

„I want to save you“

The Bonn Opera House links the story of Beethoven's FIDELIO with the current situation of the politically imprisoned in Turkey // Premiere on January 1, 2020



What is one willing to do to save someone beloved? On the 1st of January 2020, the Bonn Opera House will promptly open Beethoven's anniversary year with a highly charged production of the opera FIDELIO (Musical Director: Dirk Kaftan). The opera showcases the elemental human desire for freedom and Beethoven's distinct underlying humanism. Leonore, disguised as Fidelio, rescues her beloved Florestan from a maximum security prison and as a result, sparks an upheaval in an oppressive and unjust state. The motivation to save a single beloved individual culminates in the rescue of an entire society within the utopia of Beethoven's music. The hope for a positive ending resonates throughout the entire opera, with the powerful feeling of liberation and change inscribed into the music itself.

Volker Lösch, Director of the production, aims to utilize this unique "opera of freedom" as a forum for the friends and relatives of political prisoners in Turkey. According to Lösch, "in reality Turkey is a current example of the European version of an autocratic state in which opponents of the regime are arrested, jailed and in certain cases disappear - all without due process."

The Bonn Opera House is making no secret of its public advocacy for the release of Ahmet Altan, Hozan Canê, Gönül Örs, Soydan Akay and Selahattin Demirtaş. This production of FIDELIO includes the testimonies of relatives of the aforementioned imprisoned individuals, in which they recall their attempts to free their friends and family members, as well as share their own experiences of incarceration in Turkish prisons. Contemporary witnesses include Cologne-based author Dogan Akhanli, who was awarded the "Goethe-Medaille" in 2019, and Süleyman Demirtaş, the brother of Selahattin Demirtaş. The testimonials are combined with documentary material about the current situation in Turkey as well as live scenes from the stage.

[January 1, 2020 | 6 pm | Germany | Bonn | Opernhaus | Premiere](#)

Beethoven: FIDELIO

Dirk Kaftan *conductor*

Volker Lösch *production*

Christopher Kondek and Ruth Stofer *video design*

Beethoven Orchester Bonn

Choir and Extra choir of the Theater Bonn (choir director: Marco Medved)

Karl-Heinz Lehner / Tobias Schabel *Rocco*

Martin Tzonev *Don Fernando, Minister*

Mark Morouse *Don Pizarro*

Thomas Mohr *Florestan*

Martina Welschenbach *Leonore „Fidelio“*

Marie Heeschen / Louise Kemény *Marzelline*

Kieran Carrel *Jaquino, Porter*

Further performances:

January 4, 2020 | 7:30 pm
January 16, 2020 | 7:30 pm
January 24, 2020 | 7:30 pm
February 2, 2020 | 7:30 pm
February 9, 2020 | 4 pm
February 20, 2020 | 7:30 pm
March 14, 2020 | 7:30 pm
March 27, 2020 | 7:30 pm

We are happy to provide you with biographies of the imprisoned political opponents upon request.

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GEMEINSAM KULTUR SCHAFFEN.

Ein Projekt im Rahmen von

BTHVN
2020

Gefördert durch:



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



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