

Betreff: Exchange Concert article

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There are 4 pictures attached. The article and picture captions follow the article. It will be in the August 14 Hudson Valley News newspaper. I hope you all enjoy it.

Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Concert Report

The Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange was started by then Rhinebeck High School's band director Jack Shackleton in 1978. From a modest start, it has developed into a large activity that occurs every 5 years. One year, the Rhinebeck High School students (chorus and musicians) go to Rheinbach, Germany (located on the western side of Germany near the Belgian border) for about two weeks, staying in host families, touring the area, giving concerts, and learning about each other's cultures. The following year, the Rheinbach High School students come to Rhinebeck and undertake the same activities. Since 1978, more than 1,000 students and 800 families have participated in the Exchange. The participants are responsible for their personal airfare and spending money. As a group, the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange Program covers the costs of hosting our German guests. In turn, the Rheinbach Committee raises money to host our American participants. 2013 marks the Exchange's 35th year and their goal is to keep the communities forever exchanging through peace, friendship, and music.

A very large crowd filled the Rhinebeck High School auditorium for the Exchange's final formal concert on the evening of July 30. The concert was a super success equivalent to a rock star's as evidenced by the enthusiasm of the performers and the audience and was a proper ending for this year's Exchange. The high quality of the auditorium's acoustics added to the quality of the performance.

Mark Fleischhauer (Chair of the Rhinebeck Committee) welcomed all to this final concert. Over the stage were large American and German flags to note the countries involved. The concert started with the national anthems sung by the chorus and the musicians playing the German Das Deutschlandlied and the American The Star Spangled Banner. Then followed the Orchestra section of the concert and it was led by Conductor Michael Küßner. Joseph Hayden's Overture C Major Hob. XXVIII:7 started the concert and it was very lively and a well-known overture. Next followed Camille Saint-Saëns' Andantino from Sonata for Oboe and Orchestra D Major with Rheinbach student Christopher D'Arcy as the oboe soloist and in other songs he played the violin. His excellent oboe playing went well with the orchestra playing in the background. Angelo Modesto's tango Corazon Triste had a soloist accordion player Andreas Weidemann enhancing the tango beat. Tony Renis' samba Quando, Quando had a very lively beat and was a very familiar song. It seemed that part of the audience wanted to dance in the aisles. The drum solos received many applause. A standing applause concluded this section.

The Chorus section was conducted by Tobias Gasteier and Sandy Kane. The Perfekte Welle (Perfect Wave) by Andreas Herde and Simon Triebel was sung in German with Scott Milici accompanying on the piano. Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg's Over the Rainbow was a very familiar song and was sung last year in Rheinbach. Soloist Sarah Fleischhauer of Rhinebeck High School, soloist Charlie Urban-Mead of Roosevelt High School, pianist Scott Milici, and mandolin player Peter Muste added to the quality of the song. Abend wird es weider (Good Night Sleep Well) was written by Christian Heinrich Rinck and Heinrich Hoffmann von Hallerleben and was sung alternately in German and English. For the Longest Time by Billy Joel was enthusiastically sung with much hand clapping during it. A Zulu traditional song Mamaliye was sung in the Zulu language. This was quite a challenge for the students. Again there was much clapping during the song by the chorus. Scott Milici accompanied on the piano and Jamiles Lartey accompanied on the Djembe (a native African drum). This section ended with another loud standing ovation.

A special part of the concert was the Exchanging of the Silver Trumpet. While playing Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World, the students, Meredith Bradley from Kingston and Julian Ulonska from Rheinbach, exchanged the silver trumpet mid way through the song. The trumpet will now go back to Rheinbach until 2017 when Rhinebeck

exchanges and it returns to Rhinebeck again. The Band section was conducted by Andreas Weidemann. Leonard Bernstein's Music from West Side Story was played with full vigor and loud as one would expect in the appropriate parts. Chorus members in the audience were clicking their fingers at the appropriate time. Klaus Badelt's Pirates of the Caribbean was very enthusiastically done and one could easily recognize the parts of the score from the film. The Mission: Impossible Theme by Lalo Schifrin was very lively. Eighties Gold was an arrangement of the popular songs from the 1980's. It brought back memories for many in the audience. Disco Lives! was another arrangement of popular songs from the 1970's. The only thing missing was the revolving mirrored ball and the light reflecting off it. Many of the chorus members seated in the audience were dancing in their seats to the music. When YMCA was played, there was much hand clapping and even the audience was hand waving in their seats. Ending the section was the arrangement of The Best of Queen with the heavy beat and much hand clapping. There were several solo run by the drums and guitars. Overwhelmingly enjoyed by the band and the audience and ended with a much appreciated standing ovation. The band played an encore with several songs arranged from Les Miserables. The last band song was another encore Rockin' Rollin' River which was played previously about 25 years ago. Occasionally during the Band section, the band would brake out playing the German song Ein Prosit, Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit with everyone who knew the song tried to sing it in German. Another wild applause ended this section.

The final song was G. F. Handel's The Brotherhood of Man conducted by Tobias Gasteier and Maria Ulrich when all the students from the band, orchestra, and chorus filled the whole front of the auditorium. This was a fitting close for the concert and resulted in a spectacular clapping by the audience since they did not want the concert to end.

The following are some comments received. German student Eleonie said "People are very generous and friendly and so optimistic in my opinion. It is a very good experience and I'm so glad to be here. I think it is so great that we have the possibility to come to this country. We hope we can unite both of the countries with our music." Town of Clinton resident Dr. Shirley Jones said "The music served to bridge the United States and Germany together as well as the young and old members of the audience."

During their Exchange visit, these other activities were undertaken. Concerts were also given at the Old Dutch Church in Kingston and at Hyde Park's summer concert series at Staatsburg (Mill's Mansion). They sang the National Anthem at the start of a Renegades baseball game. They made visits to New York City, Albany, and toured many local places including a barn dance at the Rhinebeck Fairgrounds.

Major thanks are given to Mark Fleischhauer (Chair of the Rhinebeck Committee) and Michael Küßner(Chair of the Rheinbach Committee) for all their efforts to make a successful Exchange visit. Funding was received from The Frost Memorial Fund, the Robert R. Chapman Fund of the Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley, Rotary Club Bonn- Rheinbach, Lions Club Bonn-Rhenobacum, Goethe Institut, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, Rhinebeck Rotary, and Stadt Rheinbach. Thanks are given to all the committee members including chaperones, businesses and organizations that supported various activities, the Rhinebeck High School, hosting families, and anyone else involved in the Exchange. To learn more about the Exchange Program, visit their web page www.rhinebeckexchange.org.

Picture Captions for 8/14/13

Picture Caption R-R Exchange accordion

Accordion soloist Andreas Weidemann accompanying the orchestra playing the Tango during the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange concert.

Picture Caption R-R Exchange begin

The chorus and orchestra performing the national anthems during the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange concert.

Picture Caption R-R Exchange end

The full orchestra, chorus, and band performing the finale during the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange concert.

Picture Caption R-R Exchange oboe

Oboe soloist Rheinbach student Christopher D'Arcy performing with the orchestra

during the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Exchange concert.

Ray Oberly



Beginn mit den Nationalhymnen



Solist Christopher D'Arcy

Abschlusskonzert in der Rhinebeck High School am 30. Juli 2013



Andreas Wiedemann



Abschluss mit The Brotherhood of Man