The German Society of Pennsylvania

presents

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus

with

Various Christmas chorales and Early American music

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 3:00pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
www.germansociety.org

611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Calendar of Events

December

Wed. Dec. 14	Konversationsabend / Adventsfeier bei Auenmuellers, 7:00pm
Sat. Dec. 17	Krippenspiel "German Society PhillyKinder", 4:00pm at Overbrook Presbyterian Ch., 6376 City Ave

January

Sat. Jan. 7	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 11:00am
Sun. Jan. 8	Claire Huangci, Piano Recital, 3:00pm
Mon. Jan. 9	Start of Twelve-Week Winter Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)
Mon. Jan. 16	GSP Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Sat. Jan. 21	Start of Twelve-Week Winter Session of German Classes for Youths (Saturday Mornings)
Sat. Jan 21	Book Club Meeting, 1:30pm-3:00pm - Library
Wed. Jan. 25	Konversationsabend / Planung fürs Jahr 2012, 7:00pm
Fri. Jan. 27	Friday Film Fest presents "Goethe!", 6:30pm
Sun. Jan. 29	150th Anniversary of Frederick Delius with Tasmin Little, violin & Akira Eguchi, piano, 3:00pm

February

Sat. Feb. 11	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 11am
Fri. Feb. 17	Friday FilmFest presents "Nordwand", 6:30pm
Mon. Feb. 20	Karneval/ Faschingsparty by "German Society Philly Kinder"

March 2012

Sat. March 3	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 11am
Sun. March 4	The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Fri. March 16	Friday FilmFest presents "Der Kniefall des Kanzlers", 6:30pm
Mon. March 19	GSP Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Sat. March 24	Hamburger Abend

Save the Dates for our Next three of "Wister and More!" Concerts...

Sunday, January 8:	Claire Huangci, piano, 3:00pm Selections include works by Chopin, Liszt and Schumann
Sunday, January 29:	150th Anniversary of Frederick Delius with Tasmin Little, violin & Akira Eguchi, piano, 3:00pm Selections include Grieg, Delius, and Ravel
Sunday, March 4:	The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm With works by Mozart, Staneck and Borodin

Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Dr. Daryl Hollinger, Choral Director
Juliet Mitton, Accompanist

-PART ONE-

Ein Kindlein ist uns geboren — Jacobus Clemns non Pap, 1510-1556

Uns ist ein Kindlein — Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Macht hoch die thür — *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch,* 1704
Arr. Daryl Hollinger

Christmas Songs from Eberbach, Germany

Der Heiland ist geboren — arr. Johannes Matthew Michel

Ihr Hirten erwacht — arr. Johannes Matthew Michel

Austrian Christmas Carol

Still, Still, Still — Arr. John Rodger

-PART TWO-

Music from Ephrata — Conrad Beissel, 1691-1768

Wohlauf, wohlauf

Nun Walle

Jesu, ruffe mich

Music of the Moravians

Lobet den Herrn — Johannes Herbst (1735-1812)

Ich danke dir ewiglich (forever I Praise Thee) — Johann Ludwig Freydt (1748-1807)

- INTERMISSION-

-PART THREE-

Of the Father's Love Begotten — arr. Daryl Hollinger

O Shepherds, Aren't You Happy — Shaker Tune, Hal Hopson

Ding Dong Merrily on High — 16th C. French Carol

Sweet Noel — Joan Griffith

Sweet Little Jesus Boy — Jack Schrader

Go Tell It on the Mountain — arr. Daryl Hollinger

Sing with Joy! Glory Hallelujah! — Nancy Price and Don Besig

Ephrata Cloister Chorus

Dr. J. Daryl Hollinger, Choral Director

The music had little or no air or melody, but consisted of simple, long notes, combined with the richest harmony. It is impossible to describe my feelings upon this occasion. I almost began to think myself in the world of spirits….

~ Reverend Jacob Duché, 1771

By the time Jacob Duché heard the Sisters of Ephrata singing, music and other elements of the once vibrant community were on a decline. Having lost their founder and teacher, Conrad Beissel, in 1768, discipline in the society was growing lax and few new members were coming to join the monastic group. Even so, Reverend Duché spoke of the music in the most glowing of terms.

