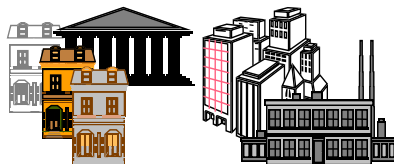


Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association



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EDITOR: A. C. SCHMIDT-LANGE

P. O. Box 55853, HOUSTON, TX 77255-5853

TEL: 713-973-9399 – FAX: 713-973-9499

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E-MAIL: angelika@hal-pc.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends:

Our 10th Anniversary Year is in full swing!!!!. The March meeting was exceptionally well-attended, and featured a compelling presentation concerning the German view of the Iraq War from The Rev. Christian Wolff of the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. Pastor Wolff's speech was followed by a lively debate over the merits of the military action. (This kind of exchange was clearly what President Eisenhower had in mind when he envisioned an International Sister City program.)

This month, on Sunday, April 27, at 5:00 p.m., we are honored to have as our featured speaker Mr. Joseph Gaines, an upcoming star tenor from Houston, who studied in Leipzig for two semesters under an Ambassador Fellowship from the Rotary Foundation. He will also discuss his documentary film project, and may honor us with an aria or two (*see related article on p. 2*).

Please note that we still need volunteers for the Houston International Festival Booth on the weekends of April 26/27 and May 3/4. If you would like to volunteer and receive a FREE day pass to the Festival, please write to Roy De Gesero at roydeq@aol.com right away.

Finally, Jim Patterson's 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee met recently and definite plans for our Banquet/Celebration should be announced soon!!!!

See you all on April 27, and don't forget: IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR 2003 DUES!

Stephen L. Braun, President

NEXT MEETING:

“AN AMERICAN IN LEIPZIG”

Joseph Gaines

STAR SOLOIST AND DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKER

Come and Hear About His Adventures as a Concert and Opera Performer in Leipzig – Come and See a Clip of his Film *Kunst in der Republik* Documenting the Lives of Leipzig Artists Who Worked in the Former East Germany -- Come and Hear an Aria or two

Sunday, April 27, 2003

Wine and Cheese Reception

Parish Hall

Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Boulevard

5:00 p.m. Reception

5:30 p.m. Program

Members: \$5.00

Non-Members and Guests: \$10.00

(see related article on p. 2)



Congratulations!!!

Leipzig to Compete for Germany

As Host Of the 2012 Olympics

On April 12, 2003, the German National Olympic Committee announced Leipzig as Germany's official candidate in the international competition for the Olympic Games 2012.

Leipzig's extraordinary presentation defeated the competing cities of Hamburg, Frankfurt, Duesseldorf and Stuttgart.

We wish Leipzig all success in their endeavor to host the 2012 Olympics.

For an article in the *Leipziger Volkszeitung*, see:
<http://www.lvs-online.de/special/44435.html>

AN AMERICAN IN LEIPZIG

Joseph Gaines, a native Houstonian, graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from the University of Houston in 2001 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance. A student of both the university's Moores School of Music and the Honors College, he devoted time to volunteering as a peer counselor for incoming freshmen and in promoting both the university and the city of Houston in recruiting and public relations events. During his studies at the university, he was active as a singer in church and synagogue choirs and as a soloist throughout the greater Houston area, including the choir of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the Bach Choir of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

In October of 2001, Mr. Gaines was awarded an Ambassadorial Fellowship from the Rotary Foundation and relocated to Leipzig, Germany, to study singing for two semesters at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy." In addition to his concert and opera performances at the Hochschule, he was very active as a concert soloist throughout eastern and northern Germany and Denmark. His other projects during this time include a six-month online "Leipzig Journal" and an independent documentary film project *Kunst in der Republik* (Art during the Republic), currently in production by Romanstyle Films in New York. The film is expected to debut at the 46th Annual Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film in October of 2003.

Mr. Gaines currently resides in the Washington, D.C. area, where he is a soloist for St. Paul's Parish, K-Street and for the Washington Bach Consort. He was recently a finalist in the New York auditions for the Merola Young Artist Program of the San Francisco Opera.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...LEIPZIG HAS EUROPE'S THIRD-OLDEST OPERA?

The hour of birth of the Leipzig Opera came as early as 1693, which makes it the third-oldest musical stage in Europe after Milan and Hamburg. In 1993 the Leipzig Opera was made "Opera of the Year".

Source: Leipzig Tourist Service e.V., Richard-Wagner-Strasse 1, D-04109 Leipzig

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...THE FIRST GERMAN CONSERVATORY WAS FOUNDED IN LEIPZIG?

In 1843, with the support of Robert Schumann, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Gewandhaus Orchestra chief conductor in Leipzig from 1835-1847, founded the first German conservatory for professional training of young musicians.

Source: Leipzig Tourist Service e.V., Richard-Wagner-Strasse 1, D-04109 Leipzig

2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES

This is for those of you who still haven't paid dues – you know who you are:

__STUDENT	10.00	__CORPORATE	150.00
__INDIVIDUAL	25.00	__SPONSOR	250.00
__FAMILY	40.00	__PATRON	500.00

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Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association
c/o Otto Goedecke, Treasurer
5544 Holly Springs
Houston, TX 77056

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www.sistercitieshouston.org

www.leipzig.de

SEND FAX, E-MAIL OR CALL YOUR EDITOR

Do you have news or an event to share? Want to comment, critique, create a column or communicate with other Leipzig aficionados? Call your editor at 713-973-9399, send a fax at 713-973-9499, or e-mail at angelika@hal-pc.org.