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2008 / 2009
Classical Concert Series

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In Memoriam Gunda Hack

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2008 / 2009
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Friday April 17, 2009
7:00pm
Barthelmes Auditorium
611 Spring Garden Street Philadelphia, PA 19123
Calendar of Events

April
Mon. April 20  
Spring Session of Adult Evening German Classes Begins  
Beginner to conversational levels available for all ages and abilities

Wed. April 22  
Konversationsabend, “Keine Angst vor der Zukunft—die Bamberger Apokalypse aus dem Jahre 1000”, Prof. Karlfried Froehlich, 7:00pm

Fri. April 24  
Friday Film Fest, “The Good German”, 6:30pm  
U.S. Army correspondent Jake Geismar gets caught in a web of intrigue with ex-flame Lena set in post-War II Berlin

Sat. April 25  
Spring Session of Saturday Youth German Classes Begins  
Classes for 4-7 year olds and Pre-Teens available

Sun. April 26  
Annual Members’ Meeting, 3:00pm

April 27—May 7  
Trip to Eastern Germany—Weimar, Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin  
With side trips to Görlitz, Wittenberg, and Eisenach

May
Sun. May 3  
“Wister and More!” Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm  
Selections by Gesensway, Mozart, and Dvorak

Fri. May 8  
Friday Film Fest, “Die Luftbrücke”, 6:30pm  
Historic drama about a difficult love affair between a German woman and an American soldier during the Berlin Airlift

Sat. May 16  
108th Anniversary Luncheon of the Women’s Auxiliary

Thurs. May 21  
Konversationsabend, “Das Ende der Schlaflosigkeit – Roman von Helmut Marrat”, 7:00pm

Sun. May 24  
“Wister and More!” Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm  
Selections by Mozart, Dohnanyi, Dvorak, and Griffes

June
Fri. June 5  
Friday Film Fest, A Look at German Comedies, beginning at 3pm  
Das merkwürdige Verhalten geschlechtsreifer Großstädter zur Paarungszeit, 3pm  
Kebab Connection, 5pm  
Männer wie Wir, 8pm

Sat. June 6  
Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am

Sat. June 20  
Wandertag departing from Bulls Island State Park, 10:00am

Sat. June 27  
Sommerfest in our garden “unter den Linden”, 2:00pm – 10:00pm

History of the German Society of Pennsylvania

In 1683 thirteen families from Krefeld under the leadership of Frankfurt lawyer, Franz Daniel Pastorius, founded the first German colony in America: Germantown – today part of Philadelphia. Many of these immigrants formed clubs that enabled them to preserve their cultural heritage. They also formed clubs that emphasized a specific geographic area, such as the Swabians, Bavarians, Saxons, Danube Swabians, Plattdeutsche, Tyroleans, and many others.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764, is the oldest German organization in the United States. It was founded to protect German immigrants from unscrupulous shipping agents and to ensure just treatment on their arrival here.

Since that time, the German Society has dedicated its efforts to preserving German heritage. This it does, for instance, by offering a full-fledged German language program as well as scholarships and prizes to students of German. In addition, the Society is a source of cultural programs, lectures, film series, and seminars. These events build bridges and strengthen national and international relations among individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments.

The fine arts program also includes presentations that feature European music and literature as well as access to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library for education and research. The newly restored Library, holding over 70,000 volumes, is the largest private German library outside the Federal Republic of Germany.

In serving its members and the community, and in all its undertakings, the Society strives to benefit anyone in need of its resources.

Since the time of Pastorius, more than 8,000,000 Germans reached these shores. Today, 29% of the total population in the United States claims Germany ancestry.
Upcoming Concerts

The Wister Quartet
Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 3:00pm

Three remarkable mature works spanning three centuries make up this concert program by the Wister Quartet. The concert opens with Philadelphia composer Louis Gesensway’s engaging “Five Russian Pieces”, wonderfully nostalgic reconstructions of folk music he had heard as a child, followed by one of Mozart’s greatest late string quartets, K. 458 in Bb Major. The program finale is Antonín Dvořák’s delightful blending of energy and eloquence in his G Major quartet, Op. 106.

The Wister Quartet
Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 3:00pm

Sumptuous sound and wonderful atmosphere are the keynotes of this season’s final Wister Quartet concert of four youthful composers. Mozart’s precociously eloquent String Quartet in C Major, K. 157 opens the concert, and American composer Charles Tomlinson Griffes’ evocative “Two Sketches based on Indian Themes” follows. Dvořák’s marvelously atmospheric transcription for string quartet of his love songs, called “Cypresses”, and Ernő Dohnányi’s richly evanescent String Quartet in Db Major, Op. 15 complete the program.

MUSIC, MAGIC & MOONLIGHT
Nancy Fox, Soprano | William Thorpe, Baritone | William Merrill, Pianist

PROGRAM
(listed in alphabetical order)

All of You
Begin the Beguine
Besame Mucho
Clair de lune
Delovely
Every Time We Say Goodbye
I Get a Kick Out of You
I Love a Piano
I’ll Be Seeing You
Italian Street Song
I’ve Got You Under My Skin
Let’s Do It!
Long Ago and Far Away
Marietta’s Lied
Mäusefallen-Sprüchlein
Memory
Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt
Piano Medley
September Song
Smile
So In Love
Speak Low
Summertime
Swanee
S’Wonderful
The Man I Love
This Nearly Was Mine
Wind Beneath My Wings
You Do Something to Me

There will be one 15 minute intermission during the concert
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Cole Porter Trio has worked together for nearly fifteen years. As guests of the People’s Republic of China, they once represented the United States at a United Nations sponsored world concert before an audience of 36,000 in Shanghai, China, and again at the prestigious Beijing Philharmonic Hall. Cole Porter’s family led the standing ovation at their performance for the Cole Porter Centennial in conjunction with the U.S. Post Office release of the Cole Porter first-class postage stamp.

Nancy Fox’s performing career has spanned three decades and three continents. Equally at home in opera, oratorio, and musical theater, she has appeared as soloist with the Detroit Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, Alte Musik Konsort (Austria) the Salt Lake City Oratorio Choir, Michigan Opera Theatre, Pittsburgh Light Opera, the New Jersey Pops, and the Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra. She has sung in twenty-six states in musical revues featuring the music of Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hammerstein, and Jerome Kern, and frequently appears as guest artist in concerts across the country. In addition to having recorded numerous classic American musicals for MMO Records, NY, she has released her recording "Mozart - Voice of Serenity."

William Thorpe splits his performing between the concert stage and on camera. Speaking roles in major films include work with Clint Eastwood, Mel Gibson, Sean Penn, Cameron Diaz, and Frank Langella. By contrast, he has performed principal roles in opera and musical theater ranging from music by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, and Strauss to Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, and Rodgers & Hammerstein (including a production of South Pacific with a genuine, full-sized WWII destroyer as part of the scenery!). He has been soloist on CBS Television, National Public Radio, and with opera companies, theaters, orchestras, music festivals, and concert series in thirty states. He has also appeared in nine national television commercials.

William Merrill, a much sought after pianist and vocal coach, has accompanied many singers in the Boston and New York areas, including recitals at Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall. In addition to performances in the United States, he has concertized in Europe and Asia. He has been affiliated with the Opera Company of Boston, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Boston, the Goldovsky Institute, and the New England Conservatory Opera Department. Recordings include "A Room with a View," songs of Noel Coward, on the Newport Classics label, and Songs and Ballads of Sir Arthur Sullivan on the Pearl label with baritone Richard Conrad, and "Alma Apasionata" with Argentinean soprano Clara Sandler on Newport Classics.