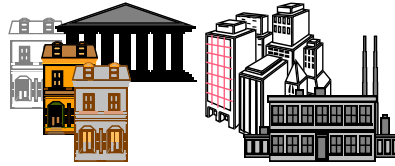


Houston–Leipzig Sister City Association



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"If the hat fits, wear it!" At the last concert of the *Thomanerchor Leipzig* here in Houston, I presented *Thomaskantor* Georg Christoph Biller with a great-looking cowboy hat. A gift from our association, it represented our gratitude for bringing Johann Sebastian Bach's choir first to Houston during their historic, first-time ever tour to the United States. Alas, the hat didn't fit! After we exchanged it for a larger one, Kathy and I took that one to New York City, where Prof. Biller tried it on—still too small! Back home, we once again selected a larger hat, and Angelika and Wolfgang Schmidt took it on their next trip to Leipzig. Finally, the hat matched the head! Now when you see a tall man in Leipzig with a great-looking cowboy hat, you can almost rest assured that it's Prof. Biller.

It is difficult to believe that it has already been two months since the *Thomaner* delighted us with their superb artistry and musicianship. The boys still fondly remember Houston. Their visit was extremely successful, not only because of their enthusiastic reception here, but also because so many people and organizations pulled together to manage funding and the logistics of putting up 80 boys in private homes for five days and ferrying them to various rehearsals, visits and concerts. Our great thanks go to Mrs. Kristi Stewart, the "home coordinator", and all of the families who showed true Texas hospitality to the boys and, of course, we are truly grateful to the many Houston businesses, foundations, churches and schools who supported us wholeheartedly. Lack of space may not allow us to list them all in this newsletter, but we will acknowledge all of them in this and the next few editions.

Now we concentrate on future activities and meetings. Take a look at the upcoming events and stay tuned to what's happening between Houston and Leipzig.

Robert G. Moore, President

MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS

Dr. Robert Lynn is featured at our next meeting on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. We will start with a wine and cheese reception, followed by the formal program at the Melanchthon House, 2352 Rice Boulevard (parking across the street).



Dr. Lynn, a Fulbright grant recipient, will present a "Behind-the-Scenes Look at Music at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig." He is Director of the Bach Choir and Orchestra here in Houston, and after his recent retirement from the University of Houston Moores School of Music continues a busy life of music-making and research. Dr. Lynn will give us some insight into the relationships and interaction between the political and cultural leaders in Leipzig and the music produced in the famous St. Thomas Church during various historical periods to the present.

The charge at the door is \$5.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members.

In June, we expect to have an update from a group of professional people from Leipzig and the surrounding area who are in Houston for about a year to prepare for operating and administering a major industrial project near our sister city.

LEIPZIG ELECTS NEW MAYOR



Elected as Leipzig's new mayor last Sunday, **Wolfgang Tiefensee** will take office on June 1, 1998, replacing current Mayor Hinrich Lehmann-Grube, who has served since the first free elections after the "Wende". After eight years in office, Lehmann-Grube is taking a well-deserved retirement. Many of our members have met him personally, and we wish him well. Mayor-Elect Tiefensee has called Leipzig his home for many years, where his career in City Hall began in 1990 as

member of Leipzig's City Parliament. He has served as Deputy Mayor since 1994. **Congratulations Mayor-Elect Tiefensee!**

HLSCA HAPPENINGS

Neville Remmert of Furr High School led a group of students for their exchange visit to Leipzig last month, and we are eagerly awaiting their report. Sharpstown students will also conduct their reciprocal visit this June. Each of these high schools hosted visitors from Leipzig's *List Schule* and *Brandis Gymnasium* last year. If you know of a high school who is interested in an exchange program with a Leipzig school, please contact your editor.

Dr. David Rubenstein, Executive Professor at the University of Houston in the Executive and Professional MBA programs and recipient of the university's Most Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, will present a program at the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, Leipzig Chapter, about the Financial Crisis in Asia. The program is co-sponsored by our sister organization, the *Freundeskreis Leipzig-Houston*.

SISTER CITIES OF HOUSTON UPDATE

Sister Cities of Houston, the umbrella organization for all of Houston's thirteen sister cities, has some exciting programs in store for us.

Join us for a night of salsa dancing! If you don't know how, there will be lessons for all of us left-footers right then and there. You will also meet members from other sister cities there!

Buffet menu, club entrance fee and salsa lessons are all yours (as long as you are a member of our organization) for \$10.00 on May 13, at Elvia's Cantina, 2727 Fondren Road at Westheimer (probably at 7:00 or 7:30 p.m.) Cash Bar.

The **annual fundraiser for Sister Cities of Houston** will be on October 28 at the Wortham Theater. Neither a gala, nor a formal ball, this is a fun event taking place on the stage of the theater. We'll keep you posted.

MUSIC FROM LEIPZIG

The Bach Society at its final Vespers of the season will present a **special evening of music** from Leipzig. Choral music composed by cantors of the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Johann Sebastian Bach's counterparts from various historical periods--including Georg Christoph Biller, the current *Thomaskantor*--will be sung by the Bach Choir under the direction of Dr. Robert Lynn (our featured speaker in May).

Sunday, May 10, at 5:00 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Boulevard. Admission is free, but you may make an offering to the Bach Society.

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 ACSL@compuserve.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- May 10: MUSIC FROM LEIPZIG
- May 13: Sister Cities Social—SALSA NIGHT AT ELVIA'S
- May 14: DR. ROBERT LYNN ON THE PERHAPS VOLATILE MIX OF POLITICS AND MUSIC IN LEIPZIG
- June 18: VISITORS FROM LEIPZIG
- July: No HLSCA Meeting
- August 20: Program not yet confirmed
- October 28: SISTER CITIES FUNDRAISER AT THE WORTHAM

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Houston-Leipzig Sister City Association
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