

JAN CAEYERS

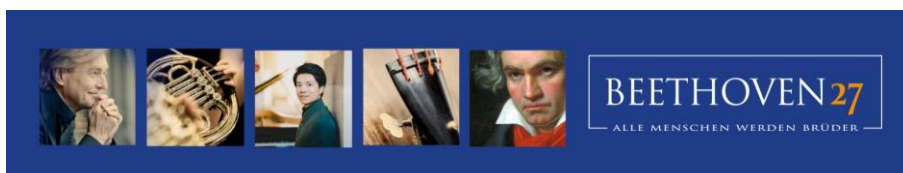
The Belgian conductor and musicologist Jan Caeyers is one of the foremost Beethoven specialists in Europa. He lived, studied and worked in Vienna for many years. From 1993 to 1997 he was Claudio Abbado's assistant at the *Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra*, where he also worked in close collaboration with Bernard Haitink and Pierre Boulez.

In October 2010, he debuted at deSingel in Antwerp with a new Beethoven orchestra he founded: *Le Concert Olympique*. With this orchestra, he has performed in Europe's major concert halls, including the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. He was also a guest conductor in various orchestras, choirs and opera houses in Europe.

Until 2003 Jan Caeyers headed and conducted the *Beethoven Academy* as artist in residence at deSingel in Antwerp, the international art campus of Flanders (Belgium). With the Beethoven Academy, Jan Caeyers performed in the major concert halls of Europe: the Musikverein in Vienna, the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, etc. As a freelance conductor he has worked at the Opera in Stuttgart, with orchestras in Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Florence and Prague, and with the Royal Flemish Philharmonic in Belgium. He has also conducted leading European choral ensembles such as the Arnold Schoenberg Choir in Vienna and the Nederlands Kamerkoor.

Jan Caeyers is a professor emeritus at the University of Leuven and a member of the board of the *Stiftung Beethoven-Haus Bonn*. His years of research on Beethoven and hands-on expertise as a conductor inspired him to write a much-talked-about biography: *Beethoven. A Biography* (published in 2009). The 2012 German translation immediately became a bestseller. In 2020, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, an English edition of this authoritative biography appeared in America, endorsed by and produced in close collaboration with the Beethoven-Haus Bonn. Both *The Financial Times* and *Times Literary Supplement* named the biography the 'Best Book of the Year 2020 – Classical music'. A Chinese translation will be released in the fall of 2023.

Jan Caeyers played a leading role in Germany and around the world during the great Beethoven Year 2020: he collaborated on several documentaries about Beethoven (including for the BBC, ARTE, ZDF and Austrian television) and was a central guest during the Beethoven Week on German radio in





Baden-Baden. In the spring of 2020, he had his own evening radio show on Belgian radio station Klara, leading to a top-rated podcast. He also compiled a four-volume CD box set, 'The Best of Beethoven' on behalf of Klara. In addition, he gave lectures and theatre monologues on Beethoven.

Between 2024 and the second Beethoven year 2027 (the bicentenary of Beethoven's death), Jan Caeyers' focus will be on the ambitious project Beethoven27, in which he will perform Beethoven's 27 most important choral and orchestral works in the 27 EU countries together with pianist Kit Armstrong, Le Concert Olympique and the Arnold Schoenberg Choir from Vienna. These works will be recorded in both audio and video during the project. In addition, Jan Caeyers is writing a new book on Beethoven's most important compositions.

