



0 blühe fort du deutscher Sang...

The Washington Sängerbund

presents its

165th Anniversary Concert

Sunday, April 24, 2016

United Church/Vereinigte Kirche

20th and G Streets, NW

Washington, D.C.

2:00pm



The Washington Sängerbund



1851 – 2016



2016 Vorstand

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** The WSB Constitution of July 8, 1894 actually states April 20, 1851 as the official founding date. Somehow they settled on this date after they had lost the first minutes book. but according to contemporary newspapers and the Naval Observatory, that Wednesday in April 1851 fell on the 22nd. The upper logo was copied from an early 20th century membership card and reflects the wrong date.*



Washington Sängerbund

2434 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007
Hotline: 202-310-4691 • <http://www.saengerbund.org>

Dear Friends and Guests,


Welcome to this year's spring concert. And what a special concert it is as the Washington Sängerbund celebrates 165 years of carrying on the tradition of German culture and song. Few organizations can boast of a history as long and as proud as ours. In these pages you will be able to read about our history and about the many people who have been a part of our organization and helped it flourish. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

We have already had a good start to this year. We had a fantastic Fasching celebration in our new venue, the Elks Lodge, in Fairfax, Virginia. For the first time, the Washington Sängerbund will be providing food at the SpringFest in Shirlington on April 30th. Those of you who come to Oktoberfest in Shirlington will know about our good food and how the crowds love it. Come and join us.

Plans for this year include, in addition to our annual concerts in spring, fall, and at Christmas, some performances that impact our local community. We will be singing at the Prospect Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day, for the Shepard's Center of Oakton Vienna in June, and at the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville in October. And don't forget Oktoberfest in Lovettsville and Shirlington in the fall.

Finally, I want to encourage those of you with singing voices and a desire to maintain or enhance their German language skills to come and join us. We love having new singers and we want you to be a part of this great organization. Help us grow and flourish!

Once again welcome to our spring concert. I hope you will enjoy it and, as always, thank you for your support as you join with us in celebrating 165 years of German culture and song.



Hans Endrikat



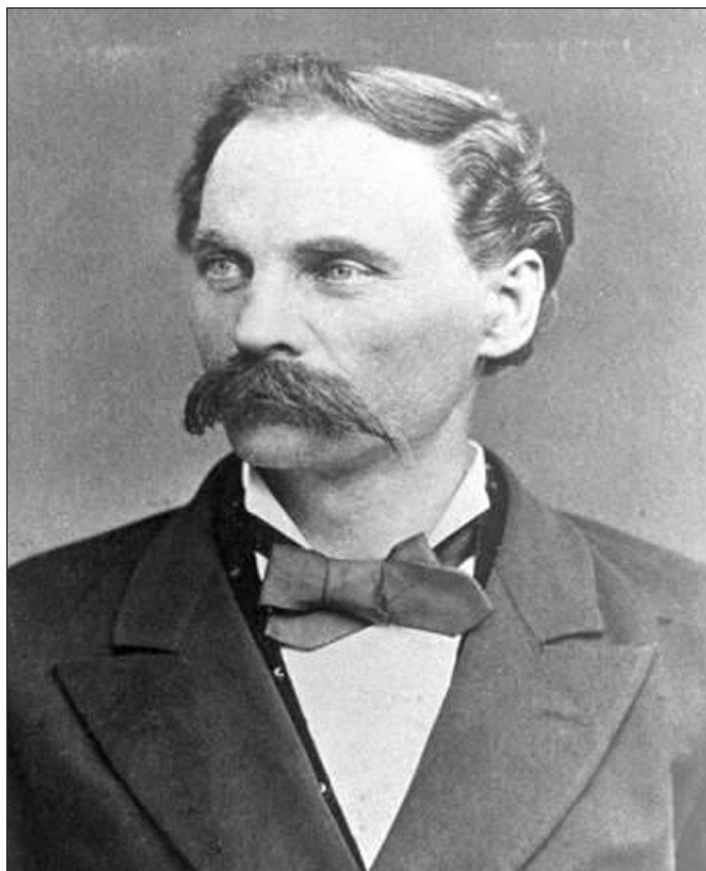
The Washington Sängerbund

A Brief Synopsis of Its History

Editor's Note: An excellent history of the first 125 years of Sängerbund history is contained in Frank Pierce's *The Washington Saengerbund, A History of German Song and German Culture in the Nation's Capital*. I heartily recommend this book for a more thorough treatment of the Washington Sängerbund.



