

# ”Joy, a Shining Divine Spark Beethoven's Ninth in the Original

1 May until 1 July 2024



Im Palais Lobkowitz  
Lobkowitzplatz 2, 1010 Wien  
presse@theatermuseum.at  
www.theatermuseum.at

**April 2024**

## About the presentation

**On 7 May 1824, the Ninth Symphony by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) had its world premiere at the Kärntnertortheater in Vienna. To mark this 200th anniversary, the Theatermuseum, together with the Vienna Philharmonic and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz, is presenting the largest selection of particularly significant parts from Beethoven's autograph ever shown in Austria.**

Today, the composition is one of the best-known and most popular works of classical music. In 1985, the Ninth was declared the official European anthem by the European Community, and in 2001 Beethoven's manuscript was added to the UNESCO 'Memory of the World' register. The autograph score is now kept – almost in its entirety – in the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.

*Joy, a Shining Divine Spark* is being shown in the former music room of Palais Lobkowitz, where Ludwig van Beethoven regularly played music. The presentation not only conveys visitors the 'holy shiver' of standing in front of the original manuscript of one of the most famous works of Viennese Classicism, but also invites to explore the genesis of Beethoven's iconic music creation.

## In Search of True Form and Character

The idea of setting Schiller's *Ode to Joy* to music accompanied Beethoven throughout the 32 years he spent in Vienna from his arrival in 1793 until the premiere of the Ninth. His years of intensive searching for the true form and character of the composition culminated in his decision to expand the symphonic form with a sung text for the first time. Beethoven worked on his last completed symphony from spring 1823 to February 1824. He made significant compositional changes and additions even after its premiere in May 1824 until the first edition was printed in 1826.

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## From Vienna to the World

By the time of Beethoven's death in 1827, the unbound autograph of the 9th Symphony, consisting of individual sheets in various formats, was already in different hands. The Viennese music publisher Domenico Artaria (1775–1842) acquired smaller parts of the first and fourth movement at the auction of Beethoven's estate. However, the major part of the autograph was in the possession of Anton Schindler (1795–1864), the self-proclaimed alleged friend and servant of the composer. Many sheets and double sheets he gave away until, in 1846, he sold the bulk of the manuscript to the Royal Library in Berlin, today Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz, in return for a life annuity.

Since then, this institution has endeavoured to acquire additional parts of the score. Especially the purchase in 1901 of the parts previously owned by the Viennese publishing family Artaria was of great importance. All of the handwritten sheets of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony now kept in Berlin were restored and rebound in 2002. At the same time, they were also **digitised** and thus made available to the general public worldwide. The main part of the score is in Berlin, some separate fragments are to be found in the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn and the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris; very little is considered to be lost.

## The Ninth Symphony and the Vienna Philharmonic

Beethoven's masterpiece is historically very important for the identity of the Vienna Philharmonic.

*'The documents show that the idea of founding the Vienna Philharmonic (founded in 1842, note) was also inspired by the premiere of the Ninth Symphony. Musicians who played at the premiere in the Kärntnertortheater, which was organised by the composer himself, subsequently became founding members of the Vienna Philharmonic.'*

– Daniel Froschauer, Chairman Vienna Philharmonic

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The Ninth places high demands on the performers. Subsequently the Vienna Philharmonic ask only those conductors with whom they have a particularly close relationship to perform this work with them, among others Hans Richter, Gustav Mahler, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Arturo Toscanini, Herbert von Karajan or Leonard Bernstein. Maestro Riccardo Muti, with whom the orchestra has a close artistic partnership since 1971, will conduct the concerts to mark the 200th anniversary of the premiere of the Ninth Symphony in May 2024.

For the presentation at the Theatermuseum, Daniel Froschauer, chairman of the Vienna Philharmonic, selected significant parts of the first and fourth movement as well as corrections and additions Beethoven made to his autograph score. Musicologist Otto Biba provided the academic support for the presentation. All the sheets on display are from the autograph acquired by Domenico Artaria in 1827 at the estate auction and are now back in Vienna for the first time since then for the brief period of *Joy, a Shining Divine Spark*.

## Ludwig van Beethoven at Palais Lobkowitz

Franz Joseph Maximilian Prince Lobkowitz (1772–1816), one of the leading patrons of the Viennese and Bohemian music and theatre scene of his time, was also one of the most important sponsors of Ludwig van Beethoven who often performed at Palais Lobkowitz.

*'The location of the presentation in the Theatermuseum, the former music room of Franz Joseph Maximilian Prince Lobkowitz, takes on even greater significance bearing in mind that Beethoven first performed his third symphony, the 'Eroica', in the ballroom next door, today's Eroica Hall, in 1804.'*

– Sabine Haag, Director General KHM-Museumsverband

*'The place also conveys something of the intangible but unignorable 'genius loci' behind the Ninth, which has prompted the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin to present parts of what is probably its greatest treasure in Vienna for two months in 2024.'*

– Otto Biba, Musicologist

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*'In 1796, Beethoven was on a concert tour in Berlin. Today, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin preserves the world's largest collection of Beethoven autographs at almost exactly the same place on Unter den Linden where he performed as a virtuoso and composer. We are delighted to be able to send parts of this work to Vienna as a cultural ambassador and 'spark of the gods' to mark the anniversary of the 9th Symphony.'*

– Martina Rebmann, Head of Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-Archives,  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz

In addition to this exquisite loan from Berlin, as a further document of the history of the work's creation, a copy of the original edition can be seen, and as a document of the history of the reception Riccardo Muti's hand copy of a facsimile edition of Beethoven's autograph manuscript will be on display.

The presentation was designed by Gerhard Veigel.

