
FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY FOUNDATION

INFORMATION



FELIX-MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY-STIFTUNG
PRÄSIDENT KURT MASUR

November 2009

Foundation's Work – Around the World

Collection of first editions

There are many future plans for the international work of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation Leipzig, several now concrete. And some are now becoming reality – already in the Summer Newsletter we could give details of the proposal to acquire a major collection of Mendelssohn first editions. With concerts for benefit of the Foundation we collected money, and we asked for further contributions and donations to help realise the dream of an archive of first and early editions in the rooms of the Mendelssohn House Leipzig, for research and performance objectives – now we can report that in October the collection could move to Leipzig.

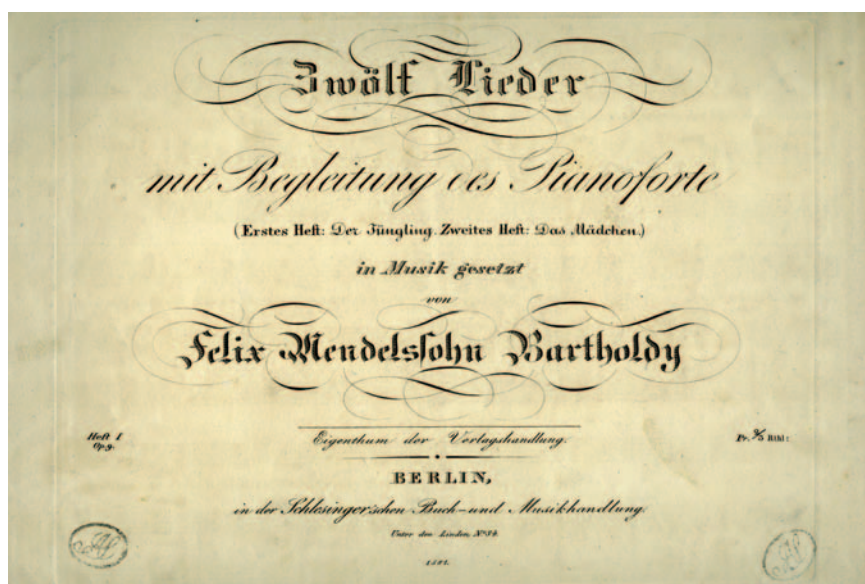
Already in the summer the experts had validated the collection in preparation for contract signature, which took place during this year's Mendelssohn Festival in Leipzig on 18 September. Janet and Richard Macnutt (Great Britain) and Ulrich Drüner (Germany) on behalf of the owners, and Maestro Kurt Masur and Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung as representatives of the Foundation met

to put their names on a document of such importance for the future of the Mendelssohn House.

And now the institution is the owner of a huge collection of source material, which will be a focal point especially for researchers. In addition, performing musicians will now have a rich fund of material at their disposal. Therefore all the works will be individually digitali-

sed, in order to preserve the valuable original material, given the expected demand, and to make digitalised documents available for specific work projects.

The next stage will be to put the digitalised documents on the new Mendelssohn-Portal website, which was established in October 2009. In the summer of 2010 the project will be started.



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continuation of the titel report:



Photo above. At the signature of the contract for the acquisition of the early editions collection – (L to R). Maestro Kurt Masur, Leipzig Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung, antiquarians and collectors Richard Macnutt and Dr Ulrich Drüner.

Photo middle. Professor Masur thanks the antiquarians for the transfer of the rich collection, and the supporters of the Foundation for the many donations in support of the project. In his speech he stressed the significance of the acquisition by the Mendelssohn House, which would allow it better to fulfil its role as guardian of the Mendelssohn heritage, and as a worthy partner for researchers and performers from all over the world. Foundation Chairman Burkhard Jung painted a colourful picture of the future - Leipzig as a Mendelssohn Centre, particularly with the research at the Saxony Academy (Mendelssohn complete edition), with the education at the Musikhochschule, with the continuation of the musical tradition at the Gewandhaus, and at the Mendelssohn House, which would all greatly benefit from the use of the collection.

Photo below. The President and Board of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation, the buyers and the sellers of the collection.