The Concordia German Evangelical Lutheran Church, now known as the United Church/Vereinigte Kirche, was the home of many of the German immigrants who settled in the Foggy Bottom region of Washington, D.C. In 1851, a relatively new organization, the Nordöstlicher Sängerbund von Nord Amerika, was planning to hold a song festival/competition in Baltimore. Members of the Concordia Church wanted to participate. A group of the men from Concordia formed a secular chorus in hopes of competing in Baltimore. Clearly they did not have sufficient time to properly train for a singing competition. They did go to the festival but just as



Julius Viedt, first president of the Washington Sängerbund



Der Washingtoner Sängerbund Fest-tag den 7^{ten} Juli 1862

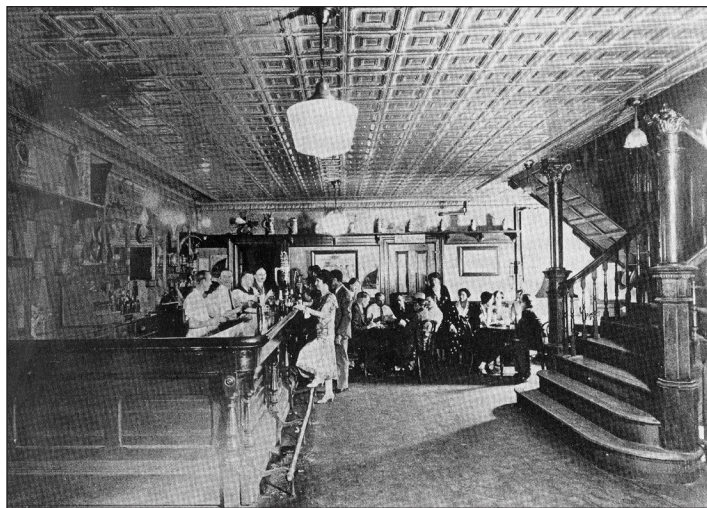
observers. As the years wore on, this group of singers flourished and was soon bringing home prizes from succeeding competitions.

The Civil War came and members of the Sangerbund enlisted in the Union Army. Julius Viedt, the society's first president, enlisted and was given the rank of lieutenant. One of the first casualties in the Washington area was Henry Ricks, killed at a skirmish at Great Falls, who had been an active singer of the Washington Sangerbund.

The late 19th century was the era in which the Sangerbund flourished. They owned a building on C Street, NW which housed a concert hall, practice rooms, a bowling alley and a



The Sangerbund revives in John Schuster's basement, circa 1946



The C Street Clubhouse circa 1930

bar. Membership totalled nearly 900 members although the vast bulk were non-singers. The bowling team was one of the major competitors in the Washington area.

World War I and Prohibition were not kind to the Sangerbund. Membership dwindled and it became more and more difficult to maintain the C Street clubhouse. An entity named the Concord Club was established and maintained the clubhouse until it was condemned in 1931 by the City of Washington for a new municipal building. For all intents, the Washington Sangerbund ceased to exist. 1933, Prohibition was repealed. The club revived under the name of the Mannergesangverein. They leased space on 14th Street and again offered concerts, balls and a restaurant. World War II loomed and again membership dwindled. A skeleton group survived during the war years held together by Alfred Kopf. The war ended, the Sangerbund re-

vived, a building on Wisconsin Avenue came on the market and the club again had a home.

The Concord Club had banked the proceeds from the sale of the old C Street clubhouse and used the money to make a down payment on the Wisconsin Avenue building. The club was back in business. 1951 saw the 100th anniversary of the Washington Sangerbund. A gala celebration was held at the Hotel Washington on April 22, 1951. Both the Arion Gesangverein and the Eichenkranz from Baltimore arrived to help the club celebrate.

During the '50s and '60s the Sangerbund added more activities to their calendar of concerts. Oktoberfests, Faschingsballs and even an occasional Schlachtfest graced the year's schedule. Newly emmigrated Germans were pouring into the nation's capital and the club was a welcome home for them. Here was a place where they could speak their native language. The Washington Sangerbund was back on track as a significant entity in the Washington area.

