manner of Mendelssohn's. After four 30-minute-sessions the little piano piece *Frühlingsnacht* – the melody of which was created by the audience with professional assistance – was completed. Friederike Frey, a Leipzig pianist and composer, first explained the basics of composition to the interested audience. Then she explained how Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy had often structured his *Lieder ohne Worte* so the following steps became more easily comprehensible.

According to the ideas of the audience Friederike Frey wrote down the melodic line and modulations. After that she added the chords in the presence of the audience. Thus two pages of music were composed in the Mendelssohn House again – a *Lied ohne Worte* that starts longing and ends promising.



Successful composing session in the Mendelssohn-House:

Top: *Lied ohne Worte Frühlingsnacht*, composed by inspired visitors in the Night of Museums on 5 May, 2012 in two hours only with a little help from Friederike Frey (right), who brought the audience's suggestions on paper and add the chords in agreement with the audience.
Some of them stayed during all four sessions to see the work develop from beginning to end.

Record of the Annual General meeting

Date; Saturday 16 June 2012. 11.00
Place; Chamber music room in the Garden House of the Mendelssohn House
Chair; Anja Richling, Finance Board
Record; Christiane Schmidt, Grit Wehrfritz
Attendance; 19 members

Agenda

1. Welcome and musical introduction
2. Acceptance of the Agenda. Nomination of Record-taker
3. Annual Report by the Director for 2011
4. Financial Report
5. Discussion of the Reports
6. Approval of the activities of the Board and the Management
7. Nomination of Auditor
8. Information about the Museum development
9. Any other business

1. Fr Richling welcomed the attendees to the membership meeting 2012. She passed greetings from the Board Chair, Prof Kurt Masur, and his deputy, Dr Peter Krüger. She introduced Catherine Compton (soprano, Fulbright scholar in Leipzig) and Sung-ah Park (piano), who had opened the meeting with songs by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

2. Fr Richling invited the attendees to vote on the Agenda, which was agreed unanimously, as was the nomination of the Record-taker.

3. The Director of the Mendelssohn House, Hr Jürgen Ernst, reported on the activities and finances of the Association for 2011. He presented a very positive picture of the year's business; as a result of stable visitor numbers and appropriate official support and sufficient income, the financial results at the end of the year were satisfactory, and the Association had no debts.

However, the donations to the Association had decreased, because many of these had also gone to the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation.

Hr Ernst reported income of ca. 60,000 euros from the Museum Shop, while the income from the Internet Shop had decreased. However, the Director could report an overall healthy balance.

As before, the concerts were heavily subscribed, the Museum was visited by many groups, including guided tours and concerts. The Music Salon was available for marriages, as was the Garden House especially for birthday and wedding receptions.

There was again good media coverage of the House and Museum in 2011.

Hr Ernst invited all members to the Leipzig Marktplatz on 4 August 2012 for a performance of the Mendelssohn violin concerto in an arrangement by Guitar Cao as part of Classic Open.

Hr Ernst spoke again of creating a major music festival in Leipzig, where the Mendelssohn Festival-Days could be integrated with the Bach Festival and the Schumann Week, in order to portray better the musical diversity of the city.

Hr Ernst referred to progress with the digitalisation of the early editions, which are permanently accessible on the website.

Hr Ernst reported on the various authorisation procedures for the establishment of a foundation: in June the City Council would take a decision, as would the foundation authorities, so that the establishment should take place next year at the latest.

4. Fr Gisela von Keyserlingk presented the 2011 Financial Report by the Auditors, Fr Gisela von Keyserlingk and Fr Nina Elisabeth Sziegoleit. There were no discrepancies, and the meeting took note of very careful book-keeping.

Fr Richling expressed thanks for the Report, and passed her thanks and appreciation to the Auditors and to the staff of the Mendelssohn House.

5. The Chair asked for comments on the Reports;

- Fr Grüber thanked all the staff of the House for their dedicated work. Hr Ernst endorsed this.

- Fr von Keyserlingk referred to the importance for the city of the newly-opened Notenspur (Music Trail), and was pleased that more guests could appreciate and promulgate the musical traditions and variety of Leipzig.

In addition she asked whether the Annual Report and the Financial Report could in future be treated as a single agenda item.

She also asked whether the toilets in the Mendelssohn House could be renovated, for which there could also be support from the city support.

Hr Ernst informed the meeting the renovation would take place within the framework of the Museum development.

