

“Festival of Freedom” Honoring the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Berlin, October 16, 2009 On November 9 in Berlin, history will meet up with the present. Witnesses of a bygone era will encounter the youth of today, and powerful orchestral music will be juxtaposed with expectant silence – when the Freedom Festival is celebrated with visitors from around the world at the Brandenburg Gate.

Prominent figures of contemporary history and politics have indicated their attendance, including Nobel Peace Prize laureates Kofi Annan and Mikhail Gorbachev. They will be present when a symbolic wall once more collapses in the German capital. In March, both young persons and prominent figures, such as Nelson Mandela, began exercising their creativity in the construction of around a thousand giant polystyrene dominoes for this event. By November 7, these will be set up along the former course of the Berlin Wall from the Reichstagsufer road to Potsdamer Platz, where spectators can view them like a huge open-air exhibition. Two days later – on the anniversary date of the fall of the Wall – the dominoes will fall, marking the emotional climax of the celebration.

The Festival of Freedom will also include other highlights: it will be kicked off in the evening with a concert performed by the Berliner Staatskapelle under the direction of its world-famous conductor, Daniel Barenboim. Afterward, the symbolic fall of the Wall will take place with live television broadcasts of the event throughout Germany. Another highlight will be the subsequent fireworks display and laser show above Brandenburg Gate. Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to be on hand for this event and other impressive moments in Berlin as they celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

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