



Production of Faust



Thuringian Symphony Orchestra Saalfeld Rudolstadt

1914

marks the date when the “Thuringian Farmhouses” were removed from surrounding villages and rebuilt as a museum in the Heinrich Heine Park in Rudolstadt. The oldest open-air museum in Germany, peasant life is depicted here through original furniture and household items dating from the 17th Century to the mid 19th Century.

Rudolstadt is the district’s cultural capital, a claim underlined by the imposing backdrop of Heidecksburg Palace. The former seat of government of the princes of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt attracted many famous personalities of the time. The legendary first meeting of Goethe and Schiller took place in Rudolstadt, in the home of the Chancellor of Beulwitz. Schiller was struck twice simultaneously by Cupid’s Arrow while in Rudolstadt. With a museum dedicated to his life and the slogan “Schiller’s Secret Love”, the city has successfully positioned itself as a vibrant tourism destination, spoken of in equal tones as Marbach and Weimar. However, Rudolstadt is not only a place of historic encounters: for more than a quarter of a century, tens of thousands of musicians and music lovers have flocked to the city for the annual Tanz und Folk Festival – the largest world music festival in Europe. The event has now been renamed the Rudolstadt Festival in a bid to increase the city’s renown.

Rococo en miniature – the lifework of the artists Gerhard Bätz and Manfred Kiedorf – is a magnet for the Heidecksburg Palace, attracting thousands of visitors every year. Inspired by the pompous court culture of the Baroque and Rococo periods, the fanciful “Palaces of the Praised Island” were created over a timeframe of more than 50 years. The artists even created a unique language for the island’s inhabitants – Pezanian.

