

# MOVING TOGETHER

Proud to be Partners for Sustainability



UN Bonn

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BEETHOVEN  
ORCHESTER  
/ BONN



THEATER BONN



## MOVING TOGETHER

Fifty years after their founding, the United Nations chose Bonn as their location, thus strengthening the city's international character. We are delighted that now – shortly after the 25th anniversary of the UN in Bonn – we will be Pursuing new avenues together.

The strategic cooperation between UN Bonn, the City of Bonn, the Theater Bonn, and Beethoven Orchester has two essential goals. Together, we would like to offer an appealing cultural programme in English for our city's international guests, to people from across the world who live in Bonn or who are visiting the city. This programme will enable them to understand and enjoy exciting opera productions and fascinating concerts as well as guided tours or services for families.

Contributing to a more sustainable world is a common interest between our organizations. The creative potential of our companies and our close cooperation with both the UN in Bonn and the city's institutions will lead us to new formats, new avenues towards a sustainable world. We want to be a place for discussions about the future – open, creative and with each other.

We are very much looking forward to this new and innovative partnership, and intend to fill it with life – for the residents of Bonn and our international guests as well as for a sustainable world.

We wish you an exciting time at Theater Bonn and with the Beethoven Orchester Bonn.

Cordially,

Dr Bernhard Helmich  
*General Director  
Theater Bonn*

Dirk Kaftan  
*General Music Director and Chief  
Conductor Beethoven Orchester Bonn*



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“People can be inspired to act in many different ways, and music is an important motivator. Beethoven, who was himself inspired by nature, can be our inspiration to act on climate change. I urge you to use your platform whenever you can and to spread the message to the entire world. The world itself is a beautiful symphony and we are all conductors.”

*Patricia Espinosa,  
Executive Secretary of UN  
Climate Change*



THEATER BONN



“This handshake between the UN and the Theater Bonn evolves naturally from ideas both institutions believe in to sustain a world worth living in. We, as a theatre, present a threshold between past and future, preserving ideas, philosophies, texts, literature, music, and culture for centuries and will continue to do so to create, to inspire, and to move. Therefore, we are delighted to welcome Bonn’s international community as our audience.”

*Dr Bernhard Helmich,  
General Director  
Theater Bonn*



“Music is a language that can transcend political and social boundaries, and connects people in an extraordinary way: It transports ideas and thoughts towards open hearts. We need to tackle the big issues of this day and grow together – and music helps us! This is the deep conviction that guides us on our musical path.”

*Dirk Kaftan,  
General Music Director and  
Chief Conductor  
Beethoven Orchester Bonn*

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“Bonn has been Germany’s United Nations City for the past 25 years and is a global hub for sustainability. UN Bonn forms the core of a unique cluster, uniting businesses, academia, civil society, media and federal institutions – all working towards sustainable development worldwide. The partnership between Bonn’s cultural institutions and UN Bonn send a clear signal – we are moving together as partners for sustainability!”

*Katja Dörner,  
Mayoress, City of Bonn*



## OUR HISTORY

In the 19th century, the citizens of Bonn built their first own theatre, which was intended to make an independent contribution to their education in the arts. Similar reasons motivated the spa town of Bad Godesberg, which was still under its own administration in those days, to create a venue that initially hosted guest performances and later housed a company of its own. Today, the municipal theatre, which includes several different artistic genres and employs around 500 people, makes a significant contribution to the cultural life of the city



and its surrounding region. In addition to numerous productions of the theatre's opera and drama branches, the event series HIGHLIGHTS DES INTERNATIONAL TANZES and QUATSCH KEINE OPER are firmly established in its programme.

Dr Bernhard Helmich has been the theatre's General Artistic Director since 2013/14. Head of Opera Andreas K.W. Meyer, Head of Drama Jens



Groß and General Musical Director Dirk Kaftan and Dr Helmich make up the theatre's artistic management. Rüdiger Frings is its Managing Director. Theater Bonn has more than 500 employees in a wide range of departments and trades. It is their commitment and passion that makes a programme of such variety possible.