The sound of Ephrata's original compositions, however, remained silent for nearly two centuries until the formation of the Ephrata Cloister Chorus in 1959. This group of dedicated volunteers brings to life the music of the Ephrata Cloister as a special educational program sponsored by the Ephrata Cloister Associates. Wearing white robes patterned after those worn by the Brothers and Sisters of Ephrata in the mid-eighteenth century, the modern Chorus performs at the historic site and throughout the region.

In addition to works from Ephrata's past, the group performs compositions from other early American communities including works from the Shakers, the Moravians, the Harmonists, the Kelpius Community, the First New England School, and African American spirituals.

The Ephrata Cloister

One of America's earliest communal societies, the Ephrata Cloister was founded in 1732 by German settlers seeking spiritual goals rather than earthly rewards. Gathered in unique European style buildings, the community consisted of celibate Brothers and Sisters, and a married congregation of families. At the zenith of the community in the 1740s and 1750s, about 300 members worked and worshiped at the Cloister.

The lifestyle of the celibate members was characterized by strict discipline and self-denial. The community members became known for their music, calligraphy, and printing. Following the death of the last celibate member in 1813, the married congregation formed the German Seventh-Day Baptist Church.

Members continued to live and worship at the Cloister until 1934. In 1941 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquired the historic site and began a program of restoration and interpretation. Today, nine original buildings are part of a 28-acre complex open for visitors.

Music of the Ephrata Cloister

Music played an important role in life at the Ephrata Cloister. In 1747, Conrad Beissel published the first American treatise on harmony in the preface to his hymnal *Das Gesäng Der einsamen und verlassen Turtle-Taube* (*Songs of the Lonely and Forsaken Turtledove*). Beissel wrote music with his own rules for composition in which he used "master notes" and "servant notes" to create harmony. Using Beissel's rules for composition, the members wrote over one thousand a cappella hymns and anthems. The texts of these hymns often describe difficulties on earth and the promise of entrance to Heaven. Many are filled with floral imagery or speak of the pilgrim's life. The sound of Ephrata's music, performed with heads bowed and mouths almost closed, seems to have made the strongest impression on early visitors. Special care was taken to preserve the voice for singing, including a diet prescribed by Beissel for singers devoid of meat and milk products. Rehearsals were conducted nightly, and singers were required to use two books simultaneously, one with words, the other with musical notation.

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus

The Ephrata Cloister Chorus was formed in 1959 under the leadership of Dr. Russell Getz, a professor at Lebanon Valley College. Dr. Getz worked to transcribe a selection of early Cloister music into a modern notation that could be performed by the group. A dozen of Dr. Getz's transcriptions were published in 1971, and his pioneering work continues to serve as the core of the Chorus' repertoire. In recent years, Dr. Lucy Carroll has worked to continue the transcription of Ephrata's music, adding nearly a dozen pieces to the modern repertoire. In recent years scholars have continued to investigate Ephrata's music, and more original Cloister music has been transcribed, which offers more insight into the rich musical heritage of the community. To place Ephrata's music in context, the Chorus also performs works by other early American composers. Since 1995, Dr. Daryl Hollinger has served as the choral director.

Today the Ephrata Cloister Chorus operates on an annual schedule from September through late May. The performance year is divided into two seasons, Fall (September through December) and Spring (January through May or early June). The Chorus is part of a day-long presentation on the Sunday of Columbus Day weekend in October, and the Charter Day celebrations in mid-March. In December the group presents the annual Christmas at the Cloister program on two evenings. In May the Chorus offers an annual Spring Concert that features a major classical work. The group usually performs one or two additional concerts in the region in the fall and spring.

Ephrata Cloister Associates

632 West Main Street, Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522
(717) 733-6600
www.ephratacloister.org
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Tom Corbett, Governor - Andrew E. Masich, Chairman
- James M. Vaughan, Executive Director

Ephrata community book printing :
Exposition at the Joseph Horner Memorial Library

You are cordially invited to stop by the Joseph Horner Memorial Library to see a selection of early German-American books printed for and by the Ephrata community.

The selection includes hymn books and mystical writings, and the most ambitious product of the Ephrata printing press, the monumental *Martyrs Mirror (Martyrer-Spiegel),* translated into German for the first time by Ephrata members and printed for a local group of Mennonites in 1748-1749.

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 strengthens 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.

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We also wish to acknowledge with thanks the general support received from the *Arcadia Foundation* for our music program for this and next year's season.