

The Beethoven Monument in Bonn and Artistic Freedom



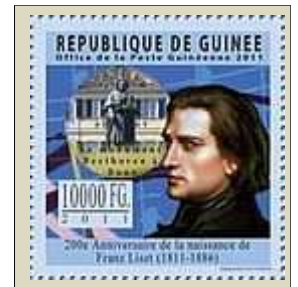
The Beethoven monument in Bonn was designed by the sculptor Ernst Julius Hähnel (1811-1891). It was carried out by the Nuremberg sculptor and ore caster Jacob Daniel Burgschmiet (1796-1858).

The statue shows the composer standing in a wide cloak. He is holding a notebook in his left hand and a pencil in his right hand.



The four allegorical representations on the pedestal symbolize the different types of music that Beethoven composed.

The production of the monument cost 13,000 thalers, of which Franz Liszt alone took over 2,666 thalers.



The monument was unveiled on Bonn's Münsterplatz on the occasion of the first Beethoven Festival in Bonn on August 12, 1845.



Beethoven would not have been able to compose any of his works without taking the artistic freedom to break up deadlocked structures and to leave the well-trodden paths.



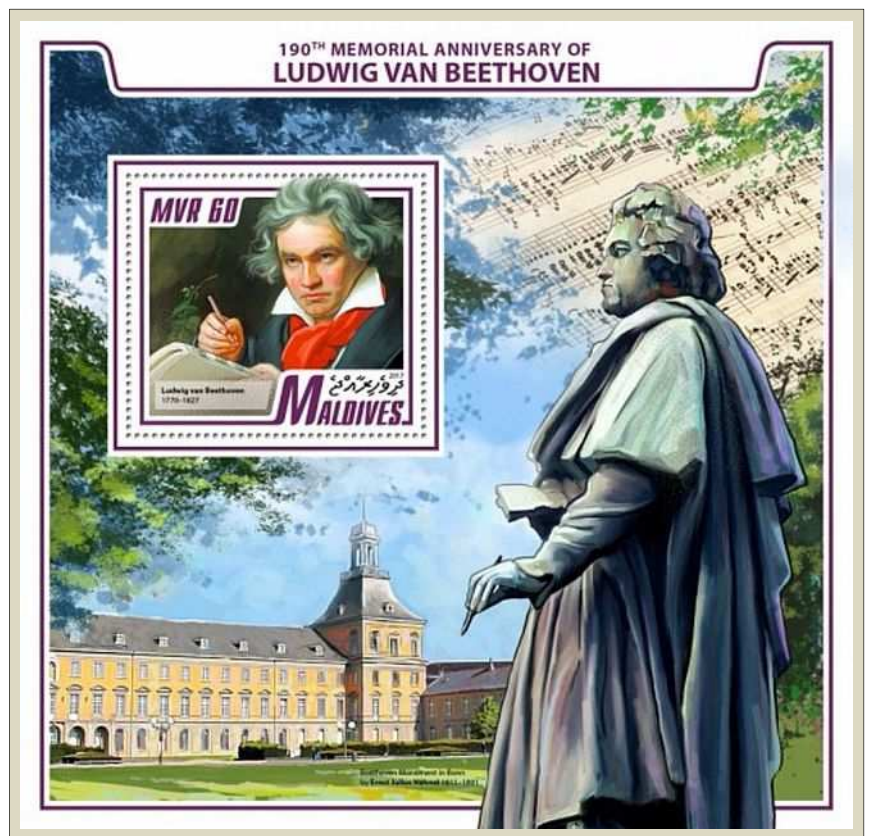
What was once right for the master should be cheap for his monument ...

... and so the statue in front of Bonn's main post office occasionally simply picks up the pen in its left hand without being noticed. ☺



For the anniversary of the city of Bonn, the statue already wandered along the banks of the Rhine in 1989, ... ☺

... strolled across the Bonn court garden on the occasion of the 190th anniversary of the master's death - the pencil again in his left hand ... ☺



... and after 175 years it obviously finally turned the back on the Bonn Minster. ☺



Artistic freedom or blasphemy?
The maestro refrains from commenting on this question!