## PARTICIPATION AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

The theatre launched the education platform PORTAL together with the Beethoven Orchester Bonn, which gives children and young people access to cultural education, regardless of their social situation. Apart from artistic productions, a wide range of communication formats, including rehearsal visits, guided tours and workshops form the core of the work of our musical theatre, concert and theatre educators. In their daily work, they introduce children and young people to Bonn as a place of cultural diversity and enable them to participate beyond



the mere watching and listening.

Since 1992, the Children's and Youth Choir has been an integral part of THEATER BONN. It has not only featured in numerous productions but also brings its concerts and productions to many other German theatres, allowing children from the age of six to tread the boards for the first time.

## TWO BUILDINGS WITH THEIR OWN HISTORY

In the year 1826, citizens from Bonn took the initiative to build the city's first theatre. In 1848, a new building was built on Wilhelmsplatz, which housed its own drama company from 1902 and an opera ensemble from 1935. The current Opera House opened in 1965, on the banks of the Rhine and close to the Kennedy-Bridge. The building by architects Klaus Gessler and Wilfried Beck-Erlang has a sculptural air and houses the main auditorium (1024 seats) as well as the Werkstattbühne (125 seats), a more intimate studio theatre which is used mainly for new drama works and experimental productions. The main venue of the drama department is the Schauspielhaus (435 seats) in the centre of Bad Godesberg – it was the first theatre building to be constructed in Germany after the Second World War and has landmark status today.







## Our Services in English

Whether it is the introduction of the opera production in English by our Opera Guides before the performances, guided tours of the theatre and its workshops or visits to our rehearsals: There are plenty of opportunities for English-speaking visitors to find out more about Theater Bonn from a wide range of perspectives.

### English Surtitles

All performances of the Opera have English subtitles – this includes our Family Operas for children from the age of eight.

### Introductions by our Opera Guides

No matter what questions the audience may have, our volunteer Opera Guides will try to answer them all. In order to do so, they immerse themselves both in the work and the production three weeks before the premiere, so that on opening night, these students, retirees

and employees from a wide range of professions will have become opera experts and give an introduction to the audience from one hour before the performance on. You are welcome to turn to them with your questions!

### Guided Tours of the Opera House

Why are there so many TV-sets hanging in the auditorium? How do we manage to make huge oil paintings disappear in a matter of seconds? And how do we create fake beards? On our guided tours through Theater Bonn, we'll let you peek behind the curtains! Furthermore, there are dates specifically for families.

### Rehearsal Visits

Two weeks before each premiere, the stage rehearsals start at the Opera House. On selected dates, we will open our doors for you. Before your rehearsal visit, there will be a conversation with some of the people involved in the production.

### Workshops for the whole Family

Unlike at the cinema, it can help to enjoy a performance at the opera and the theatre if you are familiar with the characters and the plot. In a workshop, participants of all ages will take on the various characters for two hours and we will playfully work out the plot and the music.

You can find all offers for families on our website at PORTAL, the joint education platform of orchestra and opera. Or write to us at [portal@bonn.de](mailto:portal@bonn.de).



# You know the legend. meet the orchestra.

Dirk Kaftan  
General Music Director



## Now

The Beethoven Orchestra Bonn is *Ludwig van* as you might never have heard him before. Fresh, modern, relevant. More than just great music. Timeless, personal, and something you simply have to experience in a concert. Come and hear us play!

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United Nations Climate Change  
Goodwill Ambassador

250 years, 80 concerts, 1 Beethoven. Even after 2020 we follow our guiding star Ludwig van Beethoven into the city of his birth, from his influencers to his impact, from multi-media concert experiences up to historically informed performances. From the chamber concert to the big celebration with an orchestra open to amateur musicians, from the opera to the BaseCamp. We are approaching Beethoven by the way of his music, but also by interviewing guests in *Im Spiegel* and by musical lounge talk shows, crossing any and all musical borders

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and painting his birth place red by organising special concerts with international guest stars. Join us in Bonn where we will make so many different places resonate with music. Let us show you how captivating, modern and experience-oriented »classical« music is, by illustrating that Beethoven is not only for adults, but also for young music lovers, as our education programme *b.jung* demonstrates with formats for pre-school children, pupils, students and families. Experience our special options such as »Instruments Up Close«, »Orchestra Up Close« or concert introductions in English. If you want to rediscover your Beethoven – with us, it will be a well-rounded event.

