

Leipzig, 9 October 1989

21 years of Peaceful Revolution

Occasion/Background

On 9 October 1989, in spite of orders to shoot, about 70,000 people gathered in Leipzig churches after prayers for peace, holding candles, to demonstrate for human rights and more freedom. Calling "We are the people" and "No violence" they gathered together for a march along the Leipzig city centre ring road. In the city several thousand policemen and soldiers were ready to break up the demonstration by force. The Monday demonstrations went off peacefully and set the course for the radical changes in Europe. Only one month later the wall in Berlin fell.

Leipzig Festival of Lights Project

The Art and Civil Project Leipzig Festival of Lights which was initiated as a memory of autumn 89 focuses exactly on these aspects and inspires the personal, national and international discussion such as democracy, freedom and civil involvement.

Leipzig Festival of Lights 2010

The Leipzig Festival of Lights 2010 focuses on 20 years of German Unity. Without the brave demonstrators on 9 October 1989 in Leipzig there would have been neither the 9 November 1989 in Berlin nor the 3 October 1990. That was the precondition for the unity of Europe.

Synchronous organ concert

The historical relationship between Leipzig and Berlin will be experienced musically and visually: A synchronous organ concert in the St. Nicholas Church (Cantor of the St. Nicholas Church Jürgen Wolf) and in the domed hall of the Bundestag in Berlin (Prof. Domenico Tagliente) will be broadcast live and will be heard as a combined concert at Augustusplatz in Leipzig, the historical meeting place in 1989.

Pop-performance and laser installation

Singer and song writer Rolf Stahlhofen will perform together with artists from various nations the song "Zeit was zu ändern" ("It is time for change") in different languages. After this the forceful organ sounds from Jürgen Wolf will combine with the pop music of Rolf Stahlhofen and a laser projection of the word "WIR" ("US") in various languages, producing an acoustic and visual combined art work.

Extensive citizen participation

Candles were the dominant theme in the autumn of 1989 in Leipzig and in 2010 the medium is light as well. Parallel to the artistic impressions, guests of the Festival of Lights are invited to create with their candles a resplendent "89".

Overall organisation:
Leipzig Toursimus und Marketing GmbH

www.leipziger-freiheit.de

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