

*Dr. Stephan Eisel  
Chairman  
Bürger für Beethoven  
An der Vogelweide 11  
D 53229 Bonn*

*Los Angeles, 19 September 2024*

*Dear Dr Eisel,*

*Thank you ever so much for your letter, which pleased me greatly. To read of the continued community pride in our beloved Ludwig v Beethoven is touching and I am grateful that you are all perpetuating his dream of a universal brotherhood and celebration of life through music.*

*It is remarkable, and rare in history when an individual of the caliber of the great Beethoven can have so much influence in the arts, and even more rare when individuals such as Beethoven can change politics, social and belief systems and unite a world over tens and indeed hundreds of years for the common good. Beethoven inspires me in so many ways personally, and I take it as a deep honour to accept your presentation (again!) in 2024. Thank you with all of my heart.*

*Please receive my apologies for such a tardy response, but my touring and performance schedule has been particularly crazy this year and it has taken me a while to find the appropriate moment to catch up on my correspondence.*

*Sharing all my love, embraces and gratitude with you and your 1700 members for bestowing this honour and hope to have the privilege to meet you in the future in Germany or further afield.*

*With affection,*



*Gustavo Dudamel  
Los Angeles Philharmonic  
Music and Artistic Director*

**Arbeitsübersetzung  
des Briefes von Gustavo Dudamel an Stephan Eisel vom 19. September 2024**

Lieber Herr Dr. Eisel,

vielen Dank für Ihren Brief, der mich sehr gefreut hat.

Vom anhaltenden Bürgerstolz auf unseren geliebten Ludwig v Beethoven zu lesen, ist rührend und ich bin dankbar, dass Sie alle seinen Traum von einer universellen Brüderlichkeit und der Feier des Lebens durch Musik aufrechterhalten.

Es ist bemerkenswert und selten in der Geschichte, dass eine Person vom Kaliber des großen Beethoven so viel Einfluss in der Kunst haben kann, und noch seltener ist es, dass Menschen wie Beethoven politische, soziale und religiöse Überzeugungen verändern können und die Welt über Dutzende, ja Hunderte von Jahren für das Gemeinwohl zusammenführen können.

Beethoven inspiriert mich in so in vielerlei Hinsicht persönlich, und ich betrachte es als eine große Ehre, Ihren Vorschlag (wieder!) auch im Jahr 2024 zu akzeptieren. Ich danke Ihnen von ganzem Herzen.

Bitte entschuldigen Sie meine verspätete Antwort, aber mein Tournee- und Auftrittsplan war dieses Jahr besonders verrückt, und es hat eine Weile gedauert, bis ich den richtigen Moment gefunden habe, um meine Korrespondenz aufzuarbeiten.

Indem ich Sie umarme, teile ich mit Ihnen und Ihren 1700 Mitgliedern meine Liebe und Dankbarkeit für die Verleihung der Ehrenmitgliedschaft und hoffe, dass ich das Privileg haben werde, Sie in Zukunft in Deutschland oder an einem anderen Ort zu treffen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Gustavo Dudamel  
Los Angeles Philharmonic  
Music and Artistic Director



Stephan Eisel, An der Vogelweide 11, D 53229 Bonn

**Gustavo Dudamel**

**Musical and Artistic Director**

**- personally -**

**Los Angeles Philharmonic Association**

**151 S. Grand Avenue**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**USA**

Bonn, January 3rd 2024

Dear Maestro, dear Mr. Dudamel,

this is an extraordinary letter and is addressed to you as the first recipient of the Beethoven-Ring from CITIZENS FOR BEETHOVEN 20 years ago.

Back in 2004, at the request of Ilona Schmiel, you stepped in at very short notice for Frans Brüggen, who was ill, at the Bonn Beethoven Festival and conducted the Philharmonia Orchestra London with Dvořák's Violin Concerto (soloist was Leonidas Kavakos) and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. The success was overwhelming and it was also the birth of the Beethoven-Ring of CITIZENS FOR BEETHOVEN, which was presented to you by the founding chairman of the association Barthold Witte in the Beethoven House in Bonn.

Since then, the Beethoven Ring has been awarded, following a vote by the club's now over 1,700 members, to one of the five youngest artists who interpret a work by Beethoven at the Beethoven Festival. The winners include Julia Fischer (2005) and Lisa Batiashvili (2006), Philippe Tondre (2012), Sophie Derveaux (2014), Nicolas Altstaedt (2015) Igor Levit (2017) and Kit Armstrong (2018). The pianist Fabian Müller won in 2023. I am attaching the full list of award winners for your information. Further information can be found at [www.buerger-fuer-beethoven.de](http://www.buerger-fuer-beethoven.de).

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A few years ago we decided to present the Beethoven-Ring with honorary membership of the CITIZENS FOR BEETHOVEN and would like to extend this honorary membership to you too. Our 1,700 members, who are dedicated to maintaining the music of Ludwig van Beethoven and his legacy in his hometown of Bonn, would be very pleased if you could accept our proposal. There are no further obligations associated with it, but it would be a very valued sign of solidarity with Beethoven's hometown.

Unfortunately, I was unable to contact you because of my own trip abroad when you were a guest at the Cologne Philharmonic some time ago. Maybe there will be an opportunity for personal contact when you come to the Rhineland again. We all have fond memories of your concerts at the Beethoven Festivals in 2005 and 2007 with the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra and then in 2009 with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

With best regards from Beethoven's hometown



Dr. Stephan Eisel  
-Chairman-