
MENDELSSOHN- NEWSLETTER

OF THE FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATION



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New Mendelssohn Museum Opened



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Dear Members and Friends,

Even if you were unable to be in Leipzig at the time, you will probably still have heard all about it from the press, TV and radio reports, and the many other forms of media available today: in February, the museum extension at the Mendelssohn House was completed on time and on budget. An opening ceremony was held on 3 February 2014, the 205th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, to celebrate the museum's new look. Representatives of the government and of the Free State and City of Leipzig – who underwrote the cost of the project – as well as many guests from near and far, attended the ceremony in the Mendelssohn Room at Leipzig's Gewandhaus concert hall.

By incorporating the ground floor of the building into the museum, the 19th century world depicted on the first floor has been brought face-to-face with the world of the 21st century, because on the ground floor, contemporary methods are used to present and communicate historical facts. Not only that: the part of the summerhouse formerly used as the coach house is now home to 'Mendelssohn's Children's World', whose sole purpose is to improve the cultural education of children and young people.

Many thanks to Prof Schwarz from Bertron, Schwarz & Frey, our designers for the museum.

The museum extension and the coach house have proved very successful: tour groups, children from nurseries, schools and after-school clubs, and many independent visitors have seen the new exhibition on two floors of the Mendelssohn House. They often say how much they welcome the new design. Visitors are very keen to try their hand at conducting in the 'Effektorium', and are amazed at the many other ways in which they can engage actively with the music of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy; they can also admire the treasures on show in the paternoster display cabinet, or use the iPads in the library to find out more about Mendelssohn's music and the history of the Mendelssohn House. Visitors usually underestimate how much time it will now take them to look round the museum.

The children's museum in the coach house has also been able to pass muster – the organised events, including child-friendly tours, as well as a crèche to coincide with the concerts held on the first Sunday of every month, are a great hit. In addition, children's visits to the 'Effektorium' reveal a new facet of the educational work carried out at the Mendelssohn House; the way in which a conductor interacts with his orchestra or choir and the structure of an orchestra or choir can be explained very vividly here. Giving young visitors the opportunity to hear the sounds made by the contemporary and period instruments under

discussion has a considerable 'effect' on their perceptions; hence the name.

The welcoming reception area and the new shop, where a larger than ever selection of books and CDs is now available, offer a whole new level of visitor care. People love to relax there with a cup of coffee and a slice of cake, leaf through the literature on display, and discuss their impressions of the new museum. The quality – but also the length – of their visit has been increased immeasurably. But above all, it has been possible to speed up the sale of concert tickets at the dedicated sales point, while the cloakroom has been designed to cope with the increased capacity.

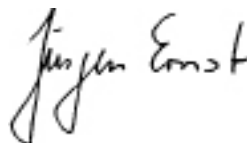
The new look has made it possible for people to appreciate the music and times of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in a completely new, exciting and engaging way. The idea of creating a special, unforgettable experience for visitors which would leave them with a lasting enthusiasm for our museum and its former inhabitant has proved a resounding success. And the many positive entries in the museum's visitors' book are further testament to this.

In the museum's visitors' book there are special and very positive remarks to the loan exhibition *Blood and Spirit* donated to the Mendelssohn House from the Bachhaus Eisenach for the opening of the museum. For this many thanks and respect to the direktor of the Bachhaus, Dr. Jörg Hansen.

If you haven't already done so, you really ought to come to the Mendelssohn House and make up your own mind about it. The following pictures will give you a foretaste of the various rooms which are now open to the public.

I look forward to seeing you again, and hope you will enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Yours,



Jürgen Ernst

Impressions of the Festive Concert

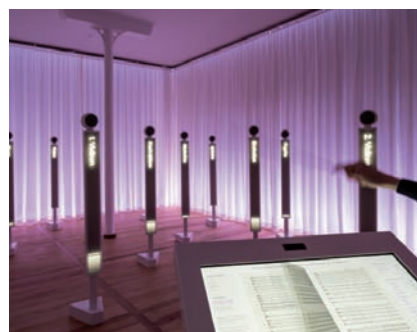
On 3 February 2014 the festive reopening of the Museum in the Mendelssohn House took place, starting with an official ceremony in the Leipzig Gewandhaus. At first the CEO of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation, Jürgen Ernst, made his welcoming speech. (top left) The opening speech was made by the Leipzig mayor Burkhard Jung, chairman of the foundation board. (top right)

Further words of welcome came from the Saxon minister of state for art and culture Prof. Sabine Freifrau von Schorlemer and from Michael Kretschmer (MdB).

The actual festive speech, titled „Du siehst, ich bin ein ganz radikaler Leipziger.“ Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy und sein Wirken für die Musikstadt Leipzig was made by the Mendelssohn expert and head of the section Leipziger Ausgabe der Werke von Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy at the Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Dr Ralf Wehner. (bottom)

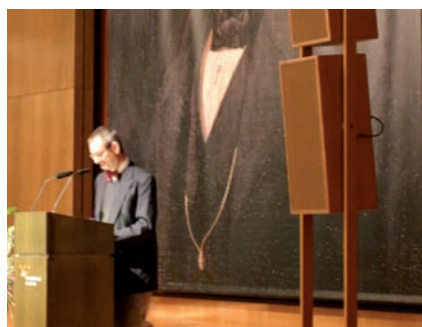
Musical contributions to the ceremony were made by the Georgian pianist Dudana Mazmanishvili and by the Thomanerchor Leipzig under the Baton of Georg Christoph Biller.