- Fr Lutterloh-Korne offered to organise the renovation of the Day-Room (Café) in the Garden House, as it was somewhat unattractive. Hr Ernst said that this renovation would also be addressed in the framework of the Museum development and a reorganisation of the ground floor of the Garden House, with a Café being established in the ground floor of the main House.

6. The meeting was asked to approve the activities of the Board, which it did unanimously with two abstentions. The Board then approved activities of the Director, Hr Ernst.

7. Fr Richling then asked for Auditor nominations for 2012. Fr Sziegoleit was, for personal reasons, unwilling to stand again. Fr Richling thanked for her conscientious work over many years. Fr von Keyserlingk and Hr Volker Stiehler offered themselves as Auditors for 2012, which was unanimously agreed.

8. Hr Ernst gave an oral and illustrated presentation of the plans for the development of the Museum. First he gave the reasons for the development – above all the protection of the historic building structure from the effects of the weather, the increased attractiveness of the Museum, the changing demands of the visitors and the increased costs of the visitors. He then introduced the designer which had won the invitation to tender, Atelier Bertron Schwarz Frey (Ulm, Berlin). He outlined the timing of the next planning and work stages from the notice of the rental contract with University (already done) to the commencement of the works in summer 2013 and completion in autumn 2014. Current calculations indicated that the cost would be ca. 1.5m euros.

The meeting registered its overall interest and approval of the Museum development concept. Hr Ernst took note.

9. Since there were no other comments on the agenda, Fr Richling thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at 13.00.

Anja Richling
Chair

Christiane Schmidt
Grit Wehrfritz
Record

Leipzig, 26 June 2012

Guitar Gao holds the Dr.-Kazoi-Watanabe-Scholarship 2012

The Chinese musician Sheng-Chun Gao, who prefers to appear under the artistic name Guitar Gao, will this year be awarded the scholarship founded by Dr Kazoi Watanabe in 2008. This will allow him, among other things, to give the first performance of the Rhapsody in e minor, an arrangement of Mendelssohn's famous violin concerto. We have already reported about this several times, so no further detail is required here (see also page 6).

The intensive work of the Chinese guitarist with the music of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and the arrangement of his violin concerto for the younger public is one of the reasons for the scholarship being awarded. In addition the jury was very impressed by the comprehensive work which the artist is doing in China on behalf of children and young people, to awaken their interest in music, especially also in Western classical music, and to encourage them to learn an instrument. In this way he is supporting the spiritual and artistic development of the young generation in his homeland in an outstanding way.

In addition he is working to promote peaceful exchanges between

Chinese and European cultures, as well as a better and tolerant relationship between the peoples of these countries.

Biography:

as a child he was trained as a violinist, and later switched to guitar/E-guitar.

In 1993 he founded his first band and later presented his first compositions.

From 1996 to 2009 Sheng-Chun Gao worked on Mendelssohn's violin concerto in e minor, first studying the work in detail, collecting ideas, and then arranging it for guitar and band.

In 2005 he worked in Sydney, Australia, together with the Band 69 which he had founded.

In 2006 he founded the Flymen-band in China, with which he travelled new musical paths and also supported many social projects, for example composing music for the leukaemia project in China.

The final work on the violin concerto lasted two years, during which time he also completed the instrumental parts.



Concert Visit with the Pope

On 20 April 2012 Gewandhaus Kapellmeister Riccardo Chailly conducted a concert in the Pope's Audience Hall in the Vatican in honour of Benedict XVI's 85th birthday. The performers were the MDR Radio Choir, the Gewandhaus Choir, Ljuba Orgonasova and Bernarda Fink (sopranos) and Steve Davislim (tenor). The work performed was the „Lobgesang“, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's symphony-cantata op. 52, MWV A 18.

Benedict XVI warmly thanked the outstanding choirs and soloists, and above all Riccardo Chailly for his „moving interpretation“. Benedict spoke at some length about the composer of the work; Mendelssohn, the

„Lobgesang“ symphony and the Gewandhaus being three elements which had been closely connected from the beginning. Mendelssohn did not regard sacred music as being on a higher plane than other music - he masterfully accomplished his belief that all music should serve to praise God.

Benedict quoted from the motto deriving ascribed to Martin Luther, which the composer had written on the score of the symphony - „however, I would wish that all the arts, especially music, would be seen in the service of him who had given and created them.“ Mendelssohn's ethical and religious world was not separate from his artistic vision, but an integral part of it: „art and life are not separate“.