One important event from that era needs to be noted. German choral societies were almost always male groups with perhaps a Damenchor as an auxiliary. The Washington Sangerbund was no different. Bill Caldwell was elected president in 1964—the first non-German-born to take leadership of the Sangerbund. He offered a score of new ideas not the least of which was the merging of the women's auxiliary into full membership in the club. This was not an easy transition. Among some of the older women, there was resentment at losing their identity but among the bulk of the membership, the union of the two groups was positive. In December of 1965, the two groups merged and the Washington Sangerbund became a mixed chorus.



The Washington Sängerbund, 1951

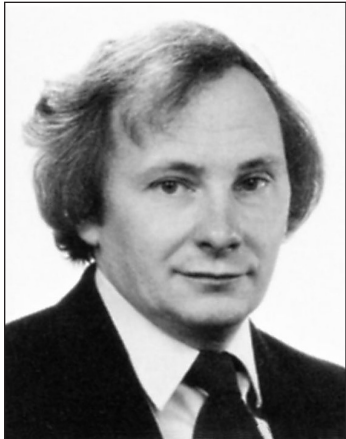


The Washington Sängerbund, 1960

An Update to the Published History of the Washington Sangerbund, 1981 to Present



From 1980 through 2002 the Washington Sangerbund and German School Choir regularly shared a musical conductor. Michael Jahn was retained as conductor of the Sangerbund and the ties between the two choirs began. German School conductors usually serve for several years and then return to Germany. Oskar Fuchs replaced Michael Jahn. Having a com-



Oskar Fuchs, conductor
1984-1991



Alwin Wenzel, president
1976-1977 and 1984-1988

mon conductor with the German School meant larger concerts could be performed jointly with the added voices of the school choir. During the early stages of Mr. Fuchs' career with the Washington Sangerbund, he broadened the musical repertoire to include larger and more classical works that previously had only been touched upon by the Sangerbund. At the time, Alwin Wenzel served as president of the Washington Sangerbund. In 1988, the Sangerbund hosted the Sangerfest of the Nordostlicher Sangerbund von Amerika which was held at the Washington Hilton. It was an eye-opener for Mr. Fuchs. Until the event, he harbored deep doubts that such a massed chorus could ever be successful. He was pleased to learn differently.

In 1988 Mr. Wenzel retired from the presidency and was succeeded by Dr. Peter Kador. The first professionally recorded musical tape of a public concert was done of the *Dettingen Te Deum* with Oskar Fuchs at Washington Cathedral on Nov 2, 1985, other recordings followed. In 1989, the Washington Sangerbund made

its first "Concert Tour" in 20 years, when the Sangerbund travelled to Ottawa, Canada as guests of the Concordia Choir of Ottawa.

Mr. Fuchs continued as musical conductor until 1993 when he returned to Germany. He was replaced by Klaus Elvert who continued the work established by Mr. Fuchs and expanded the musical repertoire to include the North American premier of the *Mendelssohn Magnificat*, composed by the young Mendelssohn at the age of 13. This work had been rediscovered at the Berliner Singakademie in the late 1980s. During Klaus Elvert's tenure and at the invitation of President Clinton, the Sangerbund performed, in February 1995, at the White House in honor of a state visit by German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl.

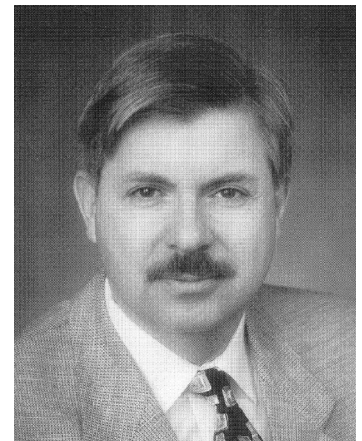
Klaus Elvert was replaced by Mathias Dickhut. Under his strict direction the Washington Sangerbund and the Deutsche Schule Washington premiered a modern *Requiem* by the contemporary German composer Thomas Hettwer.

1990s – The Decade of Travel

THE WASHINGTON SANGERBUND expanded its activities by travelling to other cities to participate with other German-American choruses. In an effort to strengthen the ties between the many German-American organizations in this country and Canada, Dr. Kador and the Washington Sangerbund organized the First National Sangerfest in October, 1993. Over 1500 singers representing 60 organizations in North America and two choirs from Germany participated. The concert was held on Saturday, October 2, in the D.A.R. Constitution Hall with each regional Sangerbund performing sepa-



Klaus Elvert, conductor
1992-1996



Dr. Peter Kador, president
1988-98 and 2001



Rudolph Becker, president
1999-2000



Mathias Dickhut, conductor
1996-2002

(1994), San Francisco, California for the 100th Anniversary of the Pacific Sangerbund (1995), Newport News, Virginia (1996) and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1999).