For more information:  
[beethoven-orchester.com](https://beethoven-orchester.com)



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**Currently, there are approximately 1,000 staff members employed across United Nations organisations, programmes and offices in Bonn.**

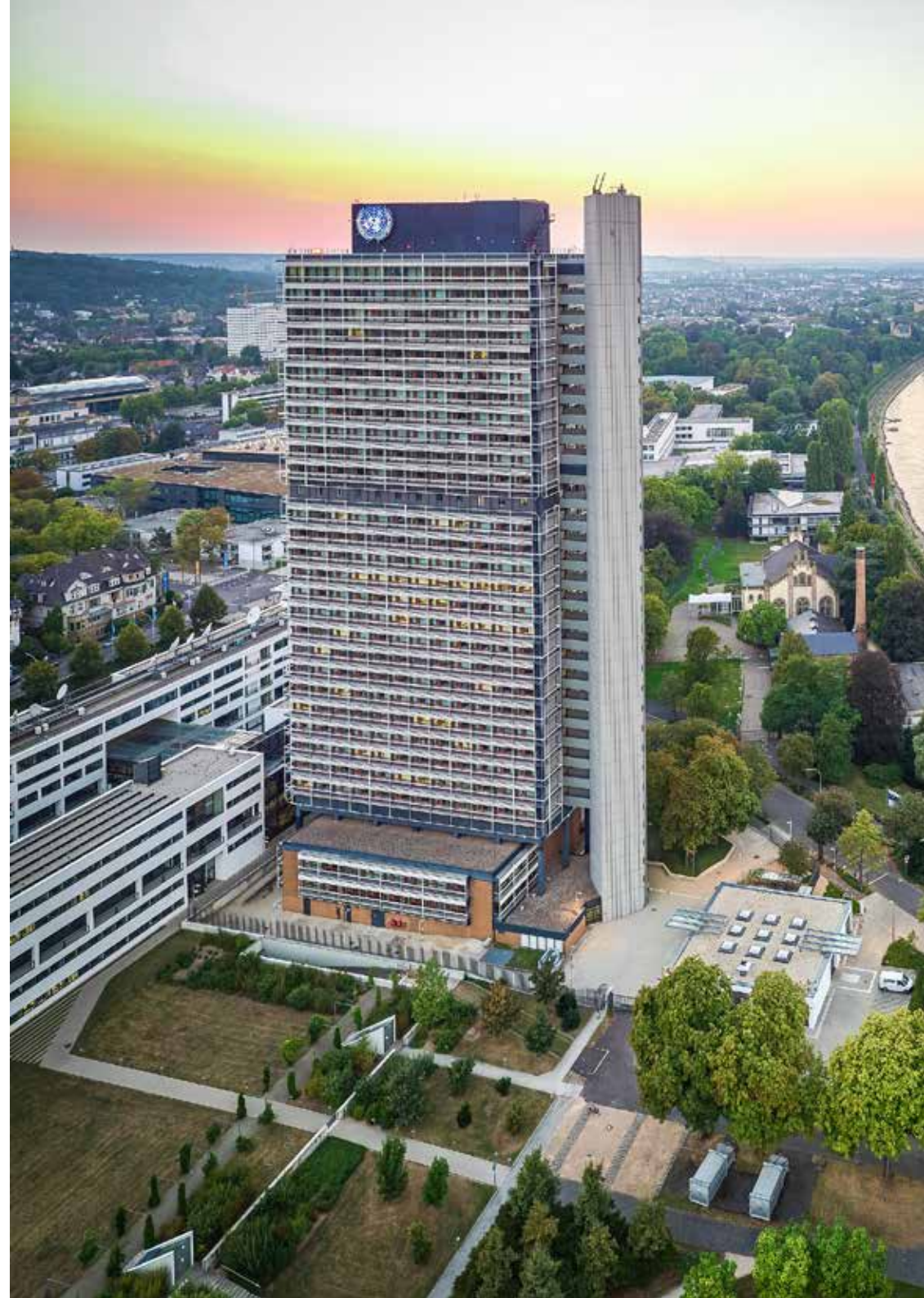
Their work covers a wide variety of areas, but they are all linked through the contribution they make to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable development meets the needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations. Reaching the seventeen SDGs in the future depends on how well we balance social, cultural, economic and environmental objectives when making decisions today.

