



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Houston



RICE UNIVERSITY'S  
**BAKER INSTITUTE**  
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

## The Miracle of Leipzig

Sunday, November 2, 2014

4:30 pm

Doré Commons

James A. Baker III Hall

Rice University

### About the Event

Welcome to a very special retrospective of the 25th anniversary of the end of the Cold War. This event is a prelude to a Nov. 3, 2014, performance by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra at the Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, presented by the Houston Symphony and the Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association in conjunction with the City of Houston and the German Consulate General in Houston. The concert marks the first performance of a five-city tour of the United States to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany. Former President George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State James A. Baker, III, are the honorary chairs for the Houston performance. For tickets and more information about the concert, please visit [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org) or call 713.224.7575.

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### Welcoming Remarks

#### **Allen Matusow, Ph.D.**

Director of Academic Affairs, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy  
William Gaines Twyman Professor of History, Rice University

### Musical Performance

#### **Sinfonietta Leipzig**

Volker Hemken, Bass Clarinet  
Yun-Jin Cho, Karl Heinrich Niebuhr, Violin  
Tahlia Petrosian, Viola  
Matthias Schreiber, Violoncello

Works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Jan Koetsier

### Film Excerpt

#### **"The Miracle of Leipzig"**

### Opening Remarks

#### **The Honorable J.D. Bindenagel**

Former Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in East Berlin

### Panel Discussion

#### **Todd Becker**

Former Consul General of the United States in Leipzig

#### **Peter C. Caldwell, Ph.D.**

Samuel G. McCann Professor of History, Rice University

#### **Rainer Eckert, Ph.D.**

Director, Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History

### Question and Answer Session

### Reception

### **About the Film "The Miracle of Leipzig"**

"The Miracle of Leipzig" is a documentary film directed by Sebastian Dehnhardt and Matthias Schmidt that relates the events of October 1989 in Leipzig, where thousands of East Germans took to the streets in a peaceful protest calling for freedom and democratic reforms. Through interviews with citizens of Leipzig and eyewitnesses from both sides of the face-off, the film tells the story of the "Monday demonstrations" that marked the beginning of the end of the German Democratic Republic.

### **About the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra**

The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is the oldest civic symphony orchestra in the world, its history stretching back over 250 years. Led by Riccardo Chailly and numbering 185 musicians, the orchestra dedicates itself to a rich, diverse repertoire and gives over 200 performances each year. Its distinguished reputation and enduring influence on the history of music, its countless appearances on every continent of the globe since 1916, and hundreds of recordings have made the orchestra one of the most beloved of our time.

### **Participants**

**Robert W. (Todd) Becker** is a faculty member in the political science department at Salisbury University, where he teaches courses in European government, American foreign policy, and conflict analysis and dispute resolution. He began his career with the U.S. Foreign Service in 1966, serving in Greece, the Fiji Islands and Germany over the span of 34 years. Becker was appointed consul general of the United States in Leipzig in 1991. While serving in this post, he helped found the Leipzig International School. Following his retirement from the State Department in 2000, Becker worked for seven years as deputy head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) missions in Croatia. In 2008 and 2009, he was the deputy head of the OSCE mission in Ukraine. In 2011, he served as a special advisor to the Lithuanian foreign minister during Lithuania's chairmanship of the OSCE. Becker holds a master's degree in German studies and Central European history from the University of Minnesota.

**The Honorable J.D. Bindenagel** is a retired U.S. career diplomat and a special advisor to Strategy XXI Partners, where he advises clients on matters of domestic and international policy. He previously served as vice president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and as vice president of DePaul University. In