At the end of 1998, Dr. Kador stepped down as president of the Sangerbund and was replaced by Rudolph Becker Jr, the son of past president Rudolph Becker Sr. Just like the two Adams of American history, this was the first time that a son had succeeded his father as president of the Washington Sangerbund.

The New Millennium

BRIEFLY, DR. KADOR again returned as president. In 2001, the Washington Sangerbund's 150th Anniversary year, the club celebrated with a festive ball at the Fort McNair Officers Club on April 21. Work called Dr. Kador away from the city and the reins of the Wash-

Continued on page 12

rately. This was followed by a dinner dance at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Based on contacts made at the First National Sangerfest, the Washington Sangerbund conducted concert tours in subsequent years to Columbus, Ohio



The Washington Sangerbund at the White House, February 9, 1995, Klaus Elvert directing
Left to right, front row: Antje Sperling, Carol Morello, Erika Barth, Heidi Elvert, Dr. Kohl, Ms. Clinton, President Clinton, Meleen Harben, Charlotte Kaminski, Karin Halusa, Renate Wenzel and Jennifer Johnson. Back row: Manfred Barth, Peter Kador, Douglas Martz, Werner Tylla, George Winzer, Edward Pindell, Charles Schwab, Alwin Wenzel, Walter Mueller and William Caldwell.

The Washington Sängerbund

165th Anniversary Commemorative Concert

Sunday, April 24, 2016
The United Church/Vereinigte Kirche
Washington, DC

Words of welcome by President Hans-Joachim Endrikat

Sängergruß Leopold Syré

Erschalle froh, du Jubelchor Willy Reske

Wieder blühet die Linde Quirin Rische

Hereinspaziert Dieter Frommlet

An die ferne Geliebte, op. 98 Ludwig van Beethoven
Andrew Sauvageau, baritone

Quartet in C major, op. 76, no.3 Hob.III:77 ("Kaiser")
II. *Poco adagio; cantabile* Franz Joseph Haydn

Künstlerleben - Walzer, op. 316 Johann Strauss, II

Hungarian Dance no. 5 Johannes Brahms
Czarkowski String Quartet

Im weißen Rössl Ralph Benatzky
Colin Fink and Matthew McIntyre, tenors and Andrew Sauvageau, baritone

Die launige Forelle, Variationen über Schubert's Lied Franz Schöggel

Rosen aus dem Süden, op. 388, nach Motiven aus der Operette
"Das Spitzentuch der Königin" Johann Strauss, II

The Washington Sängerbund

Hans-Joachim Endrikat, *President*

Matthew McIntyre, *Chair, Music Committee*

Nicholas Alexander Brown, *Conductor*

Nadia Christova, *Accompanist*

Andrew Sauvageau, *Baritone*

Czarkowski String Quartet

Mari Washington, *Violin I*

Laura Frazelle, *Violin II*

Maggie Rojas, *Viola*

Stephen Czarkowski, *Cello*

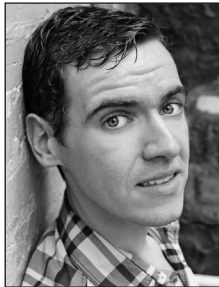


Nicholas Alexander Brown, CONDUCTOR, is a music specialist/concert producer at the Library of Congress. He is the music director and founder of The Irving Fine Society, and serves as conductor of the Library of Congress Chorale as well as the Washington Sängerbund. Nicholas has maintained a strong interest in German music, language, and culture since he

began his musical training. He has performed throughout Germany and Austria, and he recently participated in the Popular Music and Public Diplomacy conference at TU-Dortmund.

As a guest conductor Nicholas has collaborated with the Orquesta Filarmónica de Honduras, Orion Symphony Orchestra, Kammerphilharmonie Graz. He has performed as a chorister with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, London Philharmonic Choir and BBC Symphony chorus, and was a horn player and junior enlisted conductor with the 215th Army Band.

Nicholas received his Master of Music in Musicology from King's College London and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brandeis University, where he received a B.A. in both Music and History. He completed internships at the White House and Boston Symphony Orchestra.



