

## Celebrations of 2020: The Lobkowitz Palace Museum celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven

Lobkowitz Palace  
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[www.lobkowitz.cz](http://www.lobkowitz.cz)

The Lobkowitz Palace Museum in the Prague Castle complex joins the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the world-famous German composer Ludwig van Beethoven. Thanks to Joseph Franz Maximilian, 7th Prince Lobkowitz (1772–1816), visitors to the permanent exhibition have a unique opportunity to see, for example, the first printed edition of *Symphony No. 3 in E flat major*, known as *Eroica*, or the original performing parts with autograph alternations and corrections by Beethoven for his *Symphony No. 4 in B*, and *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*.

### Loans

In cooperation with the *Bundeskunsthalle* and *Beethoven-Haus* in Bonn, The Lobkowitz Collections has loaned a portrait of the composer's prominent patron, Joseph Franz Maximilian, 7th Prince Lobkowitz, and his wife Marie Caroline Schwarzenberg, Princess Lobkowitz, for an exhibition entitled *Beethoven - Welt.Bürger.Musik*. Another planned cooperation will be a loan to the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. On March 25, 2020, they will open an exhibition entitled *Beethoven Bewegt*, for which The Lobkowitz Collections will loan original performing parts with autograph alternations and corrections by Beethoven for his *Symphony No. 5 in C minor*, parts for the *Prometheus Overture*, and a set of parts for the *Egmont Overture*.

*"We greatly appreciate our cooperation with the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, and are delighted that museum visitors will be able to see the Symphony No. 5 and both Overtures in Vienna, where they were played publicly in the nearby Lobkowitz Palace. The parts will be temporarily exhibited in the vicinity of other exemplars in Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien, of which the 7th Prince of Lobkowitz was one of the founding members,"* explains the Director of Administration and Educational Programming at The Lobkowitz Collections.



### Eroica

The symphony was originally called "Bonaparte" and was intended to be dedicated to Napoleon. However, when Napoleon declared himself Emperor, a disillusioned Beethoven decided to rename the symphony and to dedicate it to his main patron and music lover, Joseph Franz Maximilian, 7th Prince Lobkowitz. Beethoven's dedication to the Prince is written on the front page of the edition. The heroic symphony was first performed during private rehearsals at the Lobkowitz Palace in Vienna in the spring of 1804. This edition is of great importance for musical history because of the corrections and annotations written in Beethoven's own hand. The parts of the symphony in this exhibition, whose many markings, and stained corners and edges indicate much use, were printed in October 1806 and represent the very first edition of the work to be published. This earliest version of the first edition contains handwritten



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corrections made by Beethoven and the publisher, who no doubt wished to ensure that the dedicatee had a definitive copy.

The two met in 1792, shortly after Beethoven arrived in Vienna. The 7th Prince followed the development of the composer closely, and along with Archduke Rudolf and Prince Kinsky, Joseph Franz Maximilian guaranteed Beethoven an annuity that would allow him to work without financial worry. Beethoven repaid Joseph Franz Maximilian by dedicating a number of pieces to him, including the six String Quartets Opus 18, the Triple Concerto, the *Harp* Quartet Opus 74, the *lieder* cycle *An die ferne Geliebte*, and Symphonies Nos. 3, 5 and 6.

The first rehearsals and private performances of the *Eroica* Symphony took place in late May or early June 1804 at the Lobkowitz Palace in Vienna. That October, after private performances of the new symphony at his Bohemian estates, Prince Lobkowitz made two handsome payments to Beethoven; these paid for the exclusive rights to it that he had enjoyed during this period, and secured the dedications of this work and the *Triple Concerto*. The Lobkowitz family is one of the most distinguished princely families in Central Europe. To an extent that is hard for us to imagine today, they have supported musical and artistic creation for more than four centuries.



[lobkowitz.cz](http://lobkowitz.cz)

### About the Lobkowitz Collections:

The oldest and largest private collection in the Czech Republic, the Lobkowitz Collections were lost twice and regained twice — first by the Nazis and later by the Communists. With the passage of the restitution laws in the early 1990s, the family reclaimed and reassembled the Collections, making these previously hidden treasures comprehensively available to the public, for the first time in history.

Opened in 2007, the Lobkowitz Palace Museum features world-famous paintings by Canaletto, Bruegel, and Velázquez; Medieval and Renaissance works of art; exceptional arms and armor; and ceramics, including the largest surviving Delft dinner service in the world (c.1685). Also, on view are fine musical instruments and rare, hand-annotated manuscripts by many of the greatest composers of the 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> centuries, including Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. The Collections are vividly brought to life with a family-narrated audio guide.

### Contact for journalists

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