

## NEW BRAUNFELS GEMISCHTER-CHOR HARMONIE

### Musical tradition

#### Group maintains its ties to German history through music and song

By Molly Block

The Herald-Zeitung

In 1845, German immigrants — led by Prince Carl Solms of Braunfels, Germany — arrived at the Comal Springs in 1845.

Five years later, after giving up security and many comforts of the Old Country, they adapted to their new environment and formed singing groups.

These groups sang familiar songs handed down from many great composers of classical and folk music — and the first singing group formed was the “Germania” singing society, in 1850.

Since then, New Braunfels has been home to many German singing groups societies and was host to multiple singing groups from all over the state.

The last group to be formed in New Braunfels was the Gemischter- Chor Harmonie in 1937, with 46 men and women singers.

In 1938, they joined the Texanischer Gebirgs Saengerbund, encompassing societies in San Antonio, Fredricksburg and several towns in between.

At 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 26, the New Braunfels Gemischter- Chor Harmonie will host the 124th Saengerfest of the Texanischer Gebirgs Saengerbund at the McKenna Events Center.

The family-friendly concert will feature many traditional German songs, and will be completely free and open to the public. German choirs from New Braunfels, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Fredricksburg will perform.

Diane Moltz, a member of the New Braunfels Gemischter- Chor Harmonie since 2001, said they expect about 275 people to attend.

“This concert is actually one of the smaller ones that we have,” Moltz said. “Our biggest one is the Desch Texanisher concert, and that one is in the spring. The concert on Saturday will start with a banner ceremony, and each organization will come out holding their own banner and perform two songs. It’s really incredible to see.”

Moltz said there will also be a mixed group of women who sing two songs together during the concert, and then a mixed group of men will sing afterward.

The public will then be invited to sing traditional German songs with the members and enjoy time on stage before the concert is over.

“It will be interesting to hear some old folk songs, and some classic music,” Moltz said. “It will definitely be a lively and enjoyable afternoon, and the concert will reconnect people

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Gemischer Chor Harmonie will host the 124th Saengerfest of the Texanischer Gebirgs Saengerbund at the McKenna Events Center on Sept. 26.

Submitted photos



Gemischer Chor Harmonie performs at a show.

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with the German culture here. It's a fun thing to see and hear."

Today, the New Braunfels Gemischer- Chor Harmonie has over 40 members — all who enjoy singing and preserving the German language and traditions.

Some members are fluent in German, and others are using the choir to help them learn the language.

Moltz, who is currently in her 14th year with the German choir, believes the group includes some of the nicest people she has ever met.

“They are the nicest group of people I’ve ever belonged to,” Moltz said. “They sincerely care about everyone, and we all work together to raise money for whatever we need. Everyone pitches in.”

For more information about the New Braunfels Gemischter-Chor Harmonie, visit [www.nbharmonie.org](http://www.nbharmonie.org) or call (830) 625- 8937.

For anyone interested in joining the choir, the group meets every Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Eden Hill Chapel, located at 631 Lakeview Blvd. in New Braunfels.



The Gemischter Chor Harmonie kicks off the program at the German-American Society's 35th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 17, 2013 at Seekatz Opera House.

Herald-Zeitung file photo