Andrew Sauvageau, BARITONE, hailed by the Baltimore Sun for the shining color in his voice and the spark and nuance of his acting, by the Washington Post for tackling challenging music with aplomb, and by the New York Times for his contained ferocity in concert, baritone Andrew Sauvageau brings life to the characters he sings, both in operatic and in concert settings. His diverse repertoire spans six centuries, from music of the renaissance to the present day.

Andrew has appeared in performances at the Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, The National Gallery of Art, Tanglewood Music Festival, Baltimore's Walters Art Gallery and ArtScape, and Washington's Capital Fringe. Andrew has a particular affinity for Romantic Lieder, and a strong love for 20th century and contemporary song. He has premiered several works by emerging composers including Ruby Fulton, Jake Runestad, Nicholas Vines and Joanna Lee.

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Nadia Christova, ACCOMPANIST, was born and raised in Bulgaria. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the National Academy of Music in Sofia, Bulgaria, she came to the United States to continue her musical education. Ms. Christova earned her Master of Music in Chamber Music from the University of South Florida and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano at the University of Maryland under Professor Rita Sloan. She has performed in a variety of chamber groups, as well as accompanied numerous string and wind players, singers, and choruses.

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Czarkowski String Quartet

Violinist Laura Frazelle performs regularly with orchestras across Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., including the Richmond, Baltimore and Virginia Symphony Orchestras, Williamsburg Symphonia, as well as countless regional orchestras. Other performances have been with the Washington Concert Opera, Choral Arts Society of Washington, and Choralis, where she's served as section leader. Locally she has performed in several embassies in D.C., the Smithsonian Institution, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, and Strathmore Hall. She serves as Assistant Principal 2nd violin with the American Pops Orchestra, section 1st violin with the Apollo Orchestra, and Principal 2nd violin with the Manassas Ballet Theatre Orchestra. Ms. Frazelle holds a Master's degree in Violin Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She completed a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance cum laude from the University of Cincinnati.

Violist Magaly Rojas Seay began her studies on violin at the age of nine and later on the viola at the age of sixteen. She continued her education at The Catholic University of America where she received a B.M. and M.M. in viola performance. Ms. Seay maintains an active performance career in the Washington, DC and Baltimore area. She is a tenured member of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra where she holds the title of Associate Principal. Ms. Seay regularly subs with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and performs with a number of professional orchestras along the eastern seaboard. She has given a number of performances with the Analog Arts Ensemble and was the guest violist of the latin american ensemble, Cuarteto Rústico, during their 2013-2014 season.

Violinist Mari Uehara Washington is a graduate of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the University of Maryland, where she received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. Her former teachers include Stephen Clapp, Greg Fulkerson, Arnold Steinhart and John Dalley. She has performed as assistant concertmaster in the Fairfax and Millbrook Symphonies. She was also first violinist of the Adelphi String Quartet and a member of the Sakura Piano Trio. She is currently concertmaster of the USAF String and Symphony Orchestras, and has appeared as soloist with those ensembles on numerous occasions.

Cellist Stephen Czarkowski is in his fifth season as Music Director and Conductor of the Apollo Chamber Orchestra, and has collaborated with artists from the Metropolitan Opera and the Washington National Opera. In the spring of 2014, he led the Apollo Orchestra in their Kennedy Center debut, and will lead them as they return during the 2014-15 season. Recently appointed Assistant Conductor of the York Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Czarkowski is also Conductor of The Symphonette at Landon School and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Frederick Regional Youth Orchestra. He led The National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. as a debut conductor, in conjunction with being selected for the 2003 National Conducting Institute. He graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Graduate Artist Diploma in Orchestral Conducting. Mr. Czarkowski graduated from Mannes College with a Master of Music in cello. He also received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Mannes College. He is a member of the Conductor's Guild and is currently serving on the New School Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Singers with the Washington Sangerbund

SOPRANO

Ilse Brown
Dagmar Georgiev
Myong Hee Kim
Virginia Ogris
Gail Walters
Gudrun Watson
Leslie Weisman

ALTO

Eva Brandt
Christine Feintheil
Christiane Frierson
Christine Hambach
Ute Hayman
Sieglinde Lord
Mary Stradley
Carol Traxler
Renate Wenzel
Jane Winzer

TENOR

Harry Brown
Colin Fink
Matthew McIntyre
Maurice Schroder
David Schwab
Herbert Traxler