Subsequent to the speeches the audience was invited to the Mendelssohn House to celebrate and visit the new museum. From 12 to 10:30 p.m. people from near and far poured into the museum and curiously inspected the numerous innovations. The conjoined opinion: „Well done, a place of interest and a place to linger. A place of music.“



In case you haven't found your way here yet, you can now get a glimpse of the new museum, which is of course appreciated to be understood as an appetizer, not only for grown-ups but also for...

...the little ones who can discover Mendelssohn's world for children in the former coach house, where they can, for instance, sing, play, try out instruments, do handicrafts or masquerade themselves to their heart's content.



The alteration of the museum was financially supported by:
Bürgerstiftung Leipzig
Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Freistaat Sachsen
Ostdeutsche Sparkassenstiftung
Stadt Leipzig
Siftung Leipzig hilft Kindern
(in alphabetical order)

Mendelssohn takes Leipzig to Paris

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's music has charmed Parisians for many years – and this spring his magic was felt throughout Paris in many different ways.

On 9 April for example, the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation held its traditional recital at the Hôtel de Beauharnais, the German Ambassador's Paris residence. Once again, guests from the realms of culture, politics and industry had been invited by Ambassador Dr Susanne Wasum-Rainer to enjoy an evening of music and conversation held in honour of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Moreover, this reception was a very special occasion for Ulrike Krill de Capello. During the evening, she was awarded the City of Leipzig's Golden Badge of Honour and a certificate by Burkhard Jung – the Mayor of Leipzig and also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Leipzig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation – in appreciation of her hard work and dedication in organizing the foundation's concerts in Paris in an honorary capacity since 1994. In his tribute, the Mayor declared: "With persistence and great love for the music of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Madame Krill de Capello has forged a close bond between Paris and Leipzig. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude and appreciation for her great support for Mendelssohn House and hence Leipzig – City of Music."

Madame Krill de Capello was quick to recognize the spirit of Mendelssohn House, and thanks to her work she has played an important part in its rapid rise and its importance for the world of music. She teamed up with like-minded people to set up the Fondation Internationale Mendelssohn and established close ties with musicians, cultural institutions and the business sector in order to make her planned benefit concerts for Mendelssohn House a regular



Mayor Burkhard Jung – who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Leipzig Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation – awarded the City of Leipzig's Golden Badge of Honour to Ulrike Krill de Capello for her many years of dedication and invaluable hard work for the Fondation Internationale Mendelssohn.

occasion. Owing to her outstanding devotion to her activities, she has become the heart and soul of the Paris-based foundation.

The prestigious recitals have featured artists such as Igor Oistrakh and his son Valery as well as singers Christoph and Stephan Genz. By supporting these concerts, the German Embassy raises Leipzig's profile with its rich musical heritage in the eyes of many music-lovers.

Being a musical occasion, there was a recital of compositions by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Hellen Weiss (violin), Tobias Bätz (cello), Eva Sperl and Miki Wada (piano) performed the Hebrides Overture (op. 26, MWV P 7) and the Reformation Symphony (MWV N 15), and encoored with the Ruy Blas Overture (MWV P 15).

The very next day, an extensive, diverse exhibition of paintings by artists supported by the LIA (Leipzig International Art Programme) and acting as cultural ambassadors for the city was opened at the Goethe Institute in Paris. Alongside contributions by other Leipzig artists, the

vernissage was accompanied by compositions written by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy for solo piano: the well-known Songs without Words and his rarely performed Variations sérieuses MWV U 156.

The exhibition lasted two months and was a resounding success, Leipzig's artists proving a big draw. It closed on 10 June with Night of the Piano, and the large, enthusiastic audience at the Goethe Institute not far from the Arc de Triomphe was entertained by a number of pianists from Leipzig, including David Timm, Universität Leipzig's Director of Music and an avid jazz pianist.

These events were all part of the major project City of Heroes – Leipzig Culture in Paris and Lyon, during which the Goethe Institutes in these two French cities staged a raft of special events spotlighting the arts and artists from Leipzig. The programme was entitled Leipzig – City of Heroes? and fronted a broad take on Leipzig's cultural scene ranging from contemporary art, music and literature to cinema and theatre.

Prof Kurt Masur and Dr Peter Krüger honoured

On 12 May 2014 fourteen Leipzig citizens were given the order of merit of the state of Saxony by the Saxon premier Stanislaw Tillich. The order is given to those who, often honorarily, showed outstanding commitment in political, economical, cultural or social matters.

Amongst the fourteen honoured persons was Dr. Peter Krüger (see picture top, right, together with his wife, Stanislaw Tillich and Jürgen Ernst, managing director of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation). Dr Krüger has been a long-term board member of the Mendelssohn-Haus Verein and of the Foundation and has just recently resigned from office with a heavy heart.

Working as a lawyer for over 20 years he also sedulously engaged in preserving and promoting the musical heritage of the composer Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy regionally, nationwide and abroad on a voluntary basis.

In many cases the Mendelssohn House has been the centre of these activities under the umbrella of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation. Thus thanks to Dr Krüger's dedication the house could be bought and reconstructed and is now an inherent part of cultural life in Leipzig.

He was furthermore involved in the establishment of the International Mendelssohn Academy which provides support and tuition for young artists worldwide.

Unfortunately Prof Kurt Masur who was also supposed to be given the order that day, was prevented from coming to Dresden.

Therefore the ceremony took place in the Music Salon in the Mendelssohn House on 4 June in the presence of Saxony's Premier Stanislaw Tillich who came specifically for this purpose. He read out the following statement:

The story of Kurt Masur's life is one that teaches us what words and the inherent power of culture can effect. Who knows which course the Monday demonstration of 9 October might have taken if he had not risen his voice together with other popular Leipzig citizens? Who knows if the Gewandhaus orchestra had gotten their own concert hall without his patience and insistence? Furthermore his artistic oeuvre is incomparable.

Thus the highly esteemed conductor and fierce democrat is an outstanding ambassador not only for Saxony and its cultural treasures.



Afterwards Stanislaw Tillich spoke about Kurt Masur's involvement with the preservation and renovation of the Mendelssohn House and about his vision of this place to become not only a museum but also a place of music and cultural encounter that finally came true.

Taking part in the ceremony were, amongst others, Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung, and the managing director of the Mendelssohn House, Jürgen Ernst.

Pictures:

top (from left to right): Kristin von Bleichert-Krüger, Dr Peter Krüger, Stanislaw Tillich and Jürgen Ernst

below (from left to right): Jürgen Ernst, Mayor Burkhard Jung, Stanislaw Tillich, Maestro Kurt Masur in the music salon of the Mendelssohn House

Supposedly lost watercolour on loan to the museum



Hendrik Kübler and his two sons presenting Jürgen Ernst, director of the Mendelssohn House, with the three showpieces. So the collection of the museum is enlarged by those new treasures.

of the picture dated 22 July 1831 can be found in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Now the picture as well as the two silver candleholders can be marveled at in the Museum in the Mendelssohn House every day from 10 till 18 o'clock.

It is a real sensation: On the occasion of the re-opening of the Museum in the Mendelssohn House Hendrik Kübler presented the director of the museum, Jürgen Ernst, with a watercolour painting by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy – a view of the Comer See and Cadenabbia. The painting comes from the estate of Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel, great-granddaughter of Felix's older sister Fanny Hensel. Moreover the museum was presented with two candleholders carrying the initials FMB as a permanent loan and Homer's *Odyssee* (Leipzig, 1839) in Greek language as a donation.

Cécile Lowenthal-Hensel had always felt closely connected with the Mendelssohn House and its work in honour of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

For a long time the watercolour was believed to be lost and could only be traced back to a diary entry of 23 June 1837 in Felix and Cécile Mendelssohn Bartholdy's so-called *Hochzeitstagebuch*. Furthermore a pencil drawing

Mendelssohn House receives Oedipus manuscript

On 30 May 2014, a manuscript of a Mendelssohn composition complete with the original title page and dedication was presented to Jürgen Ernst by Emanuela and Marina Vesci under the watchful eyes of the media. The two sisters are great-great-granddaughters of Rebecka Dirichlet, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy's younger sister, and both live in Rome.

The manuscript contains two choruses arranged for piano and male chorus from the incidental music for *Oedipus at Colonus* dedicated to Mendelssohn's friend Franz Bernus. On 14 January 1847 in Leipzig, Mendelssohn furnished them with a title sheet on which he wrote: "Two choruses from *Oedipus at Colonus* composed by FMB. Piano reduction. To Franz Bernus as a keepsake."

This original is especially important to Mendelssohn House since the script of *Oedipus at Colonus* (written by the Greek Sophocles and translated by the German philologist Johann Jakob Christian Donner in the original rhythm of the play in the 19th century) including scansion notes in Mendelssohn's own hand is already on display at the museum.

The news was greeted with elation by the scholars in Leipzig working on the complete edition of Mendelssohn's works, especially Dr Ralf Wehner, who had negotiated the manuscript's transfer to Mendelssohn House. For him, it's an invaluable source for the complete edition since previously only autograph sketches and piano reductions of the incidental music had been available.



Top: Jürgen Ernst, the director of Mendelssohn House, and sisters Emanuela and Marina Vesci with the manuscript of *Oedipus at Colonus* in the music salon of Mendelssohn House. The manuscript containing a handwritten dedication by Mendelssohn was presented at a special ceremony.

including scansion notes in Mendelssohn's own hand is already on display at the museum.

Mendelssohn Museum wows visitors

ITB and GTM

Every year the Mendelssohn House staff present news concerning the exhibition, concerts and museum tours at different fairs.

The ITB (i.e. Internationale Tourismus-börse in Berlin) is the leading trade fair of the international tourism industry while the GTM (Germany Travel Mart) is the largest incoming-workshop for Germany., taking place in Bremen this year.

Reason enough to present the Mendelssohn Museum within these contexts. At the ITB, for instance, the whole range of providers in the field of travel present themselves there, like for instance tour operators, hotels, providers of booking-systems, representatives of the press and many more.

This year of course it was hardly a problem to present news on the Mendelssohn House and intrigue the trade visitors, some of which had already seen the new museum at the reopening in February. Their lingering elation about the improvements was still perceptible.

We are therefore expecting an increase of bookings of guided tours and special concerts in 2014 and in 2015.

Leipzig Book Fair

In March again thousands of bookworms streamed to the Leipzig book fair. Of course the „Klangquartier“ was again represented, though in a different place and with a new concept: This year the music institutions like the Bach Museum, the Mendelssohn House, the Schumann House and the Museum for Musical Instruments did not run the café like they used to in the previous years. Instead the partner museums presented themselves with their own well-positioned stand in the midst of hall 4 among the music publishers' stands near the podium, where numerous of new books and



Pictures

top: The Klangquartier stand at the Leipzig book fair, surrounded by interested readers and music lovers.

middle: Leipzig Mayor Burkhard Jung visiting the Mendelssohn House's stand at the ITB 2014 in Berlin.

bottom: The Mendelssohn House's stand at this year's GTM.



sheet music were presented every half-hour. The amount of visitors was correspondingly high.

This year the amply decorated stand of the „Klangquartier“ was in fact better noticed than in the years before.

The staff of each museum were happy to inform the visitors about concerts, special exhibitions, festivals and other events to come.

We would like to thank Fairnet and the Leipzig Fair for helping to make the appearance at the Leipzig book fair possible.



Jugend musiziert

The Mendelssohn House has been supporting the music competition *Jugend musiziert* for several years by offering the winner of the Leipzig region the possibility to give a recital in the Mendelssohn House in the context of the established *Sonntagsmusiken* – a very prestigious, important and demanding challenge.

This year's winners are Diana Kostadinova (violin, 12) and Bobby Kostadinov (cello, 15). They persuaded judges and audience with an excellent performance of Johan Halverson's famous *Passacaglia* on a theme by Georg Friedrich Handel.

The final Leipzig region competition, which took place on March 8, 2014 at the Leipzig Music Conservatory, was full of suspense: Seven ensembles played for the sought-after 2014 Felix-Mendelssohn-prize which is designated to promote young musicians. To put the scope of the event into perspective: there were a total of 407 music students who originally entered the Leipzig region competition.

As a token of appreciation, the happy winners played a *da capo* of their chosen piece. When asked what they would do with the prize, the siblings answered that they would use it to pay for additional lessons from a renowned teacher.

Under the patronage of the Saxon State Ministry for Science and Art (SMWK), the prize is sponsored by Sparkasse Leipzig, the Mendelssohn House and the *Jugend musiziert* regional committee. It consists of 2,500 Euros and the offer to perform a *Sonntagsmusik* in the Mendelssohn House.

On the photo, from left to right: Jürgen Ernst, Mendelssohn House director, Dr. Thomas Feist, *Jugend musiziert* regional committee, MdB, Dr. Frank Steinmeyer, press representative of Sparkasse Leipzig.

This year's winners' concert will take place Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 11 a.m. in the Mendelssohn House, music salon.



Federal Volunteer Service

What do you do when you don't know what you want to study in university? You could just randomly study something, settle for a year abroad, work ... well I decided to volunteer in the cultural field to find out if the demands of a profession in music appealed to me.

At first, I actually did not intend on working specifically in a museum. But when I saw the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation appear on my list of potential job sites, I instantly remembered my visit to the former home of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and how sad I felt because I never had the chance to meet this artist in person.

Fate was kind to me, and in September 2013 I began my federal volunteer service year in the beautiful city of Leipzig. At the way beginning, the director of the museum, Mr. Ernst, said to me, "Ms. Biller, you will be the only federal service volunteer in the history of this museum. You will certainly play a very special role here!" And how right he was. During the first six months, I was primarily entrusted with typical volunteer or intern tasks – general house, yard, and office work – in order to get to know all the different departments in the museum. But I especially loved doing customer service work for the museum's master classes for singers and conductors, since I was able to get so much out of it for my own personal growth.

I also learned what it's like to have truly important responsibilities through my work in the museum. I am responsible for opening, closing, and locking up the museum and also making sure that the cash register is balanced before closing at first it was all so exciting! As the initial thrill faded, the monotony of daily routine came sooner than I expected. But it also disappeared sooner than I expected as the most exciting event of my service year approached: the grand opening of the newly expanded museum in February.

Nowadays, one of my favorite new tasks in the renovated museum is explaining the self-conducting element of the Effectorium to our visitors. Even though it's always the same explanation, it never gets boring because I can show many different people that music does not bite! Music is fun and you shouldn't be afraid to experiment or make music. In fact, I love this feeling so much – I could live off of just my encounters with museum visitors and my fellow federal service volunteers.

Overall, it makes me happy that my colleagues and Mr. Ernst are so helpful, welcoming, and open-minded. I am even allowed to practice my viola here in the museum every morning – things just couldn't be better, don't you think? I will be serving my federal voluntary year in the Mendelssohn House until August 2014. And then what, you ask? Well, somehow I find the idea of facilitating the expansion of music very appealing. And I have finally found my career goal: viola teacher!