Pope Benedict XVI warmly thanks Maestro Riccardo Chailly, the musicians of the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the soloists and the choirs for the performance of *Lobgesang* by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in the Audience Hall in the Vatican in honour of the pope's 85th birthday.



Mendelssohn Music Week in Wengen, Switzerland

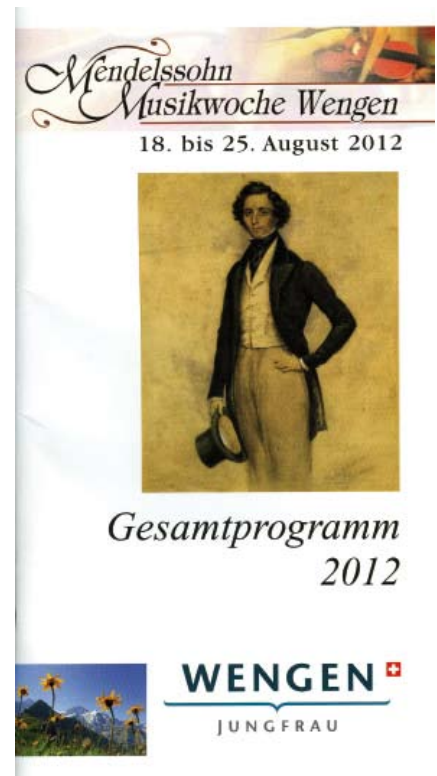
Switzerland with its marvellous landscape, its amiable and hospitable people, its multitude of traditions and its exceptionally modern concert-life has always been worth a trip. Meanwhile, especially the Mendelssohn Music Week Wengen, taking place from 18 to 25 August this year, attracts lovers of music from all over the world.

It is now the eighth time the committed organizers are inviting to concerts, exhibitions, walking tours in the footsteps of Mendelssohn, panel discussions or plainly to an encounter with Mendelssohn's and other composers' music in churches, hotels and other sites in Wengen and around. This wide variety of the festival programme is what makes up its charm.

This year Prof. Kurt Masur has sent his greetings to Wengen and thus emphasized the bond between the

Mendelssohn-Foundation Leipzig and the ardent commitment of the Wengen people who endeavour so much to honour Mendelssohn and his heritage that is presented to the steadily growing and always enthusiastic audience by numerous favoured ensembles like, for instance, the Mendelssohn Players, the young Casal-Quartett, the Guarneri-Trio from Prague (Czech Republic) or the Singer Pur from Regensburg.

Klingendes Leipzig – Bachs, Mendelssohns und Schumanns Musikstadt is the title of the richly illustrated touring exhibition, enriched with several audio samples, that can be seen from 3 to 27 August 2012 in the Hotel Victoria Lauberhorn. The exhibition, set up by the BMS-project, presents important aspects of the lives of the three most important Leipzig composers-in-residence.



250 years of the Mendelssohn family and the 175th Wedding Anniversary of Felix and Cécile Mendelssohn Bartholdy

On 22 June 1762 the famous philosopher and silk merchant Moses Mendelssohn from Berlin married Fromet Gugenheim, the daughter of a merchant from Hamburg. The couple are regarded as the founders of the world-wide family which produced bankers, artists and scholars.

The Berlin Mendelssohn Society has therefore taken this date as an occasion to recognise 250 years of the Mendelssohn family, and together with Mendelssohn friends from Leipzig, Hamburg and Wengen, to celebrate in numerous events the successes and history of the family integration. Concerts, tours, readings, lectures and exhibitions will portray and reflect upon the lives and works of the various family members and their place in the context of German-Jewish history. The exact programme can be found on www.250FM.de.

In recognition of the 175th Wedding Anniversary of Felix and Cécile Mendelssohn Bartholdy the Berlin Mendelssohn Society arranged a four-day tour in the footsteps of their 1837 honeymoon journey.

At the time the couple travelled by coach for six and a half weeks on a comprehensive cultural and sight-seeing programme. This year's tour could not be quite as far-reaching, but the participants retraced the most important routes and saw many of the places which the young couple visited, including the Casa Mendelssohn in Bad Soden and the local church.

In the old towns of Worms and Speyer there was an opportunity to hear a lecture by Dr Hans-Günter Klein. In Freiburg im Breisgau there was a tour of the town, including a visit to the cathedral, and

in the evening a concert in the Hochschule für Music.

The tour was enriched by the one-hour film from 2009 by André Vallana *Diary of a Honeymoon*, as well as by a day's excursion in the Black Forest to St Blasien and another concert in Heidelberg.

