

Project

Between dungeon & crown

Persecuted as serfs, worshipped as heroes, admired as child prodigies, mistreated and downtrodden, united in friendship, pursued by bailiffs, showered with riches, driven by arrogance, eaten up by jealousy, difficult to govern, impossible to control yet easy to seduce: princes and musicians have not always had an easy time with each other. On the one hand: godlike power, immeasurable wealth, and an untiring quests for beauty and art – on the other: divine talent, immeasurable knowledge, and the desire for recognition and status.

Interdependence was deeply ingrained in their relationship, and music –the basis of friendships as well as enmities– was an inseparable bond between them. Here concept and reality of the social relationships met – and it was where they were subtly called into question.

Between dungeon and crown is a collage of music from the Baroque to the Early Romantic period, combined with episodes, facts and reports from contemporary sources, which shed light on the multi-faceted relationship between princes and musicians. Letters, newspaper articles, servants' records and police reports alternate with free verbal presentation, creating a lively atmosphere in which music and narrative interact with each other.

Instrumentation

Flute, horn, violin, viola, violoncello

Acting persons

*Johann Sebastian Bach
Giovanni Punto*

Joseph Fiala

*Wolfgang A. Mozart
Michael Haydn
Johannes Nisle
Antonio Rosetti*

Also speaking

*Charles Burney
C. Friedrich D. Schubart
Leopold Mozart*

Frederick The Great, King in Prussia

Johann Joseph Anton from Thun & Hohenstein

Charles of Bourbon, Count Artois, later Charles X from France

Princess Netolitzky of Netolitz

Emperor Joseph II

Hieronymus of Colloredo, Prince Archbishop of Salzburg

Count Arco, valet of Hieronymus of Colloredo

Duke Carl from Stuttgart

Prince Krafft Ernst of Oettingen Wallerstein

Landlord Brockdorf of Depenau

Countess Deym, wife of Count J. Deym of Strítež

Therese of Brunswick, Sister of the Countess Deym

Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia