



Fest der Freude

Free concert with the Vienna Symphonic Orchestra, 8th May 2014

The liberation from National Socialism was first framed as the Fest der Freude (*'Festival of Joy'*) in 2013 on Heldenplatz (Heroes' Square). More than ten thousand people came to listen to the Vienna Symphonic.

The Mauthausen Committee Austria (MKÖ) will be again holding a free concert in cooperation with Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW), the Vienna Jewish Community, the Verein Gedenkdienst and the Vienna Symphonic Orchestra on the anniversary of liberation.

The event will also feature addresses by well-known speakers and survivors, including Barbara Prammer, president of the Austrian parliament. Willi Mernyi, Chairman of the Mauthausen Committee Austria will deliver the opening address, with Katharina Stemberger presenting. The Vienna Symphonic, conducted by Bertrand de Billy, will play works by Ludwig van Beethoven, George Gershwin and others.

The 8th of May 1945 saw the defeat of the national socialist regime by allied troops and the unconditional surrender of the German army, ending the criminal war of aggression and annihilation in Europe. The *Fest der Freude* is both a celebration of liberation from the national socialist regime, but also as a memorial for the millions of people persecuted and murdered by national socialists, as well as the people who took part in resistance against the regime.

The *Fest der Freude* free concert will be held for the second time on the 8th May at 7.30pm on Vienna's Heldenplatz. The concert will take place in any weather and there are only a limited number of seats.

For more information, please contact the organisers – the Mauthausen Committee Austria (www.mkoe.at).