

Houston Sangerbund

German Christmas Concert and Reception: Flavors of the Season

Wine and Spekulatius! Feuerzangenbowle (mulled wine set aflame)! Traditional German carols and more cookies! Free to the public on Tuesday, December 6, at 7:30 pm. The Houston Saengerbund, Houston's oldest musical organization, will present a concert, "A German Christmas" with flavors of the season at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Midtown at 1311 Holman Street.

From its inception in 1883 until around 1900, there were over a thousand participants in German singing societies in the area. In the earliest years the Saengerbund was originally a men's chorus, and The Houston Symphony included many Saengerbund members. Today, the club features a men's and women's choir with seasoned members who proudly carry the club's musical traditions as well as younger members and scholarship students starting their musical careers. From Rice University Joanna Latini and Duke Kim among others. From The University of Houston, graduate student Raphaella Medina, recently back from a Carnegie Hall performance. The combined sound of the New Saengerbund is sweeter and clearer – just listen to the poignant rendition of *Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen* - Innsbruck, I must leave you.

You are invited to breathe in the magic of a traditional German Christmas celebration as classics are presented in German, in English, and in Latin beginning with Praetorius' "Psallite" - Now we Sing! In addition to ensemble pieces like *Still, Still, Still, Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* and *Stille Nacht*, The Saengerbund will showcase its accomplished scholarship singers performing *Laudamus Te* from Vivaldi's Gloria, and *Suscepit Israel*, among others.

To believe that there should be a winter wonderland is one thing; to sing it in German will certainly put a smile on your face. The Houston Saengerbund's motto - Komm Sing Mit Uns! – Come sing with us - will have a special meaning for the German Carol sing-a-long. Then follow the singers into the gracious parlor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church for seasonal German refreshments, some even home-made such as Christstollen and cookies. The



highlight will be the Feuerzangenbowle, a hot red wine with spices. A rum soaked sugar loaf is set on fire and the caramelized sugar drips into the hot wine.

Children, grandparents, professors and students are all welcome. For questions about the concert, go to www.houstonsaengerbund.org.

Mary Koenig