



Ladies and Gentlemen,

With its new classroom and concert hall, the District of Upper Franconia has created a unique cultural venue with great charisma. At the same time, the underground hall provides an excellent visual and acoustic

setting for our master classes and concerts held in Haus Marteau. Since 1982, the villa has served as an international music centre for highly talented young musicians from all over the world. In the international master classes, they get the „finishing touches“ from renowned lecturers. In this way, the district seeks to preserve the legacy of the great violin virtuoso Henri Marteau (1874 – 1934), who spent two decades of his life in Lichtenberg (in the administrative district of Hof). The villa offers a very artistic atmosphere with its home-style architecture, valuable original interior, and beautiful location. To the great delight of all classical music lovers, Haus Marteau is enriching cultural life in Upper Franconia at the highest level, e. g. with the concert series *Haus Marteau auf Reisen*, the final and master concerts in our spectacular teaching and concert hall.

We cordially invite you to join us!

Yours faithfully,

Henry Schramm, MdL (retired)
District President of Upper Franconia



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International Music Centre

Haus Marteau
Lobensteiner Straße 4
D-95192 Lichtenberg

Administration

Bezirk Oberfranken
Kultur- und Heimatpflege
Ludwigstraße 20
D-95444 Bayreuth
Phone: (+49)921 604-1608
info@haus-marteau.de

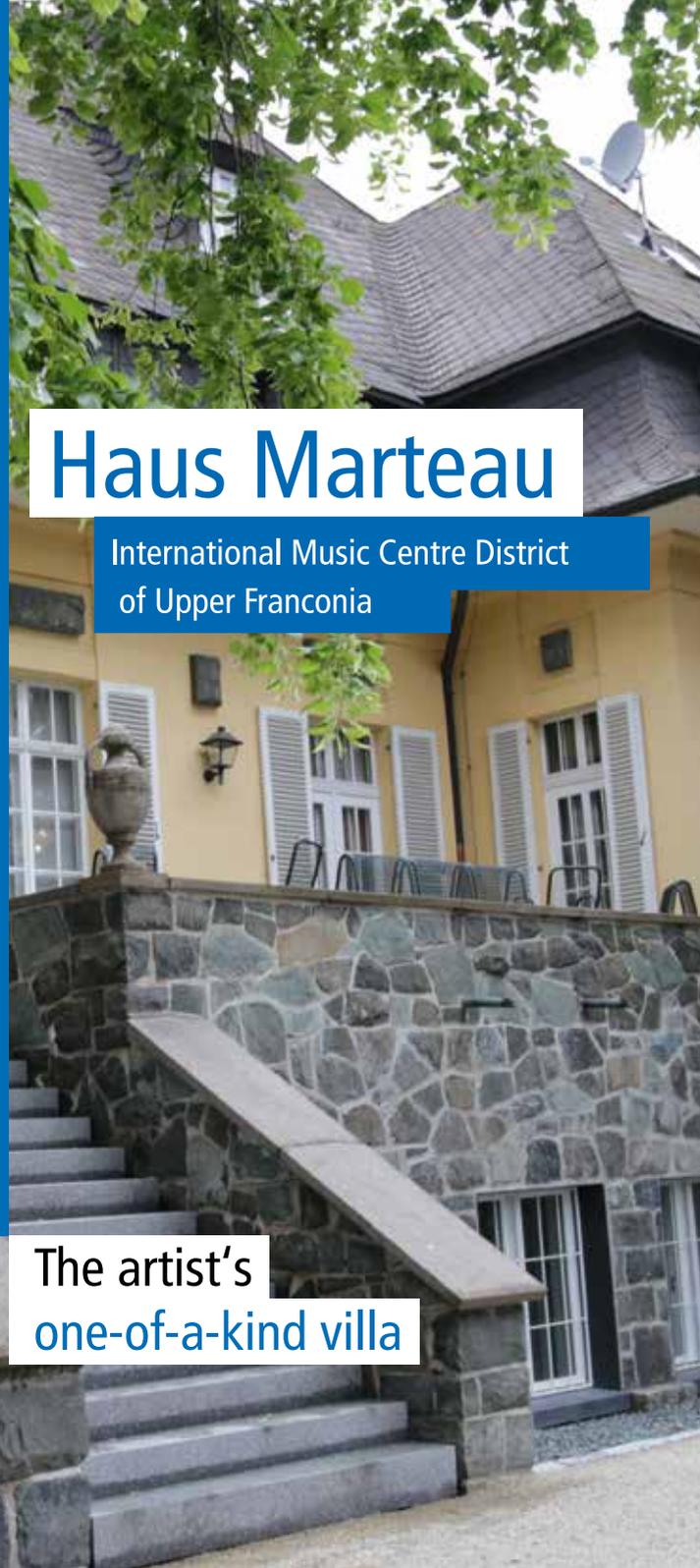
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Funded by:
Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Wissenschaft und Kunst



