

PREFATORY NOTE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER FOR CULTURE AND THE MEDIA

Germany's musical life is noteworthy in equal measure for its rich history and its wide array of contemporary currents. It has never been concentrated in a few towns, regions or institutions. Given the diversity of Germany's musical landscape, it is especially worthwhile to gather information in a single place. This responsibility has been assumed by the German Music Information Centre (MIZ), the authoritative source for facts on every aspect of Germany's musical life. Anyone wishing to learn about Germany's many orchestras and music theatres, or its musical training and advanced education programmes, or amateur music-making and the music industry, will find a wealth of information at the MIZ.

Founded in 1997 and based in Bonn, the city of Beethoven's birth, the MIZ was patterned after similar institutions in other European countries. Yet it could already look back on many years' experience in the publication of a musical almanac for Germany. Being a project of the German Music Council, the MIZ has access to information from all the professional bodies and organisations in the Council's membership. By processing this information and drawing on its employees' wealth of experience in cultural policy, the MIZ has become a mirror of developments in Germany's musical culture.

The Federal government has supported the founding and operation of the MIZ on an ongoing basis. By additionally lending its support to this publication, it takes into account the fact that Germany's rich and variegated musical life has long attracted international attention. I am certain that the book will help many readers to deepen their knowledge and form their own picture of musical life in Germany.

Bernd Neumann, Member of Parliament, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor