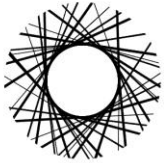


MAHLER CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

FEEL THE MUSIC FESTIVAL



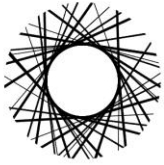


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ORCHESTRA

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„Our ensemble travels around the world and performs with the best conductors and soloists. But this will probably be some of the most important work we will ever do. If you're giving children with hearing disabilities access to a better way of expressing themselves through music, the experience can only enrich you as a musician and bring you closer to the music.“

Emma Schied, Oboist Mahler Chamber Orchestra



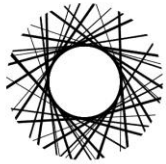
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Feel the Music is a project series run by the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. In selected cities across Europe, the MCO invites deaf and hard-of-hearing children into the world of the orchestra, to encourage them to discover music on their own terms and to explore with them how music can be experienced with all senses.

Since 2012, projects have been carried out in 10 countries and each workshop has been very enriching both for the children and the musicians. With *Feel the Music*, the MCO aims to make a difference and set an example across countries for inviting and integrating deaf people into the music world, which will hopefully inspire many more musicians, ensembles and promoters to create such opportunities for the deaf.

Feel the Music has been awarded with the YEAH! Award for European Music Education and with the Cultural Brands Award as European Education Programme of the Year.



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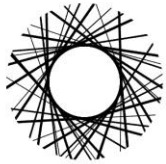
The Festival Project

The Feel the Music Festival took place in September 2014 at the Beethovenfest Bonn. Children from four countries, who took part in previous Feel the Music projects, came together in Bonn for another hands-on music project with MCO. This time, the children joined the MCO on stage to perform signed songs in a **family concert on World Deaf Day 2014**.



The **Feel the Music exhibition** displayed paintings from past Feel the Music projects, which show how deaf children around the world have experienced their encounters with music and with the orchestra.

A **symposium on music and deafness** took place on the same day and invited actors from arts and education to discuss ideas and concepts of making music accessible for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.



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Partner Schools

50 children from schools for the deaf in four countries joined the MCO in Bonn. The schools which participated in the festival project had all taken part in Feel the Music projects with the MCO before.

Together with the MCO, the schools chose traditional songs from their countries and rehearsed signed versions with the children in preparation for the project in Bonn.

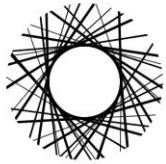
Schools

Scuola Audiofonetica (Brescia, Italy)

Johann-Joseph-Gronewald-Schule (Cologne, Germany)

Skola Vymolova (Prague, Czech Republic)

St Mary's School for Deaf Girls (Dublin, Ireland)



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Project Partners

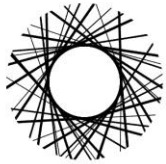
The project was carried out in collaboration with the **Beethovenfest Bonn**. The rehearsals and the concert took place as part of the festival at the Beethovenhalle.

The Mädchenchor am Essener Dom prepared the songs in four languages over the summer to perform them together with the signing choirs in the family concert for all senses. Choir leader Raimund Wippermann led the rehearsals and concert in Bonn.

As a steady partner of Feel the Music, **Paul Whittaker** was involved to lead game sessions with the children, to speak at the symposium and to perform a signed song together with all children in the family concert.

Leif Ove Andsnes, who has also been involved in Feel the Music from the start, took part in the family concert and performed two songs with the children.





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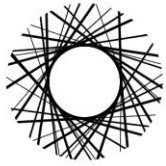
Signed Song Concert

The family concert presented traditional songs from the four countries sung by the Mädchenchor am Essener Dom and signed by the Feel the Music children from each school.

Joint rehearsals took place in Bonn on three workshop days with the girls' choir, the signing choirs and the orchestra.



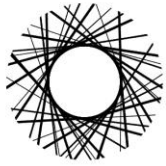
The family concert was promoted as **a concert for all senses** and invited both deaf and hearing audiences to participate. The concert included opportunities to feel the instruments and to learn about how sound can not only be heard but also seen and felt. On World Deaf Day, the concert also provided a perfect opportunity to teach hearing people about sign language hands-on: the whole audience was invited to sign a German lullaby together with the children.



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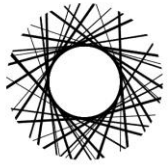




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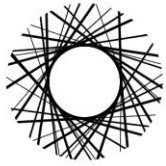




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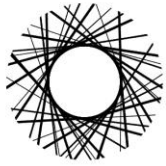




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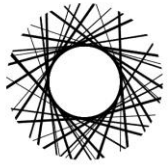




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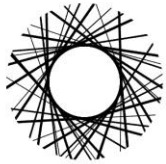




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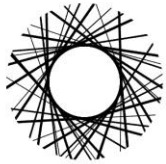




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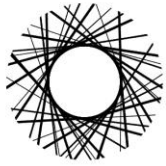




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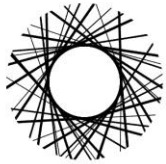




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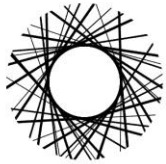




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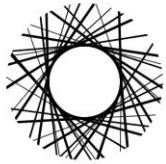


Leisure Programme

Aside from the rehearsals and the concert, the project included a daily leisure programme for the children to foster the **international exchange** among the group.