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Haus Marteau

International Music Centre District
of Upper Franconia

The artist's
one-of-a-kind villa

Haus Marteau and surrounding region

Haus Marteau, an international meeting place for musicians, and its world-class artistic courses and events are helping to enrich Upper Franconia's cultural scene.

As was customary in Marteau's day, almost all courses that are offered here conclude with a final concert in the house.

The concert series *Haus Marteau auf Reisen* ("Marteau House on the road") allows participants in selected courses to foster the institution's excellent reputation in the region by demonstrating the extraordinary quality of the work carried out at the International Music Centre to the audience. The district attaches great importance to its support for musical education in the region.

Each year, young musicians from around Upper Franconia come together during the week leading up to Easter to form the Upper Franconia Youth Symphony Orchestra. Here they focus on demanding concert literature and subsequently perform it in the context of three public Easter concerts.

The project *3Klang* ("Triad") seeks to bridge generations with the help of music. The brass band *Rekkenze Brass* brings the interactive concert experience to schools and social institutions on behalf of the district.





Master classes at the highest level

No other musical education centre in Europe is quite like Haus Marteau. It combines modern teaching with a museum-like atmosphere of the unique villa that belonged to world-famous violin virtuoso Henri Marteau.

The villa once served as a meeting place for European artists, and a place where Henri Marteau taught his most talented students. Since 1982, the International Music Centre has been inviting young artists from all over the world to exchange ideas and carry out highly focused work together.

Under the auspices of the District of Upper Franconia, around 40 master classes are held each year with internationally renowned lecturers for almost all instrumental genres and for singing.

In addition, violinists from all over the world compete at the Henri Marteau International Violin Competition, organized by the Hofer Symphoniker ("Hof Symphony Orchestra") on behalf of the district. In memory of Marteau, the district supports highly talented young artists with money and other prizes, concert engagements, and radio productions to facilitate their international careers.

Legacy of a great violinist

Henri Marteau (1874 – 1934) had his villa, which is surrounded by a spacious park, built as a summer residence in 1912 – 1913. For over 50 years, Marteau filled the halls with his masterful violin playing – the violin virtuoso gave more than 3,000 concerts in Europe, North America, and the Middle East.

He also made an international name for himself early on as a violin teacher. In 1900 he was appointed to the *Conservatoire de musique* in Geneva; the German-Frenchman then taught as a violin professor at the *Hochschule für Musik* in Berlin.

World War I brought a tragic turning point to the artist's life: as a French reserve officer, he was arrested under suspicion of espionage. The great violinist lost his position in Berlin and was never able to repeat the successes of his illustrious career.

In the Lichtenberg villa, which became the family's main residence after the war, Marteau taught students from all over the world until his early death in 1934.

The district of Upper Franconia is continuing this tradition by holding master classes in the artist's villa, which still features the valuable original interior and furnishings of the residence.

The *Freundeskreis Haus Marteau* is another organization that focuses on cultivating Marteau's legacy (marteau-ev.de).

Breathtaking spatial effect

The new underground teaching and concert hall provides a setting with excellent acoustics and spectacular architecture.

Lichtenberg's mining history inspired architect Peter Haimerl to capture the atmosphere in a mine. The up to 13-metre-long, interlocking granite peaks on the ceiling and walls shape the space, eliciting an impressive play of light and shadow.

The spatial design focuses on critical listening and interaction with the concert audience.

The teaching and concert hall, which is located below the artists' villa to one side, is 13x13 metres in size. The stage area (ca. 66 m²) is located about four-and-a-half metres below ground level. The hall with 86 permanently installed seats is used for teaching the master classes; it also provides an excellent setting for the final concerts.