Activities of the Japanese Mendelssohn Foundation

Report: Members' Meeting in Tokyo on 18 May 2014 and journey for educational purposes to Germany in June

The Japanese branch of the Mendelssohn Foundation held its spring meeting on Sunday, 18 May at the Hillside Plaza in Shibuya, Tokyo. Inspired by this year's focus on 'Mendelssohn in Düsseldorf', the meeting took as its theme 'Mendelssohn and the Rhine'. Some sixty members and guests attended the event, which featured a paper on the subject and a brief recital, followed by a wine reception.

The meeting opened with words of welcome delivered on behalf of Kurt Masur by Mrs Tomoko Masur, who chairs the Board of the Foundation; unfortunately, the Maestro was unable to attend in person. Dr Kazuko Ozawa, a musicologist from Düsseldorf who has made a special study of the composers Schumann and Mendelssohn, then took to the podium. Her entertaining talk was vividly illustrated with images and musical excerpts, clarifying – among other things – how Mendelssohn came to decide to launch his career in such a small town on the Rhine when he had already established a solid reputation for himself in cities of the calibre of London, Rome and Paris. The hour-long presentation afforded the audience a deeper insight into this period of Mendelssohn's life.

The next stage of the proceedings was a musical programme presented by two young musicians. Among the pieces performed by Tomomi Arakawa (piano) and Kei Yazawa (violin) were cello adaptations of 'On Wings of Song', 'Variations concertantes', op. 17, and 'Songs Without Words', op. 30 Nos. 1, 4 and 6 by Mendelssohn, as well as 'Etudes', op.15 by Hiller. The animated vibrancy of the piano and the dynamic tone of the cello filled the entire hall and enthralled the audience.

After the recital, the Japanese branch of the Foundation hosted a reception with fine wines and hors d'œuvres. This relaxed atmosphere was conducive to interesting discussions between the audience members, the musicians and the speaker.



Following the current motto of the year „Mendelssohn in Düsseldorf“ their annual journey took the Japanese Mendelssohn Friends to Germany this year, namely to the Rhineland, Berlin and Leipzig.

Visits to several libraries and archives were on the agenda as well as concerts or the visit to the cemetery „Holy Trinity“ where Mendelssohn is buried, a tour of the enlarged museum in the Mendelssohn House and much more.

Mendelssohn as a person and a composer – this was the leitmotif connecting all the destinations. In Bonn, Düsseldorf and Koblenz the Friends not only followed Mendelssohn's and his uncle Joseph's traces, but also those of the wine he, as is known, esteemed so much. The oenophile Mendelssohn possessed quite a large collection he frequently raided together with his friends and therefore had to restock once in a while. He had acquired a great part of his knowledge about wine in the Rhineland.

Our friends from Japan, many of whom have accompanied the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation and the Mendelssohn House for many years now, were welcomed warmly everywhere and of course also in the house of Maestro Masur and his wife Tomoko in Leipzig where they met for a farewell party on their last evening.



Loan exhibitions

Johann Friedrich Reichardt and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy in the prism of the Romantic salon

Last year's extension work at the museum not only involved redesigning the ground floor of the Mendelssohn House, but also incorporated the renovation of the adjacent summer-house, where one of the rooms has been dedicated to presenting a series of temporary exhibitions since last February. Until late June, this space played host to the highly acclaimed exhibition on 'Blood and spirit – Bach, Mendelssohn and their music during the Third Reich', which was on loan from the Bach House in Eisenach. Since 27 June, the room has been dedicated to a new theme.

In 2014, we will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of Johann Friedrich Reichardt. This provides us with a welcome opportunity to remember the work of the composer, who was so greatly admired for his musical settings of poems by Goethe, and to draw our visitors into the world of the literary and musical salon. These were places of conversation and poetry readings, of music making, improvisation, experimentation and networking. Both Johann Friedrich Reichardt and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy drew valuable inspiration from the artistic exchanges they enjoyed there, and often hosted such occasions themselves. The exhibition builds a bridge between the 18th and 19th centuries, introduces us to a few choice examples of such salons, and offers us an insight into an extremely dynamic artistic and intellectual social phenomenon.

Anyone interested in learning more about Reichardt's eventful life is cordially invited to visit the Handel House in Halle. An exhibition of correspondence – 'Goethe: his poetry is musical' – opened there in April, and examines in particular the relationship between Reichardt and the 'prince of poets'. The coordinated themes of these special exhibitions are just one example of the way in which the Mendelssohn House and the Handel House are strengthening the cooperation they have built up over the years.

Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig
27. Juni 2014 bis 4. Januar 2015

Johann
Friedrich
Reichardt
&
Felix
Mendelssohn
Bartholdy
im Spiegel des
romantischen Salons

SONDERAUSSTELLUNG
zum 200. Todestag
Johann Friedrich Reichardts

In Kooperation mit der Ausstellung
„Goethe – seine Poetik ist unerkaltbar“,
die bis zum 31. Januar 2015
im Handel Haus Halle, Große Nikolaistraße 5, zu sehen ist.