The leisure programme included a rally through Bonn which introduced the children to the city on the first day, a **visit to the Beethovenhaus** with guided tours translated into the individual sign languages, and a **boat trip on the Rhine** right after the concert performance.

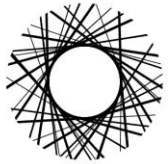
In the evenings, MCO musicians and Paul Whittaker visited the children for **sessions of games and music** at the youth hostel.



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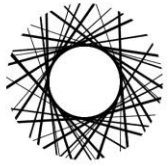




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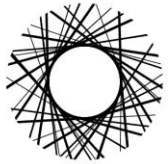




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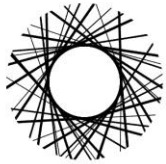




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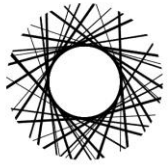




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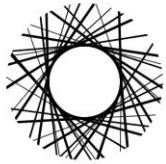




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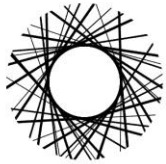




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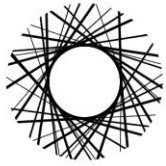




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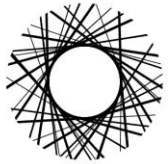




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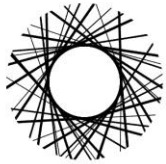




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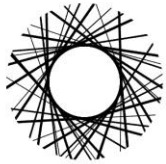




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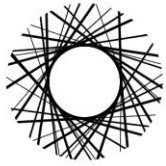


Concert Visit

On the final project day, all children and teachers attended the evening concert of Leif Ove Andsnes and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. The children were seated on the side balcony and cheered in sign language after the orchestra's performance.

After the concert some of the musicians came by in the foyer to say farewell before the children got ready to travel back home to Brescia, Cologne, Dublin and Prague.

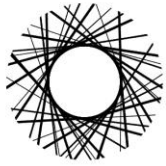




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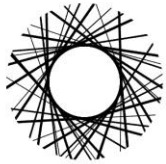




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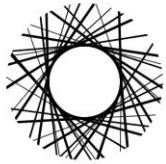
Painting Exhibition

The Feel the Music Festival included a painting exhibition with paintings from seven countries:

As part of the orchestra's Feel the Music projects, deaf children around the world work with local arts facilitators to express their experiences with the orchestra in a painting workshop. The MCO takes the resulting images on tour and exhibits them in the concert halls as part of "The Beethoven Journey".

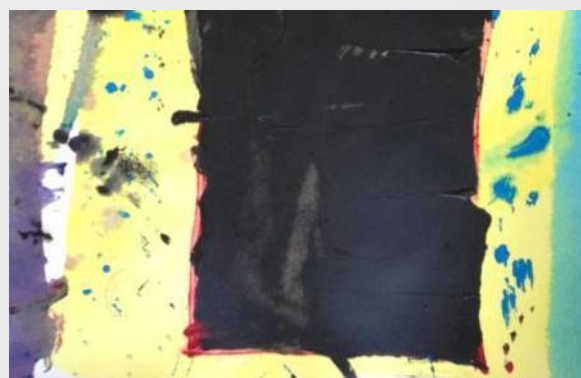


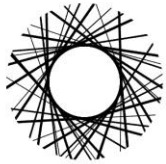
During the Feel the Music Festival, 16 paintings from six countries were shown in the Foyer of the Beethovenhalle.



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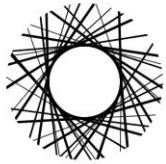
Symposium

Also part of the Feel the Music Festival was a 2-day symposium on music and deafness which was attended by over 50 people.

What is music? How manifold are the ways of music perception? And **how can we create musical experiences which go beyond the ear** and speak to all senses? The symposium invited actors from the fields of arts and education to examine these questions with a look at current research and practical examples, and to discuss ideas and concepts of making music accessible for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.



The **Feel the Music presentation**, which was part of the programme, included a panel talk with an orchestra musician, a music teacher and two students from St Mary's School for Deaf Girls who talked about their experience.



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Festival Partners



**BEET
HOVEN
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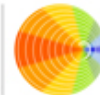
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Gronewald
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The Feel the Music Festival 2014 was kindly supported by:

Ministerium für Familie, Kinder, Jugend,
Kultur und Sport
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



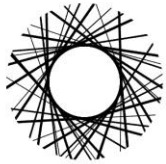
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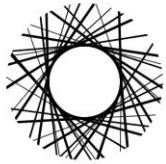
FEEL THE MUSIC

Feedback



I met children from other countries.





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FEEL THE MUSIC

“People think that deaf people can’t do music.
So now we can do it, and we can show them we can do music.”

Aimee (Student at St Mary’s School for Deaf Girls)

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