



Johann Valentin Rathgeber is most probably the most well-known composer of Frankonia who is also regarded the most inspired and prolific petite master among the many monastic composers of his time. As a Southern German antipode to Telemann, he is a very important connecting link between Baroque and the Classical Era. Thus, he is one answer to the often asked question how Mozart was possible that soon after Bach. Rathgeber got famous mainly due to the so called "Tafelconfect of Ausgburg", a collection of amusing songs. However, his main area was sacred vocal music.

The touring exhibition "Valentin Rathgeber (1682-1750). His Life - His Work - His Meaning" seeks to trace the phenomenon Rathgeber in different areas by showing the time in which he lived and the context within which he acted.

Contrary to many of his contemporaries, Rathgeber had a very modern attitude in his compositions. He expressed not only a certain personal style synthesizing facility, brevity and suavity, but was responsive to the needs of his audience. In that respect, he could merchandise his compositions very successfully. He wrote appealing sacred music especially for small ensembles that was played and enjoyed till the middle of the 19th century in the Catholic regions.

Rathgeber was engaged in the whole of Europe and found sponsors in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Hungary who helped funding his compositions. the following topics are addressed

- on 25 boards, two show cases and several free-standing exhibits: 1) Characterization of his time
2) Place of birth and infancy
3) Time in Würzburg
4) Time in Banz
5) Rathgeber's public relations tour
6) Patrons and sponsors
7) Rathgeber's music
8) Rathgeber Renaissance

Rathgeber still survives as a composer due to his oeuvre. That's why audioguides are offered since they could supply audio samples. A detailed exhibition catalogue explains all issues in a easily comprehensive way and presents further information.

Opening of the exhibition "Johann Valentin Rathgeber"

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The exhibition will be opened in the Elstal-Hall Oberelsbach on Easter Monday, **April 9, 2007**, at

2.00 pm

with a ceremonial act. Besides the honorary guests, the public is also heartily invited. After the celebratory lecture "News to the biography of Rathgeber" by the president of the Valentin-Rathgeber-Society, it is possible for the honorary guests to visit the exhibition first within the scope of a reception. After

4.00 pm

the exhibition opens for the public. In the meantime coffee and rolls are provided. The celebratory lecture will summarize the latest research on the life of Rathgeber that could be obtained within the preparation of the exhibition. Some sensational new information could be collected regarding his infancy and youth in the Rhön and in Würzburg, but also regarding his engagement in Banz.