Mendelssohn-Haus, Goldschmidtstraße 12,
täglich geöffnet 10 bis 18 Uhr

Dessau Kurt Weill Festival

DISCOVERIES 13 – 28 and 29 November 2014

From Lied to Song: The Dream of Simplicity

A yearly event held as part of the Dessau Kurt Weill Festival at Leipzig Conservatory of Music and Theatre and the Mendelssohn House in Leipzig. Hosted by Dessau Kurt Weill Festival and Prof Dr Matthias Henke (University of Siegen)

'From Lied to Song' – that is the motto of the 2015 Kurt Weill Festival. And just like in previous years, what is now the 13th in the DISCOVERIES series (this year, 2014) will be taking its lead from the festival's theme. But we are not talking here about high-flown pre-concert lectures or papers focusing entirely on Kurt Weill for the delectation of the cognoscenti. Instead, the intention with DISCOVERIES events is to widen horizons: a lively panel of experts from the fields of art, the media, music, literature, philosophy, history and sociology add their input to the subject in question. Their contributions are then complemented by concerts on a similar theme, which adds a sensory element. These are designed to get the audience 'in the mood', in the words of the famous Glenn Miller song.

In his opening talk on the 'Grand Tour – the Italian experiences of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Wilhelm Müller and Kurt Weill', Matthias Henke traces the footsteps of these three artists, who travelled south, driven by an identical longing to discover the ideal of simplicity, but returned having had very different experiences. Other contributions consider specific aspects of 'Lied and Song', in the area of intersection between art and popular culture: Weill and Müller, both famously sons of Dessau, demonstrated equal virtuosity in this middle ground. Müller was one of the most popular writers of Lieder for petit-bourgeois male choral societies, and Weill's innovative songs – one only has to think of 'Mack the Knife' or 'Speak Low' – became jazz standards; world-wide hits which – once heard – could never be forgotten.

Yet neither the poet behind 'The Winter Journey' nor the composer of 'Elijah' or the composer of 'The Threepenny Opera' would have enjoyed nearly as much success without the help of the media in one form or another. Mendelssohn's music was spread in salons all over Europe and there were comments about in newspapers or Müller's folksy Lieder were popularised in particular by their inclusion in books of student drinking songs, and Weill's gained popularity thanks to the invention of the record player and the radio.

Master Classes at the Mendelssohn-Academy Leipzig



Since 2008, the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Foundation has been sponsoring the International Mendelssohn-Academy Leipzig.

The Mendelssohn-Academy offers a variety of musical Master Classes and additional training programmes, and is open to public attendance. In the past years, course-instructors and participants of the classes have greatly appreciated receiving feedback from the attendees and exchanging ideas with them. It helps the musicians to improve their performances and to better connect with their audience.

We are hoping again for a large number of people coming to the concerts this year.

The set of courses will be opened by singer Professor Peter Schreier with an interpretation class of Mendelssohn and Schumann lieder. He will be teaching his Master students daily from September 7-10, starting at 10.30 a.m. in the Mendelssohn House, hall for chamber music.

The final concert will take place September 10, at 7.30 p.m., in the Gewandhaus, Mendelssohn Hall. You are cordially invited to this event which will be free of charge.

Please support our Master students by attending their classes and the

concert. Participate in conversations and create an enriching and pleasant atmosphere. Be part of a lasting and positive impact.

We also wish for a large and active attendance for the following course: Kurt Masur's Conducting Master Class. Time: September 10-12, 2014. Place: The Lindensaal in Markkleeberg, near Leipzig.

These classes will be held daily, starting at 10 a.m. Please join the Master fellows of the Mendelssohn-Academy and see how they learn from Professor Masur.

The concluding concert of this Master Class will take place September 12, at 7 p.m. in the Markkleeberg Lindensaal, too. The programme will be extraordinary: Mendelssohn's 3rd and 4th symphonies, as well as his Overture to the Hebrides. We are happy about the cooperation with the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, which will be performing these master works, conducted by the Mendelssohn Academy fellows.

Tickets (moderately priced) can be purchased at the usual ticket agencies.

In 2013, and due to such high demand, General Music Director (GMD) Georg-Christoph Sandmann offered two weekend-courses at the Mendelssohn-Academy.

We might end up with a similar situation this year. So far we have registrations to fill one course already, which will take place October 10-12 in the Mendelssohn House Gartenhaus, hall for chamber music.

Should more registrations come in, we will try to schedule an additional Master Class with GMD Sandmann.

The Conducting Master Class is mainly geared towards choir masters and conductors working in semi-professional settings. Subject of this class will be „Ein deutsches Requiem“ by Johannes Brahms – a great opportunity for all interested.

GMD Sandmann is known for adding helpful information about the composition while giving conducting lessons. Thus, next to technical hints and tricks, participants will also learn about the history of the work, the context of the composer, and also about various editions of the work which may have significant implications on performance practice. GMD Sandmann has the reputation of teaching well-researched information in a detailed and pleasantly humorous way to his students. His resources should be extremely valuable for anyone working in the field of conducting.

This Master Class is also open to the public and starts Friday, October 10, with a musicological introduction; the hands-on course will continue on Saturday (9.30 a.m.) in various steps: conducting techniques, focus on choral conducting only, and finally conducting orchestra, soloists, and choir together.

