

Schumann's house

The house at 182 Sebastianstraße in Bonn-Endenich where Robert Schumann spent the latter years of his life today houses the City of Bonn music library and includes, of course, the Schumann memorial rooms.

The history of this house built in the classicist style goes back to the time of the last of the Cologne electors, Max Franz. In those days it served as the country seat of the electoral chamber councillor and mayor Matthias Joseph Kaufmann. In 1844 it became part of the mental institution belonging to the psychiatrist Dr. Richarz to whom Schumann turned for treatment in 1854. Schumann's mental illness had started during his successful work as director of music in Düsseldorf. Robert Schumann remained in Dr. Richarz's mental institution until his death and was only able to leave it very occasionally for walks in the locality.

On the occasion of one of the visits by young Johannes Brahms his way also took him to the Beethoven monument on the Münsterplatz. By this ardent appeal for donations published in the „Neue Zeitschrift für Musik“ (New Music Journal) in 1836 Schumann had greatly contributed to the setting up of this monument. After a brief reunion with his wife Clara, Schumann died on the afternoon of July 29th 1856 and his body was laid to rest in the Old Cemetery in the presence of a large gathering of friends and local citizens. In 1880 the monument to Schumann designed by Adolf Donndorf and donated by friends and admirers was unveiled here as a part of a Schumann festival.

As long ago as 1926 Medizinalrat Dr. Kellner suggested the creation of a Schumann memorial at the house in which the composer died in Bonn-Endenich and a plaque donated by the Schumann Society in Zwickau, Schumann's Birthplace, was placed there. The building was severely damaged in the last war. After some fierce public discussion the demolition of the house was prevented and its restoration assured. On May 12th 1963 the two Schumann memorial rooms on the first floor containing documents, pictures and letters from Robert and Clara Schumann and from their friends were formally opened to the public.

As a significant link with these rooms, the rest of the house is devoted to the Bonn municipal music library. With its roughly 50.000 books, music scores and recordings this library is immensely popular with musicians and music lovers in Bonn and the surrounding country.

And so the house has become both a memorial to a great composer and a centre of learning which has a lively influence on the musical life of the city thanks to the house concerts held there for the promotion of Schumann's piano and chamber music. Schumann's house has become a much frequented centre of music in Bonn.

adress: Sebastianstraße 182, 53 115 Bonn-Endenich

The Music library and the Schumann memorial rooms are open to the Public as follows:
Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

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www.bonn.de/stadtbibliothek

www.schumannhaus-bonn.de

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