

Renovation and enlargement of the Marteau House

The Marteau House hosts high-level master classes for elite musicians from all over the world. The majority of the approximately 40 master classes in classical music conclude with a final concert held in the artist's villa.

In 2016, the Upper Franconia's District Congress decided that the growing number of concertgoers and the space requirements in the villa that once belonged to violin virtuoso Henri Marteau (1874-1934) had made it necessary to enlarge this international music venue. Renowned Munich architect Peter Haimerl, known for the concert hall he designed in Blaibach, was tasked with planning the project.

Lowering the foundation of the villa by 60 cm provided the room height required for three new practice rooms. Peter Haimerl's design for the 13 x 13 m underground classroom and concert hall was inspired by the area's past as a mining site containing many iron, copper ore, and fluorspar mines. It is the first of its kind, as granite peaks weighing up to seven tons were used as acoustic diffusers. The 32 granite spikes on the walls and ceiling were planned and installed by the company Kusser, which is based in Aicha vorm Wald.

The stage in the classroom and concert hall, which can hold up to 100 people, is about 4.5 m below the ground. It is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2020/21. The structural alterations made to the Marteau House will help to strengthen the Hochfranken region and secure the future of this international music venue. District President Henry Schramm is convinced that the arts and culture scene in Upper Franconia as a whole will benefit greatly from the work of the artist's villa: "In the Marteau House, future international world-class musicians will work with renowned instructors who have extensive international concert experience and will share what they have learned in the workshop with the concertgoers. The new classroom and concert hall will enable us to ensure that rural areas can also provide an appropriate setting for first-rate cultural events."