BASS

Don Christian
Hans-Joachim Endrikat
Harlan Kelly
Friedrich Mack
Werner Moeller
Josef Schnabl
Leighton Stradley
Wayne Thaemert
Alwin Wenzel
Bernhard Wenzel
George Winzer



The Washington Sangerbund, 2014

Front row: Leslie, Weisman, Camilla Rudolph, Gudrun Watson, Virginia Ogris, Christa Grant, Renate Wenzel, Eva Brandt, Sieglinde Lord and Ute Hayman. Second row: Gail Walters, Heidi Elvert, Christine Hambach, Myong Hee Kim, Ilse Brown, Carol Traxler, Myra Hillburg, Christiane Frierson and Christine Feintheil. Third row: Colin Fink, Matthew McIntyre, David Schwab, Harry Brown, Herbert Traxler, Leighton Stradley, Don Christian, Hans Endrikat and Bernhard Wenzel. Back row: Maurice Schroder, Wayne Thaemert, Werner Moeller, Harlan Kelly, Alan Salsieder and Alwin Wenzel.

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Supporters of the Washington Sangerbund

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Kurt Kranz
Marilyn Mautz
Gerhard Meinzer

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LEVELS OF GIVING

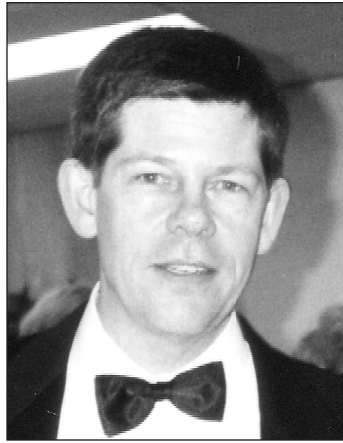
Friend: \$10 – 49 Contributor: \$50 – 99 Sponsor: \$100 – 249

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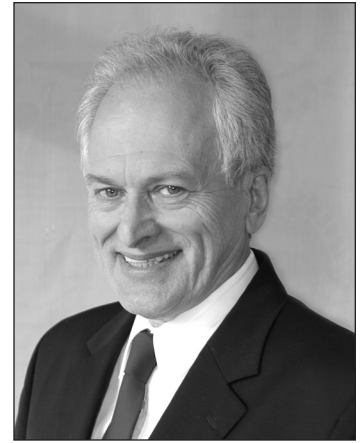
Dr. Carol Traxler, president
2002-2006



Michael O'Brien, conductor
2002-2005



Mariano Vales, conductor
2005-2008



Bernhard Wenzel, president
2007-2010

ington Sangerbund were ably assumed by Dr. Carol Traxler. The Sangerbund had lost its hall on the grounds of the German Orphan Home when the Orphan Home board sold the land and buildings to a drug rehabilitation center. Faced with the loss of a concert venue, Dr. Traxler found alternate halls taking advantage of her connections with the Austrian and Swiss Embassies. It was the Sangerbund's privilege to present concerts in the main hall of the Austrian Embassy and the ambassador's residence of the Embassy of Switzerland as well as numerous concerts at the German Embassy.

Again, in 2002, the German School music director returned to Germany and this time the Sangerbund went outside the school and found Michael O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien served as conductor for three years and was replaced with Mariano Vales, an Argentinian of German extraction.

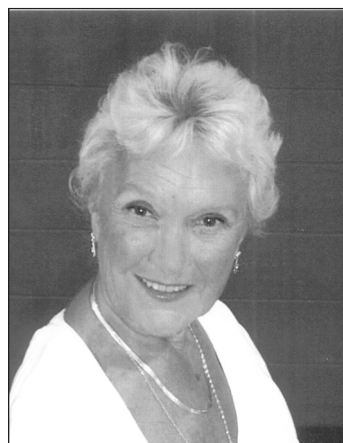
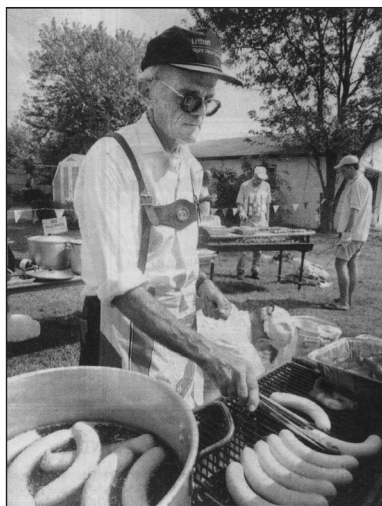
During Dr. Traxler's tenure, the Nordostlicher Sangerbund began preparations for its 50th Ju-

bilee Sangerfest. She proposed that the Washington Sangerbund host this event in our nation's capital. The NOSB quickly accepted the offer and the club set to work to present a truly memorable event. While planning was underway, Carol's husband, Herbert Traxler, was called back to Austria.

