Calling all young musicians, vocalists, and ensembles!

Individual instrumental musicians, vocalists, and ensembles grade 1-12 are invited to enter.

Register and submit your YouTube audition video for a chance to perform in a final concert for the public.

Registration will be open from January 10, 2022 until 5:00pm on February 28, 2022.

Questions? Call the GSP at 215-627-2332 or email info@germansociety.org.
Music Notes – Live Concerts Again

It was a delight to hear the Pyxis trio on Sunday, September 26, 2021 as they opened the Wister Series concerts. Their coordination and musical ensemble were stunning, especially in the Ludwig van Beethoven Opus 11, the famous clarinet trio, arranged for violin, cello, and piano. They also played the Johannes Brahms Trio No. 1 in B Major, Opus 87 and finished with a lively encore, Astor Piazzolla’s Primavera Porteña (Spring of Buenos Aires) from his Four Seasons of Buenos Aires (Cuatro Estaciones Porteña), arranged for piano trio by José Braga.

Elissa Lee Koljones had to cancel her October 17, 2021 performance due to a family emergency, but she helped secure an incredible concert by Harem Kim, a violin student at the Curtis Institute of Music who holds the Tobe Amsterdam fellowship. He was accompanied by a Curtis collaborator, Ms. Jungeun Kim (no relation), a Curtis piano faculty member with a formidable piano technique. Mr. Kim’s performance of the Jean Sibelius Violin Concerto in D minor, Opus 47 was an astounding experience. I observed one of the audience members including his own score intently as he sat on the front row of the hall, and even he seemed more than satisfied with the performance.

The last concert I enjoyed before the press deadline of the Staatsbote was the November 14, 2021 performance by my Lebensgefährt Chuck Holdeman, playing his own composition, Quintette, for bassoon and string quartet, with the Wister Quartet. Although I will refrain from praising Chuck’s composition, I can express unstinting praise for the Wister Quartet, this time playing with Valissa Willwert as second violinist. They really got the piece and played with a gusto and vigor that made me want to dance. Their performance of Giacomo Puccini’s Cries and laments, dedicated to the memory of Phyllis Wynn, was achingly soulful, and their Marcel Faria Straussiana. Opus 60b was interesting, but for me, the Borodin String Quartet No. 2 in D Major was fun and exciting. Their encore of Johannes Brahms’ Hungarian Dance No. 5 was both rousing and energizing, a favorite of my younger guests.

During the last 14 years at the German Society as Executive Vice President and later as President it was necessary for me to focus very much on the condition, the preservation, and the development of our building, which is at the core of our activities and important for the future of the organization. However, some of the problems that come with an aging structure have seriously influenced the conditions we want to provide to maintain day to day operation and properly accommodate our members, guests and customers. Some of these issues needed to be addressed as quickly as possible.

At the end of the last century, some urgent building problems, such as a roof replacement, were taken care of. Air conditioning was also installed, but, as it turns out, the implementation of air conditioning into a brick structure created significant problems. If a brick building is cooled in the summer, outside humidity is drawn through the brick into the air-conditioned areas which then need to be dehumidified to avoid high humidity levels that could expose things (most importantly, our books and archival documents) to mold development. This humidity drawing effect is like what happens when a bottle of liquid is taken out of your refrigerator and put on the table in the summer—water will quickly condense on the surface.

Our precious German Society Horner Memorial Library and its gemstone, the German American Collection, contain a cornerstone of our organization, and these resources were threatened. You might not have seen much of this collection until we moved it two years ago into the back of the main reading room—separated and secured behind a temporary black wall.

For many years I proposed renovation of the townhouse area where this collection was stored under difficult conditions, and thanks to the generous support by the Cannstatter Foundation, the German Society of New York and the support of the GSP Board of Directors for my technical concept, we are now close to completing this project in the spring. The solution prevents humidity from entering the space that will host our German American Collection and creates the ability to maintain ideal conditions for controlling the proper temperature and humidity conditions needed to preserve the books, manuscripts and archival materials.