A treasure of inestimable conducting skills.

Garden concerts and opera performance in the church

We're happy to see that over the years, Mendelssohn's tradition of having Garden Concerts could be reestablished again at the Mendelssohn House. It is always an extraordinary and wonderful experience for the public and for the Mendelssohn-Haus employees to listen to music in the secluded context of nature and away from loud and disruptive city-noises: Being surrounded by the setting of Mendelssohn's house, his garden with the rich flowerbeds decorating the landscape, and seeing the hedge corners with their lovely white benches will simply create a beautiful atmosphere which allows us to relive a Garden Concert in the 19th-century style just as Mendelssohn might have experienced it.

Following Mendelssohn's example of bringing rediscovered baroque music back to life, the Mendelssohn-Haus organized –after many years of silence– on June 18, 2014, a Garden Concert with the performance of a small and for this occasion excellently fitting opera: *Die schlaue Bäuerin* (La Contadina), opera buffa by Johann Adolf Hasse. Performing artists were: Yvonne Schaffrin - Scintilla (soprano), Torsten Glas - Don Tabarano (Baritone), Frieder - Corbo (Baritone), Stephan Gogolka - piano, Claudia Forner – production and text-revision.

Our Sunday Brunch Garden Concerts, which represent another popular event in our diverse music-calendar, were also very well-received. On July 13, numerous visitors attended the Garden Concert to listen to the Robert-Schumann-Quartet with Hartmut Schill and Ovidiu Simbotin - violins/Matthias Worm - viola and Tilman Trüdingen - violoncello. The musicians interpreted Joseph Haydn's String Quartet op. 77 No. 2 and Franz Schubert's op. 13, also known as Rosamunde Quartet.

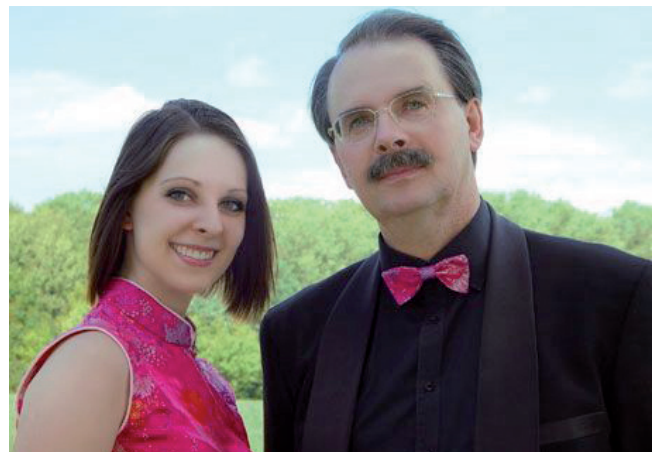
Finally another concert was given by Katrina Szederkenyi (harp) and her father Nandor Szederkenyi (violin) on Sunday, July 20 at 11a.m. The audience was thrilled with a programme that was rather unusual for the Mendelssohn House. It included works by Jean-Michel Damase, Camille Saint-Saëns, Astor Piazzolla and others.

The reception following the concert, with light summer-refreshments, brought visitors and artists closer together, giving them the opportunity to engage in friendly conversations.

Pictures,

Above: Performance of Johann Adolf Hasse's baroque opera *Die schlaue Bäuerin* (La Contadina), set in the romantic landscape of Mendelssohn's garden behind the Mendelssohn House. An entertaining production enhanced by spontaneously participating and vigorously singing birds, which were happily incorporated into the music by singers and accompanist.

To the right: Katrina Szederkenyi (harp) und Nandor Szederkenyi (violin)



A second performance of Hasse's 1-hour-long opera was given on June 21 in Rötha. In cooperation with the St. Mary Church of Rötha and its friends' association under the direction of Stephan Eichhorn, the Mendelssohn House turned the church into an opera stage, see photo to the left.

Performance, staging, and the overall production were extremely well received thanks to the excellent singing, acting, and playing of all musicians. There were many smiles and spontaneous laughing-out-loud-moments in the audience.

Klaviersommer, Festivals and Festival Concert



Leipzig Klaviersommer 2014

In August 2014, the Mendelssohn House will again present the Leipzig Klaviersommer. It has become a tradition to host this very attractive festival, featuring one-hour programmes in the cozy and intimate setting of the music salon, thereby offering a musical delight during an otherwise rather quiet summer-time, when all larger music venues in Leipzig are taking a break. Every Sunday in August, at 11am, you will be able to enjoy beautiful concerts with well-chosen artists.

Our opening concert will be played by Sunghoon Simon Hwang (Hannover). He will be participating for the second time at our Klaviersommer. He so enchanted the audience the first time that we were happy to engage him for this year's prestigious opening concert.

The recitals on the following Sundays will be given by Michael Hein (Dresden), Nora Taggle and David Meyer (Leipzig), and Kyle Alexandre Faugerat (Paris). It will be their first appearance at the Leipzig Klaviersommer.

Only few tickets are still available. They can be purchased at the Mendelssohn-Haus front desk. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to enjoy such outstanding summer music in a historical setting. Take this opportunity to also visit the newly remodeled museum.