Bernhard Wenzel stepped into the breach, taking the reins of the Sangerbund in 2007 and shepherding the club through the preparations for the upcoming Sangerfest. Almost immediately, he was faced with a disagreement by some of the younger club members over the direction the Sangerbund was heading. The end result was the replacement of Mr. Vales with Martha von Herman as conductor. Ms. von Herman, a gentle lady who soothed the nerves of the singers, agreed to serve as interim conductor while a search was conducted to find a permanent conductor.

During the spring of 2008, while completely immersed in the planning for the 2009 Sanger-

Lovettsville Oktoberfest
2003 – a far cry from the
present Oktoberfests.



Martha von Herman, conductor
2008



David Montgomery, conductor
2008-2010



Oktoberfest at Shirlington 2011



Oktoberfest at Lovettsville, 2015

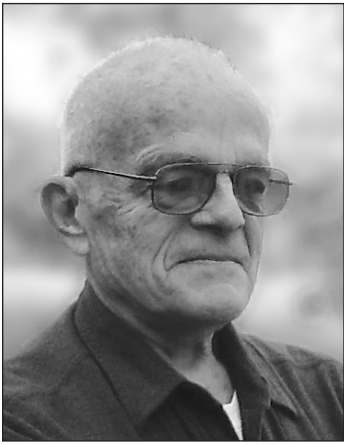
fest, a concentrated search for a permanent conductor was carried out by the chair of the music committee, Gudrun Watson, her assistants, Eva Brandt and Virginia Ogris, and Bernd Wenzel, as president. The field was narrowed to four candidates, each of whom conducted a rehearsal. At the semi-annual meeting in June of 2008, David Montgomery, executive music director of the Prince William County Symphony Orchestra, was elected conductor of the Washington Sangerbund. Dr. Montgomery, although a native American, had spent years in Germany and had

served as principal guest conductor of the Jena Philharmonic.

In the midst of the pressure of finding a new conductor, plans for the 2009 Sangerfest proceeded. Danielle Williams, chair of the WSB Sangerfest committee, was forced to resign due to health reasons. Her place was ably taken by Reba Winstead, a second generation Sangerbund member. Her vision of the event guided the Sangerbund to hosting a Sangerfest which has been acclaimed as possibly the most impressive Sangerfest in the past one hundred years.



The Washington Sangerbund at the Garden Court of the National Gallery of Art, 2009



Don Christian, president
2011-2012



Eric Miller, conductor
2011-2013

Staging concerts and hiring a conductor and soloists takes a substantial amount of money. And having lost the German Orphan Home grounds as a venue for Oktoberfests, the club was looking for a suitable means of raising funds. Fortunately, as the Orphan Home grounds faded away, an invitation came from the town of Lovettsville, Virginia to participate in their 2002 Oktoberfest and to provide a bit of ethnic color. The town gained most of the Sangerbund's Oktoberfest supplies: tables, chairs, and booths while the Sangerbund gained a site for its Oktoberfest. Josef "Sepp" Schnabl, the Sangerbund's master-of-all-trades

recognized the potential and soon the Sangerbund was serving its trademark sausages, potato salad, and sauerkraut dinners to the throngs of happy festival goers. The club had found the perfect fund raiser. The town of Lovettsville provided the space, tents, set-up and clean-up while the singers, dressed in traditional German costumes, provided the food and even sang along with the oompah bands. Word soon spread and the Sangerbund was invited to participate in Capital City Brewing Company's Beerfest/Oktoberfest in the Shirlington region of Arlington, Virginia. Two Oktoberfests back-to-back meant a lot of hard work but it assured the club of a steady source of income.