We wanted to improve environmental conditions as well as usable space to provide safe and pleasant conditions for GSP employees, volunteers, and researchers. To this end, we gutted the entire third floor level of the GSP Townhouse west wing, improved the load bearing structure, removed an old chimney and fireplace, and literally built a room within the original room where conditions can be more efficiently controlled. The air water vapor from the outside will still penetrate the brick structure but will be ventilated out of the building before it can influence the humidity inside the air-conditioned space. If you are interested in the technical details of our project, please don’t hesitate to contact the GSP Office. I will be happy to give you a tour of the facility and show you the other projects which we will complete in the years to come.

- Tony Michels

The Wister Quartet with Chuck Holdeman, bassoon. Photo by Claus Petersen.

Two schedule changes to note: ESstrella Piano Duo will perform on January 9, 2022, having graciously changed dates with Claire Huangci, who will perform at the German Society on Monday, February 21, 2022. Both concerts will take place at 3:00.

- Margaret Darby
Horner Fellow Focuses on Kelpius, the “Saint” of Wissahickon

In the summer 2021 issue of the *Staatsbote* I was happy to report that COVID-19 did not totally interrupt our fellowship program. Two scholars, Michael Burri of Bryn Mawr College and Maximilian Klose of Freie Universität Berlin, presented their interesting findings about various charity programs for Germans and Austrians during the two World Wars. They were able to use the Horner Library for their research thanks to Bettina Hess’ efforts in scanning certain documents for Klose, who was not able to visit in person due to the travel restrictions across the Atlantic in 2020.

We had hoped that the restrictions would be lifted in the course of 2021 so that three fellows from Europe would be able to do research at Horner. Alas, this did not happen until November. We hope they can take advantage of the opening of the border and schedule their visit soon, though this might be delayed again by the new Covid variant.

One young scholar from Rice University in Houston, however, traveling across country, made use of the holdings at Horner in June of 2021. Timothy Grieve-Carlson is writing his dissertation in theology about the “saint” of Wissahickon, as Johannes Kelpius (1667-1709) has been known in this area. Grieve-Carlson examines life and work of this Lutheran theologian who came from Transylvania via Germany and settled in Philadelphia. Using documents at Horner, he shows that Kelpius was a highly influential theologian and environmental philosopher. Timothy has stayed in Philadelphia this fall, completing his dissertation as a fellow of Penn’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies. His report follows.

- Frank Trommler

*American Aurora: Environment and Apocalypse in Early Pennsylvania*

My dissertation project, *American Aurora: Environment and Apocalypse in Early Pennsylvania*, focuses on the histories of environmental knowledge and miraculous phenomena in the early modern transatlantic world. In particular, I am working on the life and legacy of a 17th-18th century theologian named Johannes Kelpius. Kelpius was a Christian radical who left Germany for Pennsylvania in 1674, where he went on to become a legendary hermit and religious figure in the Philadelphia region. Among other things, my dissertation tracks who Kelpius was, what he really wrote, thought, and did, and how his memory has influenced American literature and religion.

During the month of June, I had the chance to conduct research at the Horner Memorial Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania. This month of research was made possible by a grant from the German Historical Institute in Washington.

The first text I worked with in the Horner collection is an 1834 edition of Johann Arndt’s 1605 book *Sechs Bücher von Wahren Christenthum,* “Six Books of True Christianity.” After a close reading of certain sections of Arndt’s Wahren Christenthum, I consider it quite likely that Kelpius not only read his Arndt, but that parts of his 1689 dissertation *Natural Theology or, Metaphysical Metamorphosis* can be read as a theological elaboration of some of Arndt’s ideas. As a budding radical Pietist based in southwestern Germany, this is exactly the kind of work we might expect Kelpius to be doing.