Mendelssohn Festival 2014 and International Mendelssohn-Award Festival Concert with the Gewandhausorchester

This year's Mendelssohn-Festival carries the title *Tribute to a Genius*, and is part of this year's overarching motto *Le Prince de l'harmonie – The Young Mendelssohn on the Rhine*. Many interesting events will fill this festival with artists from around the world.

As part of this festival, the Mendelssohn House is proud to offer the following concerts:

Sunday, 13 September, 3 p.m. / Award Winner's Concert
Winners of the competitions *Jugend musiziert* and the *Mendelssohn Competition for Young String Players and Pianists of the Hoch-Taunus and Main-Taunus districts*:

Johanna Schubert, violin / Merle Geißler, violoncello
Philipp Kirchner, piano
Works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and others.

Sunday, 14 September, 11 a.m. / Sunday matinee
Maria Leistner, soprano / Dirk Schmidt, bass
Sophie Auerbach, piano
Lieder from Dusseldorf –
includes compositions by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Robert Schumann

Sunday, 14 September, 3 p.m. / Early works by the siblings
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy & Fanny Hensel
Gunnar Harms, violin / Larissa Petersen, viola
Susanne Raßbach, violoncello
Hans-Günter Klein, presentation

Saturday, 20 September, 4 p.m.

Mendelssohn and Chausson
Mendelssohn-Quartett:
Gunnar Harms, violin
Anna Schuberth-Meister, violin
Larissa Petersen, viola / Susanne Raßbach, violoncello
Albrecht Menzel, violin / Henri Bonamy, piano
Works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Ernest Chausson

This year's Mendelssohn-Festival will also host the International Mendelssohn-Award Festival Concert:

Saturday, 20 September, 7 p.m.
Leipzig Gewandhaus
For more information please visit: www.gewandhaus.de

The closing concert will be given by the Klaviertrio Würzburg as a *Sonntagskonzert* in the Mendelssohn-Haus:

Sunday, 21 September, 11 a.m.
Mendelssohn and the Rhineland
Compositions by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Robert Schumann
Karla-Maria Cording, piano / Katharina Cording, violin
Peer-Christoph Pulc, violoncello

You can find more information about tickets and venues on Facebook www.facebook.com/MendelssohnHausLeipzig and on the Mendelssohn-website: www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de

We would be happy to further assist you with any additional questions you may have at: 0341 1270 294, daily from 10 a.m. -6 p.m.

Children's festival in Mendelssohn's garden and more



Educational Outreach and Music Education in the Mendelssohn House

Considering that merely 5 months have passed since we reopened the remodeled Mendelssohn House, the positive response by our visitors –as captured in the Mendelssohn Houses guestbook- has been overwhelming. Our guests wrote with enthusiasm about the newly added interactive stations in the museum which enhance the understanding of the informational and historical displays. And next to being a place of unparalleled musical and engaging experiences for adults, the museum has also added a special space of adventure and inspiration for children, the Remise – Mendelssohn's World for Children.

About 500 children (between the age of 3 and 15) have already explored our educational outreach programmes. These programmes go far beyond guided tours or student recitals, which have always been part of our work. We now include courses which combine creative music making and crafting activities with traditional museum visits. We base our childrens' programmes on aspects of Mendelssohn's life and help kids discover selected facets in a creative way – a way which lets them actively engage with the composer's world.

The Remise was built for exactly that purpose. The Remise is a children's museum with an integrated workshop-area, located in Mendelssohn's garden house. We tailor our education programme to every children's group and provide for their active experience of Mendelssohn's apartment and world. Our educational programme includes making music together, doing arts and crafts, and individually exploring details by doing some detective work when it comes to hunting for secret clues in the Mendelssohn House.

One of the highlights this summer was the Kinderfest. Its many attractions included a concert given by scholars from the *schola arssynerga* and winners of the competition *Jugend musiziert*, workshops to build instruments, workshops to paint and to do arts and crafts; we also had a museum quiz and children participated in a picture-book-music-theatre. They sang, composed, conducted, built, crafted, painted, wrote and danced. This event attracted many children, parents, and grandparents – all had a great time.

The education outreach programmes at the Mendelssohn House are not only geared towards young people, we also have programs for other age groups. Our regular museum-tours introduce visitors of all ages to the 19th century and to Mendelssohn's very own world. In addition, we continue to offer a very well-received lecture series entitled "Oper mal anders" (opera seen differently) with Richard Vardigans, and a musicological conversation lecture series "Musik & Kontext – für Neugierige und Liebhaber 60+" (music & context – for the curious and senior citizen amateurs) with Thomas Kauba. These lectures have been very popular. In addition, we offer continuing education courses for music teachers. Last May, we welcomed about 80 primary school teachers from Leipzig and its broader region. They visited the museum and were introduced to our educational outreach programme, which inspired some of them to soon come back with their school classes.



New members of the Mendelssohn House Association until July 2014

- » Frau Dr. Luise Duchesneau, Deutschland
- » Herr Dr. Jörg Deventer, Deutschland

A very warm welcome to you!

Many thanks to all our members,

who have provided their support for the objectives of the Mendelssohn House:

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