The club sings at Prospect Hill Cemetery, the historic cemetery on North Capitol Street, where its founder, Julius Viedt, and many other members are buried. Also, when the opportunity presents itself, the Sangerbund gives special concerts. In 2009, the club supplied the chorus for the Prince William County Symphony Orchestra's presentation of highlights from Die Zauberflote in Manassas, Virginia and held a special concert in the garden court of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Ever active, the Sangerbund also supported the Arion Gesangverein of Baltimore in an alfresco performance aboard the NS Savannah. The

The Washington Sangerbund performing its annual Christmas Concert at the Vereinigte Kirche, 2009



Lancaster Liederkrantz celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2010 and again the Sangerbund travelled to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to participate in the celebration.

At the end of 2010, David Montgomery suddenly quit as conductor leaving Bernd Wenzel scrambling to find a replacement. Just as he was stepping down as president, he was successful in hiring Eric Miller. At the annual meeting in 2011, Don Christian assumed the presidency. The Sangerbund continued its busy schedule of concerts, Oktoberfests and Faschingsballs. The club was now presenting three concerts per year: a fall concert, a Christmas concert at the church of its founding and a spring concert. The Sangerbund was also performing at the Heurich Mansion, home of Washington’s last brewer and honorary member of the club plus making appearances at the European Union’s Open House Day when the embassies of the various E.U. countries open their grounds to visitors and showcase their national history and products.

During Don’s term in office, the Sangerbund initiated the practice of hiring a full-time accompanist which eased the burden of constantly searching for an accompanist before each public appearance. The club found a gem in Nadia Christova.

After two years Don Christian passed the presidency to Hans-Joachim Endrikat, who remains as president as this brief history is written. Soon after his inauguration, Hans was presented with an emergency need for a director when, without warning, Eric Miller suddenly died. While the club was searching for a new conductor, Hans Endrikat was able to find Melissa



Hans Endrikat, president
2013–present



Nicholas Brown, conductor
2013–present

Carter who graciously stepped in. The spring of 2013 was a hectic time auditioning prospective conductors while at the same time, preparing for the spring concert. Just as the spring concert was due to be staged, Ms. Carter became suddenly ill and was hospitalized. The two Traxlers, Herbert and Carol saved the day by filling in as conductors with hardly any warning. It was a fine concert dedicated to the memory of Eric Miller. The search continued and many candidates were auditioned. The net result was the election of Nicholas Alexander Brown whose capable guidance has helped the chorus grow. Under Mr. Endrikat’s steady direction the club is flourishing. Membership is growing in spite of the fact that most of the German choruses are losing members or disappearing entirely.

Now the Washington Sangerbund is embarking on a new era—growing in quality and membership. The Sangerbund can look with pride that it is 165 years young and thriving.



Melissa Carter at the E.U. Open House, French Embassy, 2013



Nadia Christova, accompanist
2013–present



The Washington Sängerbund, 2015

Standing: Nadia Christova and Nicholas Brown. Front row: Gudrun Watsoy, Leslie Weisman, Myong Hee Kim, Mary Stradley, Renate Wenzel and Christiane Frierson. Row 2: Dagmar Georgiev, Christa Grant, Ilse Brown, Heidi Elvert, Gail Walters, Virginia Ogris, Christine Hambach, Christine Feinthel, Eva Brandt and Ute Hayman. Row 3: Matthew McIntyre, Maurice Schroder, Harry Brown, Werner Moeller, Wayne Thaemert, Alwin Wenzel, Don Christian, Hans Endrikat and Harlan Kelly. Back row: Colin Fink, Rudolph Becker, Leighton Stradley, Duane Gelderloos, Bernhard Wenzel and Josef Schnabl.

Editor's Note: I wish to thank the many members who helped me compile a brief outline of Washington Sängerbund history for this souvenir program. I would also like to single out Jeanne Endrikat, our photographer *par excellence*, who unstintingly gives of her time and talent in recording pictorially the club's many activities. And then there are Al and Renate Wenzel, who together maintain the Sängerbund's historical records. They had all my reference requests immediately at hand. The Sängerbund is a wonderful group of hard-working people, thank you to all. I'm proud to be a member.

Don Christian

The Board of Directors of the Washington Sängerbund would like to thank the following businesses for their support during the past year.

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 P.J. Skidoos Restaurant
 Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop
 C.J. Finz Raw Bar & Grill



We are the Washington Sängerbund,
a choral group founded in 1851.
We meet every Monday night at 7:00 pm
upstairs above the Old Europe Restaurant,
2434 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20007
except for a break during mid-summer.
If you like to sing or just want to practice your German,
join us—you'll be glad you did.
Check our website for details: www.saengerbund.org.