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The Beethoven Project HD

A Music Documentary with Paavo Järvi and The Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

The 40 musicians of the German Chamber Philharmonic Bremen and their artistic director and conductor Paavo Järvi are squaring up to the challenge that is Beethoven. They are playing all nine symphonies in four days at the Beethoven Festival in Bonn.

The musicians not only perform, they also share their passion for music with students at a Bremen school.

The documentaries focus on the conductor Paavo Järvi and selected members of the orchestra. The films convey their enthusiasm for music and provide insights into the everyday life of the ensemble. The camera team gets right up close to the protagonists: in rehearsal, in concert, behind the scenes. How has the former provincial youth orchestra managed to play itself into the ranks of the world's best? How do the conductor and musicians approach Beethoven's masterpieces? How did the orchestra develop its unique sound? What message does Beethoven's music convey in the 21st century?

- 01** The German Chamber Philharmonic Bremen and conductor Paavo Järvi are musical allies with a mission. They aim to breathe new life into the works of Beethoven, and play his series of symphonies in a manner that befits the 21st century. The US conductor of Estonian origin takes us along to orchestra rehearsals and provides insights into how he and his musicians appreciate the great composer. In addition we discover how it has been possible to turn a former youth orchestra into an ensemble of international standing.
- 02** The German Chamber Philharmonic has taken the music world by storm from its base in Bremen. With Paavo Järvi, who has been the orchestra's artistic director since 2004, it appears the musicians cannot put a foot wrong: with sell-out concerts, acclaimed world tours, and highly praised recordings. The orchestra has a partnership with a local school where the students are encouraged to explore classical music. We also discover what the musicians do to relax and switch off when they're not making music.
- 03** The German Chamber Philharmonic Bremen made a name for itself with outstanding interpretations of the symphonies of Ludwig van Beethoven, under the baton of Paavo Järvi. We accompany him on a journey into his past, to Estonia. There, he has the public in raptures as he leads a huge choir at the traditional Estonian Song Festival. He introduces us to the city that will always have a hold over him: Tallinn.
- 04** In the last part of our series, the musicians of the German Chamber Philharmonic Bremen and their conductor Paavo Järvi brace for a huge challenge. At the Beethoven Festival in Bonn, they play all nine symphonies by the great composer in four days. A veritable Beethoven marathon. We show how the orchestra manages to maintain consistency and quality in the performance of these quite different works, and how the musicians recharge their batteries in preparation for the next concert.

Photos: Julia Baier, Detmar Schmall,
Marc Lorat

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