



The American-Austrian Society

March 2005

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From the President:

Dear Friends and Members:

Important changes to the structure of the American-Austrian Society have been proposed. The Officers and Directors met and accepted the recommendations of a Special Committee on the By-Laws chaired by Prof. Dr. Peter Evans. Their proposal, to re-incorporate the Society and seek IRS tax-exempt status as a charitable organization, will be submitted to the members for approval in accordance with the provisions of our By-Laws.

Current status

As many of you know, the Society was founded in 1954 and was incorporated as a not-for-profit under the laws of the District of Columbia. In recent years, the Society's corporate status lapsed and the Society has effectively functioned as an un-incorporated association. Because of the Society's essential purpose as a "social club" it did not qualify for tax-exempt status under IRS regulations.

Why seek tax-exempt status?

IRS recognition as a tax-exempt charitable organization would allow the society to seek tax-deductible donations allowing us to expand our cultural, educational, and purely charitable activities in conjunction with the Embassy of Austria's cultural program. It would not change the Society's function as a forum for all those with an interest in "things Austrian."

Achieving the transformation

We are pleased that we have the full support of the Embassy of Austria, which wishes to cooperate with us in our desire to increase the Society's functions. We expect to have the documentation necessary for achieving this transformation ready by the Annual Meeting, which will be held in late May. At that time, we will seek your approval of this plan.

Best regards,

Stephen Schott

CORPORATE SPONSORS:

The Austrian Atelier

Klaus Haagen's Internet-based company, selling traditional and modern Gmundner ceramics, elegant contemporary candles from Austria, as well as Hungarian embroidery. On the web at www.theaustrianatelier.com or call toll free 877 925 9999.

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A-AS Sponsored Events

Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM **Post Classical Ensemble - Gala Performance: Mahler's Song of the Earth (Lied von der Erde)**, preceded by **black tie reception**, concert followed by a buffet offered by the **Taverna del Alabardero**. At the Embassy of Austria under the gracious patronage of Her Excellency, Ambassador Eva Nowotny. A-AS members may purchase tax-deductible tickets at \$75.00 (half the regular price. **Call (202) 966-8778. The Society hopes that you can attend this exceptional event.**

Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 PM at the Austrian Embassy. Special screening for members of the Society of the classic 1935 **Max Reinhardt film of "Midsummer Night's Dream"** with music of Mendelssohn and Erich Korngold - in conjunction with the Embassy Series concert on March 25, **Korngold: the other Mozart** (see below). Reservations for the screening: call (202) 895-6776.

Events in the Planning, dates to be announced

Mid-April: Kaffeehaus Jause: will be held at the Austrian Embassy.

May: In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Staatsvertrag, the Society is planning a symposium on Austria in 1955, **Remembrances and the Future.**

June: Heuriger

August: The **Blasorchester Voest Alpine** will be touring in the United States in . We are hoping to sponsor this group for a concert here in Washington

The Austrian Cultural Forum.

under the direction of Mag. Margareta Ploder. Offering the following events in March. These events are admission free and held at the Embassy at 3524 International Court NW, but **must be RSVP'd by calling 202-895-6776 or rsvp@austria.org.**

Through March 31, 10am to 4 pm: **Ida Sofia Maly** (1894 - 1941): exhibit of drawings and paintings curated by Anna Lehninger

Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 pm: **Reinventing Heimat in and after Exile: Jean Amery, Elisabeth Freundlich and Egon Schwartz.** lecture by Jacqueline Vansant, University of Michigan. Wine and cheese reception follows.

Monday, March 14 at 8:00 pm **Darwin's Nightmare** (in English) A documentary by Hubert Sauper, France/Austria/Belgium 2004 In cooperation with DC Environmental Filmfestival.

Tuesday, March 22 7:30 pm "**Emigrated Austrians**" — a piano concert by **Albert Sassmann**. Program: Weigl, Starer, Wittgenstein, Toch, Zeisl, Krenek. In cooperation with International Club of DC.

Other Upcoming Events of Interest

Thursday, March 10 . 9:30 am - 4:30 pm The University of Maryland is hosting a full-day seminar celebrating **Elfriede Jelinek**, Austrian Nobel Laureate for literature, who was born in 1946 in Styria. At St. Mary's Hall, Dept. of Germanic Studies, College Park, MD. For information call Elke Fredericksen at 301-405-4091.

The Embassy Series

will bring you the following concerts in the Austrian Embassy - and remember, make your reservations by phoning (202) 625-2361 to receive the **A-AS discount!**

Friday, March 25 at 8:00 pm **Korngold: the other Mozart.** **Alexander Frey**, piano, and soprano **Laura Pedersen** perform this evening celebrating the work of Erich Wolfgang Korngold. He was one of Austria's most promising composers and one of the great geniuses of modern music, who had to flee Austria from the national socialists. He wrote beautiful operas and songs and went on to Hollywood to compose "swashbuckling" movie scores. Regular ticket price: \$40

Monday, April 4 at 8:00 pm, a piano recital by **Christopher Hinterhuber**, bright young star of Austria. He returns to the Embassy of Austria to play music of C.P.E. Bach, Busoni, Mozart and Schumann. He has been compared to Arthur Schnabel and chosen as a top artist in the "rising star series" at Carnegie Hall. Regular ticket price \$35

The Washinton Saengerbund

Sunday, April 24, 3 -7 pm **Spring Concert and Tea Dance "Unter den Linden"** featuring some of Berlin's favorite composers, at Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, NW. Concert is followed by savories and dessert buffet and 3 three hours of dancing to the Con Brio! Quintet. Tickets \$40 per person Tel. 703-913-4833, www.saengerbund.org or 202-310-4691.

A-AS Officers for 2004-2005:

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Marilyn Nejelski, 1st Vice President 301-320-0713

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