Combating poverty is one of the top priorities of the sustainable development agenda. Economic growth is essential to reducing poverty, but efforts must also embrace environmental sustainability and social development, whilst taking cultural diversity into account. The international community is in agreement that development can only be sustainable if all the planet's natural resources – water, land, biodiversity, sources of energy, the atmosphere and the climate system – are used in such a way that present and future generations can live and prosper equally around the world. Achieving sustainable development requires that all stakeholders in society are actively engaged and accept their share of responsibility.

In Bonn, the United Nations organisations are supporting all efforts to achieve a sustainable future in areas such as climate change, volunteerism, desertification, disaster reduction, education, health, human security and species conservation.

Bonn has played host to United Nations organisations since 1951. Since 1996, however, the number and variety of organisations has increased rapidly, not least because of the objectives enshrined in the Berlin-Bonn Act of 1994. The German Federal Government has taken action to establish a “UN Campus” in the former government district. It consists of the former parliament buildings “Altes Abgeordnetenhochhaus” and “Neues Abgeordnetenhochhaus”, also known as “Langer Eugen”. A third building was completed in 2020. There is an international conference centre of the highest standard close to the campus – consisting of the German Bundestag’s former plenary hall and an impressive extension building. In addition, the original UN headquarters in Bonn, Haus Carstanjen, will continue to be used by UN organisations.

The extensive presence of the United Nations in Bonn is a visible symbol of international cooperation. Its growth is proof of the international community’s willingness to support the implementation of the seventeen SDGs which will secure the future of humanity on our planet.







## IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS IN BONN HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST STEPS IN A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In an ever more globalised world, there is an increasing need for strong partnerships to implement ideas for sustainable solutions. The UN in Bonn as well as Theater Bonn and Beethoven Orchester Bonn are three major institutions – both regionally and internationally.

They represent central social topics and issues while tackling current questions of how we want to live in the future.

Dr Bernhard Helmich, Artistic Director of Theater Bonn, initiated the idea of implementing a close partnership among these three institutions; Beethoven Orchester Bonn with its General Music Director Dirk Kaftan welcomed this initiative with great enthusiasm.

As a first effort, important programmes have been made available in English: Musical theatre performances are now subtitled in English, there are guided tours through the opera house in English – as well as introductory presentations. The monthly programme brochure and other media are being adapted as well.

Thus, a solid basis has been established to reach out to UN officials – in communication as well as in presentation.

Amidst a planetary emergency, we need global transformation. How better to ignite the spark of change than by reaching out to the hearts of people?

Here in Bonn, where Ludwig van Beethoven was born, culture and internationality come together. Culture and music can open hearts, create a space for encounter and exchange and foster new forms of international cooperation. Both the Beethoven Orchester Bonn as UN Climate Change Goodwill Ambassador and the partnership between Bonn's cultural institutions and UN Bonn send a clear signal – we are moving together as partners for sustainability!



You can find information on the options, advance ticket sales and services of  
**MOVING TOGETHER** at  
**THEATER-BONN.DE** and **BEETHOVEN-ORCHESTER.DE**.

Tickets can also be booked via **BONNTICKET.DE**.

#### **Impressum**

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