Another notable entry in the Horner collection that I have used in my dissertation is a 1700 pamphlet written by Francis Daniel Pastorius to William Penn, entitled “A few Gnomastical Considerations.” What makes this beautiful piece especially interesting to me is Pastorius’s reference to the figure of Hermes Trismegistus, the author of the eponymous antique devotional corpus called the *Corpus Hermeticum.* This manuscript is of interest to my work as I argue that early modern Protestants (like Pastorius) were influenced by Hermetic literature to an extent that has not yet been fully reckoned with or examined in scholarship.

In addition to materials that pertain to Kelpius directly, my reading at the Horner library took me further afield into different but related topics. I was pleasantly surprised to note the extent of the library’s collection of materials on animal magnetism or “Mesmerism,” an esoteric therapy developed in the eighteenth century by the German doctor Franz Anton Mesmer. Having worked on Mesmer and his theory previously in my own research, I was very interested in this area of the Horner collections.

These were just a few of the texts that I had the chance to work with during my GHI/GSP fellowship at the Horner Library, which proved to have some crucial materials for my dissertation and my other research projects. I am grateful to Bettina Hess, Frank Trommler, and Liesl Jandrey for their support during this month, and to the GHI for making this work possible.

- Timothy Grieve-Carlson, Rice University

**Annual Fund Donors**

Donors’ names have been removed from online version for their privacy.
10 Jahre PhillyKinder – Sprache verbindet.
Gemeinsames Singen verbindet erst recht!

Unser Programm steht dieses Jahr unter dem Motto 10 Jahre PhillyKinder – Sprache verbindet Sprache verbindet uns besonders über die Musik und diese hat unser Programm von Beginn an begleitet. Wir baten Jessica Tremblay und Sonja Srama-Souder, die mit unseren PhillyKinder musikalisch über die Jahre viel auf die Beine gestellt haben, um Kommentare über ihre Beweggründe, bei den PhillyKinder musikalisch aktiv zu werden.

Jessica Tremblay, PK Charleiterin & PK Board Mitglied

Wenn wir die Brücke bauen wollen, die Länder, Sprachen, und Kulturen verbinden soll, ist Musik immer dabei. Ich wollte meinen Kindern eine Brücke nach Europa bzw. anderen Kontinenten bauen und suchte dafür eine Gemeinde, die uns dabei hilft.


Christmas Village im Herzen Philadelphia. Es ist unglaublich schön zu sehen wie die kleinen PhillyKinder mit den Jahren im Chor mit aufwachsen und ihnen diese Lieder im Herzen erhalten bleiben.

Sonja Srama-Souder, PK Frau für Musik und Theater, PK Mitgründerin & Lehrerin


Mein persönliches Highlight vor der Pandemie waren unsere jährlichen Winterchor Aufführungen bei der German Society. und der Unser regelmäßiges Weihnachtsingen in Overbrook auf Weihnachtsmärkten und in der German Society manifestierte eine so deutsch kulturelle Vertrautheit bei unseren Phillykindern, dass mir noch immer warm ums Herz wird, wenn ich mich an unsere Highlights zurück erinnere.


**Books Available for Adoption**

Our latest Winter 2021-22 Adopt-A-Book catalog is now available! You can view the complete catalog at: [www.germansociety.org/adopt-a-book](http://www.germansociety.org/adopt-a-book)

All the books chosen for this adoption catalogue connect to topics that have been, and will again be, covered in the Library Committee’s new Library Treasure Tour series, and the other public programs we sponsor. By adopting one of these precious volumes, you are supporting the preservation of German-American history. Your dollars will pay for Philadelphia-based book restorer Ruth Scott-Blackson to repair the book and return it to the Library for readers to enjoy. When you adopt a book, you become a part of our thoughtful community of collection stewards. With your adoption, you will receive a certificate of recognition, which can be made out in honor of a loved one. Also, when you adopt a book, we will reserve a free seat for you in the second season of our Library Treasure Tour series! We look forward to seeing you at the Library very soon. Please email librarian@germansociety.org with questions or to adopt a book today!

