

**Interview with Liz Mohn, Vice Chair, Bertelsmann Stiftung; Founder and CEO,
Liz Mohn Kultur- und Musikstiftung (Liz Mohn Foundation for Culture and Music)**

(from the Bertelsmann Intranet BENET)

Mrs. Mohn, what fascinates you about the Archivio Ricordi and the “Enterprise of Opera” exhibition at Bertelsmann Unter den Linden 1 in Berlin?

The Ricordi commitment gives me great joy and I think it is very important that Bertelsmann takes responsibility here! The world of opera continues to have its very own magic. We treat such cultural assets with great care and make them accessible to a wide audience.

How important is music for you?

Music and especially the opera have fascinated me all my life. For more than 25 years I have actively promoted young talent in opera with the international NEUE STIMMEN contest. In 2005 I founded the Liz Mohn Foundation for Culture and Music to promote understanding between children and teens from different cultural backgrounds through music. Music is a universal language. It connects people across nations, cultures and religions.

Will the “Enterprise of Opera” exhibition only be seen in Berlin?

I campaigned to make sure that this unique exhibition comes to Gütersloh too, where it will be shown in the city’s new theater to kick off the Autumn of Classics - from October 7th to 21st, which means it will be here on 200th anniversary of Verdi's birth on October 10th. Afterwards, the exhibition will travel in order to reach the widest possible audience. Verdi is revered around the world and it is wonderful that Bertelsmann can make a contribution, not only to preserving his artistic heritage, but to make it visible and tangible using advanced techniques and means.