Leipzig – London

At the invitation of the German Ambassador in London, HE Georg Boomgaarden and his wife, and of the law firm Pritchard Englefield, the Chairman and Management of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation travelled to London in October. The London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir under Maestro Kurt Masur gave a performance of Mendelssohn's famous oratorio "Elijah" in a packed Royal Festival Hall, followed by a Reception with prominent guests from the worlds of politics and music, including British Culture Secretary Ben Bradshaw and former German Foreign Secretary Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The occasion was in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth, and of the 20th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall. Both anniversaries have stimulated great interest in the British capital.

Desmond Cecil, Chairman of the "UK Friends of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation" and long-standing supporter of the Mendelssohn House, welcomed the guests most warmly, above all Maestro Kurt Masur, highlighting the rich traditions linking London and Leipzig, including of course the music of Mendelssohn, and which have received new inspiration and life since the Fall of the Berlin Wall. The German Ambassador took up this theme in his own words of welcome, setting the musically and politically active Leipzig in centre stage, and he especially thanked Mayor Burkhard Jung for his commitment and for coming to London. Maestro Kurt Masur in his speech expressed his thanks for the opportunity to present to London Mendelssohn, his last home and the musical city of Leipzig, and above all with such an impressive work as the oratorio "Elijah", which was known to have been composed in the Leipzig Mendelssohn House.

Mayor Jung and Jürgen Ernst as representatives of the Foundation and Christiane Schmidt of the Mendelssohn House benefited from the evening to re-

new old contacts, to get to know new ones, and above all to discuss concrete ideas for the future international development of Mendelssohn's heritage.

A most welcome and appreciated result of the visit is a donation from the "UK Friends of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation" to the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation for the archiving of the recently acquired collection of early editions.



Photo above. 17 October 2009 at the Reception following the marvellous "Elijah" concert in Royal Festival Hall under Maestro Masur's direction. HE Boomgaarden (R) in conversation with the British Culture Secretary Ben Bradshaw (M), Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung (L) and Jürgen Ernst.

Photo middle. Maestro Kurt Masur and Mayor Jung meet Mendelssohn friends, long-standing and active supporters of the "UK Friends of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation", and listen to their ideas.

Photo below (L to R). Mrs Boomgaarden, Foundation Chairman Mayor Burkhard Jung, and the two leaders of Mendelssohn institutions in Leipzig and London, Jürgen Ernst and Desmond Cecil.

Leipzig – Tokyo

A long awaited visit took place on 16 September during this year's Mendelssohn Festival in Leipzig. Mrs Tomoko Masur invited the enthusiastic members of the Japanese Mendelssohn Society, so that they could get to know the historical Mendelssohn sites in the musical city. The guests had a rich and varied programme – an extended walk in Mendelssohn's footsteps with visits to the city churches and Gewandhaus, a long visit to the museum in the Mendelssohn House with a guided tour and a concert, motets, visits to the Schumann House, the Hochschule for Music and Theatre named after Mendelssohn, and much else – so that the guests could in a short time enjoy an excellent overview of the musical traditions and the modern developments in Leipzig.

Naturally the visit to the Mendelssohn House was the central point of the Leipzig programme. Here the Japanese guests, who came with Mrs and Professor Kurt Masur, were most warmly welcomed by the First Mayor of Leipzig Andreas Müller. In his speech he referred not only to the Mendelssohn Year 2009, but also to the varied and intensive activities of the Mendelssohn friends in Japan in general. He spoke from personal experience, since during his last visit to Tokyo in 2008 at invitation he had already met a large and committed circle of the Mendelssohn friends there.

Mrs Masur reciprocated the thanks on behalf of the Japanese guests, and expounded current ideas and plans – she spoke of the plans of the Japanese Society for December 2009. Also Professor Masur addressed the visitors, thanked them for coming, and for the attention and friendship which the guests had shown towards the music city of Leipzig, and especially to Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and his sites.

After a Reception in the Garden House, the guests were invited by Director Jürgen Ernst to a concert in the Music Salon, where he again greeted them in the authentic setting. Alexandra Oehler (piano) and Panu Sundquist (violoncello) performed works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

This was not the only meeting between the representatives of the Mendelssohn House and the Japanese guests – at further concerts for example at the Gewandhaus, there was

always an occasion for an exchange of views.