In Frankfurt/Main the group was privileged to be taken by Dr Hans-Günter Klein and Cornelia von Bismarck to visit the graves of Cécile Mendelssohn Bartholdy and her family, and of Dorothea Schlegel née Mendelssohn.

En route the visitors were able to compare today's views of the various places with the sketches done by the young couple at the time – and which are described in Dr Peter Ward Jones's illustrative book *Diary of a Honeymoon*, a valuable guide for the visitors.

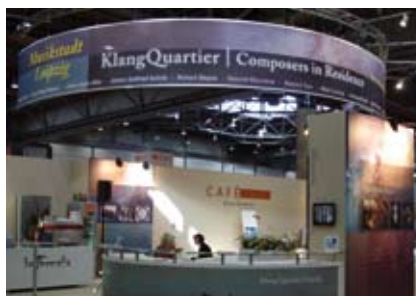
Fairs 2012

Every year the Mendelssohn House exhibits at different fairs to increase brand awareness in Germany and abroad and to direct people's attention to the museum once more: most important are the Internationale Tourismusbörse Berlin (ITB), the Germany Travel Mart (GTM) and the Leipzig Book Fair. At the book fair, the four cooperating museums of the BMS-project usually share a stand and turn up together as the Klang-Quartier.

While the target group at the Internationale Tourismusbörse Berlin and the Germany Travel Mart consists principally of expert trade visitors, the Leipzig Book fair puts a greater focus on a general culturally interested public. It is actually those people whose interest in the Musikstadt Leipzig and thus in the Mendelssohn House

we have to arouse amidst a flood of literally information there.

Highlights of this year's programme were the book presentation with Ludwig Güttler and the lecture with Hagen Kunze about the Musikstadt Leipzig, accompanied by the Leipzig pianist Eva Sperl. Various musical contributions, for instance such of the MDR's Youth Music Network *Clara* (Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia) enriched the polymorphic appearance of the elaborate conceptual design of the stand.



Sheet music and Journeys: Reviews on new publications

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Chamber music in urtext

The sonata in c minor for viola and piano MWV Q 14, the sonata in E flat major for clarinet and piano MWV Q 15 and the String Quintets op. 18 MWV R 21 and op. [87] MWV R 33 are published now with Henle in an new urtext edition, where in the last two years other compositions for chamber music by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, edited by Ernst Hertrich, were also published.

Hertrich made his mark among experts by numerous editions. Until 2006 he was head editor of the edition of Beethoven's complete works and in 2010 he brought the complete edition of Robert Schumann's piano works to a close.

In his well-founded preface he sheds light on the history of the works, i.e. their origins and – characteristic for Mendelssohn – different versions and editions as well as an insight into

the state of source material. Alternative versions of works and discarded movements and sections can be found in the appendix. Hertrich has analyzed and interpreted the sources with the usual expertise and prudence. He accepts alternative readings and refers to some of them as *ossia*. A detailed and critical report provides for all editorial decisions. The editions also captivate the reader aesthetically by clear and neat notation.

Hans-Günter Klein „...über jeden Ausdruck erhaben und schön“; The Mendelssohn family's journey through Switzerland 1822

For years Hans-Günter Klein's publications on the Mendelssohn family have been standing out from the mass of similar releases.

Now he has also studied the Mendelssohns' grand tour through Switzerland and submitted the report to the Reichert Verlag. On 176 pages the Switzerland journey is described



vividly. The route is minutely described and all the stations are carefully listed. Furthermore all members of the party and their relations are introduced in *extenso*. The tour of 1822 is Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's first stay in the country, the landscape of which he loved so much, and his first acquaintance with its amiable people.

The book is illustrated with letters of the daughter Fanny, diary entries, sketches and other documents. A map of Switzerland from 1823 is attached, too, by means of which the route can be traced easily. Furthermore, a detailed appendix allows a quick search for persons or places.

New Members of the Association until June 2012

Frau Dr. Marion Adler, Frankreich
Frau Babette Berg, Deutschland
Herr Hans-Georg Mockel, Frankreich

A very warm welcome to our association to all of you.

We will be pleased to see you in the Mendelssohn House again and to work together with you.



Many thanks to all our Members

who, in addition to paying their membership contributions, have provided their support for the objectives of the Mendelssohn House:

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The titel page shows Maestro Kurt Masur and director Jürgen Ernst at the opening ceremony of the Mendelssohn House in 1997.

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