1999, Bindenagel was appointed by President Bill Clinton as U.S. ambassador and special envoy for Holocaust issues. He also served as the special U.S. negotiator for "conflict diamonds." From 1994 to 1997, he served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany. He was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in the German Democratic Republic from 1989 to 1990. Prior to his diplomatic career, he was assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Germany. Bindenagel received the U.S. Department of State's Distinguished Service Award, the Commander's Cross of the Federal Order of Merit from the President of Germany, and the Presidential Meritorious Service Award from President George W. Bush. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Peter C. Caldwell, Ph.D.**, is a professor of history at Rice University. He is a Humboldt Fellow and has received grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Humboldt Foundation, as well as a residential fellowship at the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. Caldwell's scholarly work focuses on the meanings of democracy and constitutionalism in Germany's first republic, conservatism and state theory, legal theory and the welfare state, and the economics and law of planning under state socialism. He is presently working on a project linking the development of political thought and culture in West Germany to the real and perceived crises of the welfare state. He is the author of "Popular Sovereignty and the Crisis of German Constitutional Law: The Theory and Practice of Weimar Constitutionalism" (Duke University Press, 1997), "Dictatorship, State Planning, and Social Theory in the German Democratic Republic" (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and "Love, Death, and Revolution in Central Europe" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). He holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

**Rainer Eckert, Ph.D.**, is the director of the Leipzig Forum of Contemporary History and a professor of political science at the Institute for the Study of Culture at Leipzig University. He was previously a scientific assistant at the Central Institute for History at the Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic, an assistant at the Institute for History at Humboldt University, and a lecturer at Freie Universität Berlin. He has written numerous publications on contemporary history, including "Resistance and Opposition in the GDR." He is a member of numerous scientific associations and executive committees, as well as a recipient of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Saxon Constitution Medal. Eckert received his Ph.D. in 1984.

**Allen Matusow, Ph.D.**, is the academic affairs director at the Baker Institute and the William Gaines Twyman Professor of History at Rice University. He joined the Rice faculty in 1963 and served as the dean of humanities from 1981 to 1995. He specializes in 20th-century U.S. history and has written or edited five books, including "The Unraveling of America: A History of Liberalism in the 1960s" and "Nixon's Economy: Booms, Busts, Dollars and Votes." Matusow, who continues to teach history, is writing a book on former President Jimmy Carter's search for peace in the Middle East.

## Organizing Partners

### Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Houston

The aim of the German Consulate General in Houston is to effectively represent the interests of Germany, German trade and industries, and the German people living in its region. The consulate's jurisdiction covers the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. It provides a wide range of information on travel, study and doing business in Germany, as well as German-related news and events in the area.

### Houston Symphony

During the 2014-2015 season, the Houston Symphony enters its second century as one of America's leading orchestras with a full complement of concert, community, education, touring and recording activities. This season also marks the inaugural year for new music director Andrés Orozco-Estrada. The Houston Symphony is one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Texas. Its inaugural performance was held at the Majestic Theater in downtown Houston on June 21, 1913. Today, with an annual operating budget of \$29 million, the full-time ensemble of 87 professional musicians is the largest performing arts organization in Houston, presenting more than 286 performances for 300,000 people, including 82,000 children, annually. For tickets and more information, please visit [www.houstonsymphony.org](http://www.houstonsymphony.org) or call 713.224.7575.

### Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association

Shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, a young student from Leipzig approached Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C., with the idea of establishing a sister city relationship between his hometown and Houston. In March 1992, the Friendship Association Leipzig-Houston was founded in Leipzig. In the wake of the Leipzig initiative, a number of Houston citizens interested in pursuing a closer relationship with Leipzig approached then-Mayor Bob Lanier. Lanier introduced a resolution of support and endorsement of the Houston-Leipzig Sister City

Association that was unanimously approved by Houston City Council on April 29, 1992. The resolution, together with a city proclamation, was presented to German President Richard von Weizsäcker on the occasion of his visit to Houston that year. A groundswell of support in Leipzig and Houston gave the sister city relationship a dynamic and auspicious start that continues to this day. For more information, visit [www.houstonleipzig.org](http://www.houstonleipzig.org).

### **Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy**

The mission of the Baker Institute is to help bridge the gap between the theory and practice of public policy by drawing together experts from academia, government, media, business and nongovernmental organizations. By involving policymakers and scholars, as well as students (tomorrow's policymakers and scholars), the institute seeks to improve the debate on selected public policy issues and to make a difference in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policy, both domestic and international. The Baker Institute is an integral part of Rice University, one of the nation's most distinguished institutions of higher education. The efforts of Baker Institute fellows and affiliated Rice faculty focus on several ongoing research projects, details of which can be found on the institute's website, [www.bakerinstitute.org](http://www.bakerinstitute.org).