This exchange will continue in Tokyo, Osaka and Kanazawa, on the occasion of the Mendelssohn Festival Weeks in these big Japanese cities from 9-19 December 2009. As Mrs Masur explained, there would be an intensive programme of master-classes with Maestro Masur, the German singer Peter Schreier and with the famous Gewandhaus Quartet, an exhibition called "Felix" in the Goethe Institute, a symposium and research "round table", concerts and meetings to celebrate the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

More well-known names would be represented and active in the presentation of the Festival Week – not only Maestro Kurt Masur, Peter Schreier, the Gewandhaus- and Okayama-Quartets, but also Peter Ward Jones, Ralf Wehner and Hiromi Hoshino, who are known in the world for their work and books on Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Mrs Tomoko Masur would co-ordinate the organisation of this attractive offering from the Japanese Mendelssohn friends in co-operation with the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation Leipzig. The Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung and the Managing director of the Foundation Jürgen Ernst would attend the closing performance in Tokyo, to show their solidarity and to strengthen their links with the Japanese circle of friends.



Photo left. After the guests walked around Leipzig the First Mayor of Leipzig Andreas Müller (R), Mrs Tomoko Masur and Jürgen Ernst jointly welcome the Japanese guests in the Garden House of the Mendelssohn House.

Photo above. Professor Kurt Masur dedicates his speech to the theme of the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and the numerous related events which can be heard in Mendelssohn sites not only around Germany, e.g. the oratorio "Elijah" in the evening of 18 September 2009, which was included in the comprehensive visit programme for the Japanese.

Mendelssohn-Portal website

Since the beginning of October the new *Mendelssohn-Portal* website is now online. Interested persons will reach the pages via the well-known web addresses. There the visitors will find many information about Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, his work and his family in German as well as in English. With the new pages it is easier to look at the announcements for the events of the Mendelssohn House and of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation. Websites of the Mendelssohn societies world-wide are listed and linked there. Very comfortable is the page with pictures in printing quality of the composer, of the Mendelssohn House and its museum for download. In the online shop there is a special offer of Mendelssohn compact discs and books on the composer.



Mendelssohn Prize 2010

Pre-announcement – the Mendelssohn Prize for the year 2010 will be awarded on 12th June by the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation for the fourth time. The Winner will be again honoured during a concert in the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Maestro Riccardo Chailly, Mendelssohn Prize Winner in the Anniversary Year 2009, has generously offered to lead the festive concert with his Gewandhaus orchestra.

The details of ticket sales and the programme for the evening will be announced in good time. However the name of the Prize Winner will remain a secret for the moment – come and find out yourself on the evening!

Donators and Supporters since June 2009

In the second half of the Anniversary Year for Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy there were again many donations to the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation – and also in addition much valuable support; grateful thanks are due to all supporters for their generous contributions to the work of the Foundation:

Herrn Wolfgang Anselmino
 Herrn Fritz Baumann
 Frau Elke und Herrn Michael von Brentano
 Frau Marion Eckertz-Höfer
 Gesellschaft der Freunde des Gewandhauses zu Leipzig e.V.
 Frau Dr Inga Haase-Becher
 Frau Dr Susanne Heiland
 K. C. Shasha Charitable Foundation
 KPMG Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft Steuerberatungsgesellschaft mbH
 Herrn Dr Peter Krüger
 Herrn Matthias Nixdorf
 Herrn Jörg Müller
 Herrn Dr Jens Odewald
 Frau Maren Otto
 Frau Ingrid Peters
 Herrn Lothar Quirbach
 Frau Dr Ingeborg und Herrn Professor Dr Siegfried Schmidt
 Frau Dr Rosmarie Schulz
 Stadt- und Kreissparkasse Leipzig
 UK Friends of the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation

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- » Editor and Designer:
 Christiane Schmidt (responsible)
 » Texts: Christiane Schmidt
 » English Translation: Desmond Cecil
 » Pictures/illustrations: AMH, Ute Jacobi, Gert Mothes, Christiane Schmidt
 » Print: Fischer Druck, Großpösna