

# Democracy

*„Democracy is nothing else but a political aspect of the human mind ... today, I can see that the German citizens were in the wrong as they believed that man can be cultivated and non-political at the same time.“*

Thomas Mann, 1939

The non-profit, state-approved **Internationale Stiftung zur Foerderung von Kultur und Zivilisation (International Foundation for the Promotion of Culture and Civilization)**, Munich, was founded by the entrepreneur Erich Fischer (EBV) in 1995.

The Foundation's major purposes are:

- Promotion of art and culture, mainly in the field of music;
- Improvement of the living conditions of senior citizens and
- Further development of the civilization.

**Music in the afternoon hours:** From 1996 to 02/2025, we organized more than 2,175 musical afternoon events for nearly 550,000 enthusiastic senior citizens all over Germany, almost exclusively financed from the endowment funds' proceeds. These concerts with classical music at a very high artistic level take place over coffee and cake in festive reception rooms and are a special thank-you of our founder to a generation that, through no fault of their own, had to cope with the main burden of World War II and the deprivations of the post-war years. Since 2006, we are organizing more and more musical afternoon events, directly in residential and nursing homes (to date about 14,175 of such concerts for approx. 570,000 listeners).

**toujours Mozart:** A joyful birthday party which - since 1997 - has taken place for many years in Mozart cities like Salzburg (Residence Palace - Fürsterzbischöfliche Residenz), partially in Vienna (Palais Schwarzenberg, Liechtenstein Museum, Palais Niederösterreich) and Prague

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INTERNATIONALE STIFTUNG ZUR FOERDERUNG VON KULTUR UND ZIVILISATION

Gegründet 1995 von Erich Fischer

(Palais Liechtenstein, Rudolfinum), in the year 2011 in Magdeburg, and in Augsburg (in 2012 & 2013). 2016/17/18 the Festival was celebrated in Offenbach/M. and in 2016 for the first time also in Elma close to Haifa/Israel. Since then three times 2018, 2022 & 2024 in Tel Aviv with new plans for 2026. First time in Munich in 02/2025.

**"Music on the Road"** presents operas in "paperback" format, i.e. short versions delightfully staged as classical street music with witty presenters, to be introduced in suitable locations in the center of different cities - admission is free! Professional vocal soloists and a first-class string quartet provide for a most enjoyable experience. In the past 18 years they have staged over 400 performances and received great applause by audiences of tens of thousands for "Don Giovanni", "The Magic Flute", "The Abduction from the Seraglio", "Carmen", "La Traviata", "The Freeshooter", "Rienzi" (as a contribution to the Wagner year 2013), "La Bohème", "The Barber of Seville" & "Don Pasquale".

**Amnesty National:** Three model projects with the intention to avoid imprisonment for minor offences - endorsed by the respective Ministries of Justice - as well as music lessons and concerts in currently 13 prisons all over Germany; as contribution to the re-socialization of convicts.

**Music-making instead of merely music-consuming** Since 1999, the foundation has been organizing and financing music workshops and music lessons for more than 11,000 primary school pupils and children's concerts for approx. 6,000 children from nursery schools in the city of Munich. In the year 2009 we started to organize classical concerts directly in schools under the motto **Music for Pupils** throughout Germany (so far nearly 2,590 concerts for almost 183,000 pupils). The intention behind these events with professional, engaged artists is to familiarize young listeners with **live** classical music in an appropriate way and manner and, in a perfect world, prompt them to make music on their own.

02 / 2025