*Joy, a Shining Divine Spark. Beethoven's Ninth in the Original* will be on show from 1 May until 1 July 2024 in the Theatermuseum. The presentation is realized in collaboration with the Vienna Philharmonic and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz.

# ☞ Joy, a Shining Divine Spark Beethoven's Ninth in the Original

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## Events

### ☞ An die Freude / To Joy

On three evenings, members of the Vienna Philharmonic perform chamber music by Ludwig van Beethoven in changing ensembles in the Eroica Hall. All works are connected to the Ninth Symphony or to the music-making practice at Palais Lobkowitz.

#### **15 May 2024, 7 P.M.**

L. v. Beethoven: String Quartet in A minor, op. 132

Lucas Stratmann: violin / Adela Frasinianu: violin / Benjamin Beck: viola / Bernadette Kehrer: violoncello

#### **29 May 2024, 7 P.M.**

L. v. Beethoven: String Quartet in B flat major, op. 130

L. v. Beethoven: Great Fugue, op. 133

Ekaterina Frolova: violin / Martina Miedl: violin / Benjamin Beck: viola / Peter Somodari: violoncello

#### **12 June 2024, 7 P.M.**

L. v. Beethoven: Two movements of the 6th Symphony in F major, op. 68 in the arrangement for flute and piano by Christian Gottlob August Bergt (1771–1837)

L. v. Beethoven: String Quartet in C sharp minor, op. 131

Yamen Saadi: violin / Thomas Küblböck: violin / Sebastian Führlinger: viola / Peter Somodari: violoncello / Walter Auer: flute / Christoph Traxler: piano

Tickets at € 49 are available online at: <https://shop.khm.at/tickets/>

Subject to change

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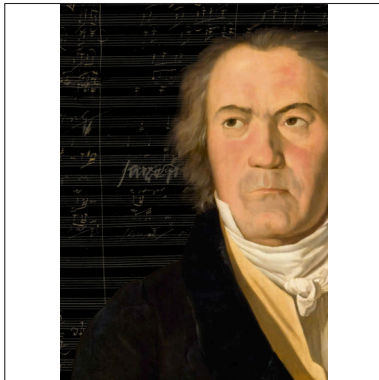
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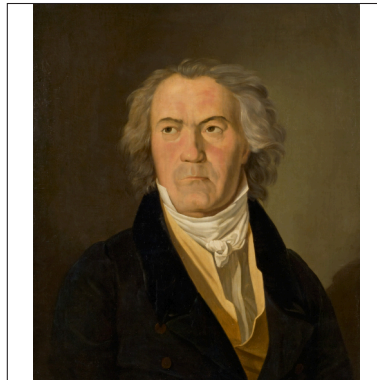
## Press photographs

Photos are free of charge in relation to the press coverage of the exhibition.

They are available for download under [www.theatermuseum.at/presse/](http://www.theatermuseum.at/presse/)



Poster design of the presentation  
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Ludwig van Beethoven, 1823  
Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (attributed)  
Oil on canvas, 840 x 750 x 100 mm  
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna,  
Collection of Historic Musical Instruments  
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Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphonie No. 9 in D minor, op. 125  
Autograph score, 4th movement; open at  
page 56  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer  
Kulturbesitz  
Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-  
Archives  
music manuscripts, autograph Beethoven,  
Artaria 204 (2)



Ludwig van Beethoven  
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Ludwig van Beethoven  
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Autograph score, 4th movement; open at  
page 86  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer  
Kulturbesitz  
Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-  
Archives  
music manuscripts, autograph Beethoven,  
Artaria 204 (3b)



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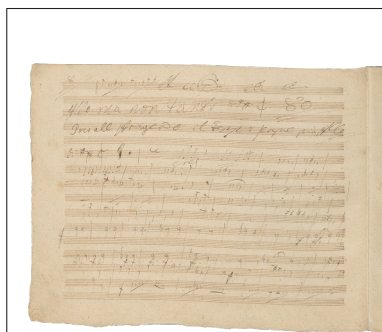
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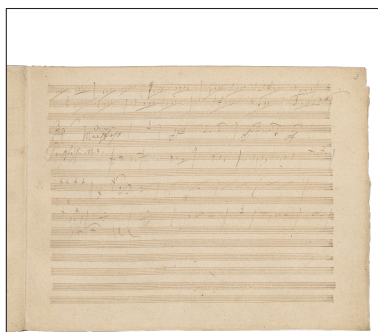
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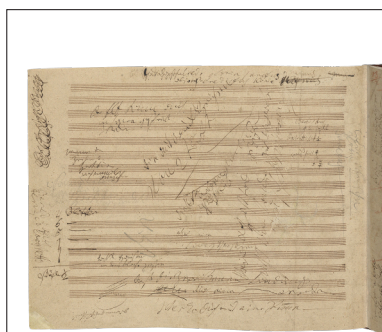
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Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphonie No. 9 in D minor, op. 125  
Autograph part for the contrabassoon in the  
4th movement; open at page 2  
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Kulturbesitz  
Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-  
Archives  
music manuscripts, autograph Beethoven,  
Artaria 204 (5)



Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphonie No. 9 in D minor, op. 125  
Autograph part for the contrabassoon in the  
4th movement; open at page 3  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer  
Kulturbesitz  
Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-  
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music manuscripts, autograph Beethoven,  
Artaria 204 (5)



Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphonie No. 9 in D minor, op. 125  
Autograph loose leaf in the score,  
1st movement; open at page 2  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer  
Kulturbesitz  
Department of Music with the Mendelssohn-  
Archives  
music manuscripts, autograph Beethoven,  
Artaria 204 (6)



Ludwig van Beethoven  
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Autograph loose leaf in the score,  
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## Entrance fees

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We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

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