-Bettina Hess, Librarian

**Development Report**

For the past ten years we have written about the need for and the growth of our General Endowment Fund, the first such endeavor in the long history of the German Society. We are delighted to report that we have reached our interim goal of $2,000,000! Generous donors, including several foundations and a good number of memorial gifts for friends and family members, made all this possible. Thank you very, very much. It should be added that our investments have also benefited from the growth in the equity markets in the recent past.

Our long-term vision remains to fund 20 to 22% of the operating costs from endowments and to also provide $40,000 to $50,000 per year in support for capital projects. The budget is approaching $500,000; and because of Covid-19 we project a sizable deficit in the current year. A $2,000,000 account is not sufficient to achieve the stated funding goal. But first we will celebrate our achievement, and then, with the support of the Finance Committee and the blessing of the Board, we plan to establish a new goal for the General Endowment and agree on operating guidelines for the withdrawal of funds now that we have reached the interim goal.

As reported previously, the Horner Memorial Endowment Fund has also achieved its interim goal of $600,000, with an account balance of $1,099,000. We will discuss with the Library Committee and others whether it is timely to establish a follow-up goal, as there are still significant unmet needs in the Library operation.

It has been our practice to recognize donations of $1,000 or more to any of our endowments by including the donor’s name in the Linden Society. The most recent summary and the account balances are featured on a plaque prominently displayed in the entrance area of the Society’s building. A copy is also included in this issue of the Staatsbote.

It may be fair to ask how we will achieve any new goals for the endowments, designed to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Society, and our ability to offer meaningful cultural and educational programs for generations to come. We believe that donors will remain generous and that members and friends of the Society will consider the needs of the organization as they consider future gifts through estate plans – to become a legacy member of the Society. As soon as you share your intention to do this, your name will be included in the Linden Society. It is a wonderful way to be generous to your favorite charity while also providing support your families and heirs.

**Linden Society**

The Linden Society recognizes all individuals, families and organizations that have made donations or notified The German Society of Pennsylvania of plans for gifts. This includes remembering the Society in their estate plans, bequests, charitable gift annuities, life insurance and retirement plan proceeds, charitable remainder trusts, real estate or other assets.

Linden Society members’ names have been removed from online version for their privacy.

*This article is an example of the activities of a German Society affiliate. PhillyKids is a separate PA 501(c)(3) corporation and not a component of the German Society of Pennsylvania.*
their IRAs to benefit the Society, and thereby realize tax savings. We suspect that many of our members no longer itemize their deductions for IRS purposes, and this IRA opportunity remains a very effective tax saving tool. Of course all cash donations are tax deductible for donors that itemize their donations. Appreciated assets like stocks make excellent gifts, because they may offer substantial tax savings.

Shopping with AmazonSmile also benefits the Society, as long as you first select the German Society as the not-for-profit of your choice; a small percentage of the eligible purchase costs will come to the Society. A number of small gifts add up quickly. We recently heard from a member who had difficulties signing up for this feature; please follow the instructions below:

- Visit smile.amazon.com and click “Get Started”. You will then be prompted to sign into your Amazon account.
- Once you sign in, type “German Society of Pennsylvania” into the search bar. Select “German Society of Pennsylvania” as your charity of choice.
- Congratulations! You have now selected the German Society of Pennsylvania as your charity of choice whenever you shop with AmazonSmile!

New Lifetime Members
A vibrant and an expanding membership base are essential to our long term growth and prosperity as the German Society. Since the last issue of the Staatsbote, Michael Rissinger upgraded this membership for lifetime status. It is an efficient way to support the Society, and the lifetime membership fees are added to the General Endowment Fund.

- E. D. Weiler

Giving Opportunities
Over the years, we have repeatedly reported on giving opportunities that benefit the Society and help build our endowments. For example, several of our members, over 70 ½ years old, use a portion of the mandated yearly withdrawals from

![German Society Endowment Funds Status October 2021](image)

<table>
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(a) Cash & securities shown at value when received; Charitable Gift Annuities listed at one-half (½) of face value
* Donations include a partial company match
** Gifts made by friends to the SAVA Educational Fund are included
*** Lifetime Membership dues since October 2015