



STIFTUNG  
MOZARTEUM  
SALZBURG



Mozarthaus Vienna  
mit WIEN MUSEUM MOZARTWOHNUNG

ein unternehmen der **wienholding**

**Mozart's Fortepiano in Vienna**  
**in cooperation with the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg**  
Until 7 November 2012

The famous Anton Walter fortepiano that once belonged to Wolfgang Amadé Mozart can be seen and heard at Mozarthaus Vienna from until 7 November 2012. The musical genius played on this instrument during his time at Domgasse 5, where it stood in his study, and during many concerts away from home. Mozart worked with the fortepiano and explored its technical possibilities from early on. The instrument made by Anton Walter and purchased by Wolfgang Amadé Mozart soon after moving to Vienna in 1781 accompanied his creative life until he died in 1791. Its brilliant and beautiful sound inspired more than 50 works for piano – concertos, chamber music, but also solo sonatas, variations and rondos – and during Mozart's concerts the audience enthused about its sound. Its history is special as well: the fortepiano's whereabouts immediately after Mozart's death are unknown. What we do know, however, is that Constanze Mozart gave the instrument to their eldest son Carl Thomas in 1810, who donated it to the then Cathedral Music Association and Mozarteum in 1856 on the occasion of his father's 100th birthday.



The fortepiano is one of the outstanding exhibits at the Mozart family's home in Salzburg, where it is part of the permanent exhibition. For the first time it is now to return to the place where Mozart probably spent the happiest and most intensely creative period of his life: the valuable instrument is to be seen at Mozarthaus Vienna on loan for two weeks from the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg. It can be seen and heard in Vienna for the first time since Mozart lived here; it returns to Vienna, where it was made and where Wolfgang Amadé Mozart played it almost every day, after more than 200 years.

**The Anton Walter fortepiano**

Anton Walter was the leading piano maker in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Vienna. He moved to Vienna between 1774 and 1776, where he married the widow of the organ builder Franz Schöfstoß, thus acquiring a license to build musical instruments. Apart from Mozart other famous composers such as Ludwig van Beethoven and Joseph Haydn played on his fortepianos. On the fortepiano, a

stringed keyboard instrument, the strings are hit by small wooden hammers. After 1800 the name fortepiano was shortened to piano. At this time its predecessors like the harpsichord or clavichord also gradually disappeared from the concert repertoire. Klavier und Vorformen

### **The concert on Mozart's fortepiano**

On 7 November 2012, at 7.30 pm, the Grammy-nominated Russian pianist Alexander Melnikov will perform works composed by Mozart, including some written in this very building, at an exclusive concert on Mozart's own fortepiano. He will play the two Fantasias in C minor KV 475 (1785) and D minor KV 397 (probably c. 1789), giving us a vivid impression of Mozart's talent for improvisation that used to surprise and delight his audience. The Fantasia in C minor was written later as an additional prelude to the Sonata in C minor KV 457 and printed with a dedication to Mozart's pupil Therese von Trattner; nothing definite is known about the origins of the Fantasia in D minor. The Piano Sonata in F major KV 332, the last piece to be heard at the recital, was not written in Paris, as had been the general belief for a long time, but is the last of the three Sonatas op. 6, which Mozart wrote on his new fortepiano soon after returning from Salzburg in autumn 1783; he had it printed in autumn 1784.

The pianist: Alexander Melnikov was only twelve years old when he first played Rachmaninov's Concerto No.1. Later on he started concentrating on historical performance practice. Since then he has repeatedly played on fortepianos, has given guest performances with many orchestras as a soloist and given piano recitals all over the world. He is one of the few pianists to have been given permission to play on Mozart's fortepiano by the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg.

Concert programme:

Wolfgang Amadé Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Fantasia in C minor (KV 475)

Sonata in C minor (KV 457)

Fantasia in D minor (KV 397)

Sonata in F major (KV 332)

Tickets:

Regular € 45/reduced € 30

Phone: +43-1-512 17 91-30, e-mail: [ticket@mozarthausvienna.at](mailto:ticket@mozarthausvienna.at),  
at the museum's cash desk or [www.wien-ticket.at](http://www.wien-ticket.at)

Wheel chair seats: reduced, advance reservation compulsory, accompanying person free

## **MOZARTHAUS VIENNA**

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### **Mozarthaus Vienna would like to thank the following:**

