

**Review: "Resonance" – an extraordinary "music-experience"
DJ- and music-event at Alte VHS (old community college) of Bonn
January 8, 2020**



Two days after the world premiere of his ambitious "World BEAThoven Album" in Bonn, the culture manager and DJ Darius Darek invited into the old community college of Bonn on January 5th, 2020 for a headphone concert of the rather special kind. In this context, he played 4 remixes of the recently released album, which is now openly available online under a creative commons license (<http://www.taxi-mundjal.com/beethoven.html>). Right in line with the motto of the anniversary year, "Rediscover Beethoven", the actual process of experiencing music gave the event its uniqueness, apart from the choice of tracks. Darius Darek himself performed the ostinato bass on the synthesizer live, while splitting the audio signal, so that the bass would be distributed via the speakers in the room, and not via the provided headphones. In doing so, he created a haptic experience and a truly original means of perceiving music: While the music was heard, yet also felt physically, and sensed.

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Lounge furniture, yoga mats and dim club atmosphere: Some 50 guests gathered while Darius Darek took a seat behind his laptop and synth went on to set the tone for the hourlong concert with "Flight from the city" by Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson of his album "Orphée". Escapism byways of music – ruminant and introvert. Following the piece "Bower" by Luke Howard, and "Awake" by Lambert, an electronic interpretation of the 'spring' from Antonio Vivaldi's "Four seasons"-opus by the artist collective Max Richter, Daniel Hope, Andre de Ridder, and the Berlin chamber orchestra billowed through the room. The attendees were by now sunken deep within their yoga mats, dwelling in vibrations and thought.

After a brief presentation, Darius' set turned towards a selection of rather slow and carried remixes from his international music project, which was funded by the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH.

Darius Darek has a knack for fusing dimensions. His "World BEAThoven Project" for instance introduces the worlds of classical music, the actual world, and the realm of electronic to each other. He played a remix by the Beijing-based electro-artist Guzz of Ludwig van Beethoven's first movement from the 4th symphony. Guzz employed the sample database, which also was being made openly accessible under a creative commons license, and attached it with African instruments. Peter Power's track came in from the clandestine exile in fantastic lands of *Ufordia*, and took on Beethoven's "Corolian Ouverture" – yet accompanied by jungle- and animal-sounds, be they cicadas, frogs or birds. The Hamburg-based experimental-cellist Andi Otto dove into the canon "Kühl, nicht lau", including its famed opening sequence consisting of the notes "B-a-c-h", in German notation. This segment of the concert was closed by the remix of the 2nd movement from the 6th symphony by the Portuguese electronic duo Ohxala, which was entirely decontextualized geographically by incorporating Asian percussion and tonewoods.

The leitmotif of the "World BEAThoven Project", "Reduce - Remix - Reuse", confronts the genius of a century Ludwig van Beethoven with the core

philosophy of the internet: The charing of ideas, far beyond all physical borders. These four remixes were emblematic and representative of this idea.

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The concert evening was closed with three works of Berlin-based composer and pianist Nils Frahm, who Darius Darek praised as “Beethoven of our times”. After the fitting “Let my key be C” by Frahm and cellist Anne Müller, an intense ambient meditation over a pedal motif that eventually faded away, the bass ceased to vibrate in the gut, and the headphones fell silent...

Darius Darek expressed warm appreciation to his listeners and was met with interested questions regarding the arrangements which the geographer and culture manager was delighted to answer. He was on the clock though, on Wednesday, January 8th, he and his "World BEAThoven Project" will embark on a world tour spanning the Americas, Europe, and Asia. This exciting voyage will be seeing him performing on zero-waste- and transformational-festivals, and will be covered on his social media outlets like Instagram, Youtube, and Facebook. *“Presenting the 'World BEAThoven Album' on these events makes perfect sense. On the one hand, we support the cultural heritage and the vast diversity of cultural expressiveness, while taking a stance regarding topics such as public participation sustainability goals for 2030”*, adds Darius. The cosmopolitan, humanist and visionary Ludwig van Beethoven would have certainly embraced this transcendental thought.

For further information, please visit: www.taxi-mundjal.com/beethoven



Lounge furniture, yoga mats and dim club atmosphere: Darius Darek created an extraordinary „music-experience“ at his DJ- and music event “Resonanz”. (Picture source: Jo Hempel Photography)

About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH: *The federal government, the land of Northrhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district instructed the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, founded by the Beethovenhaus, to coordinate the 250 year anniversary as a national event with international appeal, and to shape the anniversary regarding content and to anchor the brand regionally. The contentional range spans more than 300 promoted projects. The overview of the anniversary year can viewed in the events calendar on www.bthvn2020.de/en*