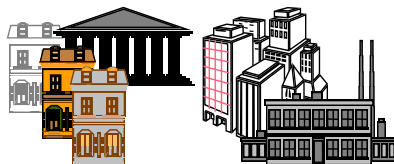


# Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association



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## **HOUSTON-LEIPZIG STUDENT EXCHANGE: NEW FRIENDS FOR LIFE**

This year marks the second time that HLSCA sponsored a student exchange for three students from Houston and three from Leipzig. During the summer Elvira, Doug, and Jorge spent two weeks in Leipzig, and now are hosting Theresa, Jakob, and Johannes, their friends from Leipzig.

The Leipzig students are having a wonderful time in Houston, and you will hear from them once they have had an opportunity to reflect on their stay.

The trip for the Houston students started out with a delayed plane and lost luggage; an ominous sign, some thought. They were "thrilled to go," yet nervous at the same time as to what experiences they would encounter. All of their worries vanished when they were welcomed with open arms.

They became acquainted with exhaustion and sleep deprivation after their arrival, yet eagerly embraced their new life. "What? We are walking, taking a street car, and riding on a train?" They also took a "peaceful ride on the autobahn at 110 mph."

Instead of a country famous for beer, they found an "amazing country, full of rich culture." One loved the churches with their "complex and simply stunning organs," and considered the architecture "cool, but in a reverent sort of way." They took a city tour of Leipzig, visited the zoo, and went sightseeing in Dresden and Berlin. The U.S. Consul General in Leipzig Mark Scheland invited them to the Independence Day Celebrations, where they met Mayor Burkhard Jung, and some HLSCA members visiting from Houston.

*Continued on p. 2*

## **CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE BACH SOCIETY FOR 25 YEARS OF WONDERFUL MUSIC**

### **Mark Your Calendars**

We cordially Invite You to Join Us  
at the

Annual Meeting and Program  
November 15, 2007

Christmas Party  
December 13, 2007

Details to Be Announced Soon



## **A Night of Burning Candles – Leipzig Remembers**

In the fall of each year the people of Leipzig quietly celebrate the success of their 'Peaceful Revolution' in October 1989, when thousands of citizens marched with burning candles in their hands and a prayer on their lips against the tanks and army of the socialist regime. They also commemorate their friends and family members, who suffered at the hands of the government or the infamous Stasi.

This year Mayor Burkhard Jung, together with honored guests and citizens, mark October 9 by placing thousands of candles in the shape of a large "89," symbol of the peaceful revolution, in the courtyard of the Nikolai Church in the evening. Earlier in the afternoon the President of the Upper House of the German Parliament (Bundesrat) will give the traditional Speech on Democracy, followed by a Prayer Service for Peace. Please see [www.herbst89.de](http://www.herbst89.de) for more information.

With their new friends they played indoor beach volleyball, went bowling and indoors climbing; one even climbed some real mountains along the Elbe River. At school, they found that schedules and classroom arrangements are different, but the learning process is about the same.

One student came to love the Hauptbahnhof (central train station) with its bustling atmosphere, shops, and fast food places; for him it was the center of the city.

Elvira, Doug and Jorge “experienced the best in my life I have ever had”; had “the most amazing trip of my life and would not trade my experiences for anything”; and it made “one of the largest impacts on me that just about anything ever has in my life.” One of the students is now working towards studying at the University of Leipzig, and “ultimately teaching English in Germany.”

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### City of the Peaceful Revolution of 1989

Leipzig was the starting point for the events which led to the Peaceful Revolution of 1989. You can visit the original locations of the Nicolai Church, where after Prayers for Peace were said, demonstrations started along the Augustusplatz and the central ring road to the headquarters of the secret police (Stasi), part of which has been incorporated into the Museum in the "Round Corner".

Recent history is brought to life in the [Museum in the "Round Corner" \(Stasi Museum\)](#). Once headquarters of the dreaded East German secret policy force of the Ministry of State Security, it now houses the permanent exhibition "STASI – Power and Banality."

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### Central Train Station

Leipzig's Central Station is one of the largest terminus train stations in Europe. A few years ago sections of the Station were altered to house a state-of-the-art shopping and service center.

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Visit Leipzig on the Web  
[www.leipzig.de](http://www.leipzig.de)

### The Hometown of Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach was Leipzig's musical director – Director *musices lipsiensis* – and Choirmaster of the St. Thomas Boys Choir from 1723 to 1750. The city has dedicated itself to maintaining Bach's heritage with the Bach Archives, the Bach Museum, the St. Thomas Boys Choir, and the Gewandhaus Orchestra.

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### Thank You to Our Corporate and Sustaining Members

Our members are our lifeblood. Without their generous contributions, we could not sponsor our various activities and exchanges between Houston and Leipzig. We thank our corporate and sustaining members for 2007:

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Do you have news or an event to share? Want to comment, critique, create a column, or communicate with other Leipzig aficionados? Call the editor at 713-822-4257, send a fax to 713-464-0255, or email to [angelika@hal-pc.org](mailto:angelika@hal-pc.org)