

## **Chronicle of the Chorgemeinschaft Heldenbergen e.V., which took over the heritage and tradition of the former Heldenberg choral societies in 1945.**

### **1. the "Euphrosyne" choral society**

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1839 First meetings for joint amateur choir singing in the "Zum Stern" restaurant, now the "Zum Adler" hotel, under the guidance of teachers Albach, Benk and Epple.

1840 19.01.: Decision to found a men's choral society with the name "Euphrosyne" by the teachers Albach, Epple and Benk. Other co-founders are listed: Pastor Bertram, Mayor Schweitzer and Messrs. A. Pauly, Joh. Dott, Tob. Kunkel and Tob. Thaler.

1845 July 13 - 15: The 5th Wetterau Singing Festival is held in Heldenbergen on the Bleiche, in which 21 clubs with around 600 singers take part. The Frankfurt choir master Heinrich Neeb is the overall conductor of this festival.

1865 25.06.: 25th anniversary of the GV "Euphrosyne" in conjunction with the 2nd Federal Singers' Festival of the Niddertal Singers' Association.

1884 25.03.: Flag consecration, combined with the 4th Federal Singers' Festival of the Niddertal Singers' Association in Heldenbergen from 29 - 30.06.1884.

1925: The GV "Euphrosyne" celebrates its 85th anniversary with a singing festival.

The 100th anniversary was to be celebrated in 1940, but the outbreak of war in 1939 prevented this from taking place. The flag and all of the association's sheet music were lost in the post-war years. Last chairman: Franz Rothweil, last conductor: Josef Kremer.

### **2. the choral society "Thalia"**

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(The written records of this association were lost after the Second World War)

1885 7.06.: The "Thalia" choral society is founded on an excursion to Eichen. The new club held its singing sessions every Saturday evening in the "Zum Stern" inn, now the "Zum Adler" hotel.

1910 11-13 June: 25th anniversary of the association combined with a major national singing competition and the national singing festival of the Niddertal Singers' Association.

Chairmen of the association were: Andreas Schneider, Mayor Georg Schneider, Andreas Weisbecker, conductors: Mr. Schuldt, Mr. Künkel, from 1937 Mr. Willi May.

### **3. the "Thalia" workers' choral society**

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1903 Founding of the workers' choral society "Thalia" as the 3rd men's choral society in Heldenbergen.

1928 July 6-8: 25th anniversary of the AGV "Thalia".

1933 The club is banned by the National Socialist government and all club activities are prohibited. The members of the association are once again accepted by the other two choral societies. The purchased grand piano and sheet music can still be transferred to the ownership of the "Thalia" choral society. Last chairman: August Rauch, last conductor: Mr. Schleich.

### **4. cultural and sports community - singing section: Heldenbergen choir community**

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1945 September: Founding of the Heldenbergen cultural and sports community with the singing, soccer and gymnastics/cycling sections in the "Homburger Hof" restaurant by Karl Vetter, Georg Kremer, Robert Rauch, Heinrich Appel and Heinrich Tiefenstädter. Franz Neumann became head of the singing department and Willi May was again appointed choirmaster.

1946 First concert in the hall of the "Homburger Hof" restaurant

1951 The entire May choir group, which also included the Volkschor Düdelsheim, the Volkschor Bad Vilbel and the "Freie Sänger" Kilianstädten, performed a concert with Hans

Langer's harvest cycle at the 1st Federal Singers' Festival of the German General Singers' Association in the Festhalle in Frankfurt am Main.

1954 In recognition of the task that the singing department had taken on in 1945, it celebrated an anniversary festival in 1954 under the motto "115 years of choral singing in Heldenbergen".

In 1959, Heinz Schön took over the chairmanship of the singing department.

In 1964, the 125th anniversary of choral singing in Heldenbergen was celebrated with a large singing festival. In the same year, the association organized a concert with the May choir group in the Kurhaus in Bad Nauheim on the occasion of the regional choir festival of the Sängerbund.

1971 October: The Heldenbergen cultural and sports community is dissolved. From now on, the clubs conducted their business under a new name. It was therefore also necessary for our association to find an appropriate name. On July 16, 1971, the name "Chorgemeinschaft Heldenbergen" was chosen at an extraordinary general meeting, as the name of the village was to be retained at all costs.

1971 01.04.: Foundation of a children's choir, which unfortunately disbanded after 10 years.

1974 23.11.: On the occasion of its 135th anniversary, the association is awarded the Zelter Plaque and the Silver Medal of Honor by the Hessian Minister President at a ceremony.

1975 15.09.: A women's choir is founded to complete the Heldenbergen choral community. Good vocal material and the joy of choral singing brought the mixed choir great success at concerts, competition singing and recitals.

1977 14.05.: Willi May celebrates his 40th anniversary as choirmaster at the regional choir festival in Düdelsheim. For his services to choral singing, he is awarded a letter of honor by the Hessian Minister President on this concert evening.

1979 21-25.06.: The choir community celebrates its 140th anniversary with a big singing festival. In October of the same year, Heinz Schön hands over the office of 1st Chairman, which he had held for 20 years. His successor is Karlheinz Jost.

1987 Autumn: Choirmaster Willi May celebrates 50 years as conductor in Heldenbergen. This unique anniversary is celebrated with a magnificent concert.

1989 1150th anniversary of Heldenbergen: On the occasion of this event, the Heldenbergen choir community decides not to hold its own anniversary celebration. On March 11, 1989, a party is held in the "Hessischer Hof", the singers' clubhouse for decades. The "Salon-Ensemble Jelinek" performed alongside the Jubelverein under the direction of choir director Willi May. As part of the "1150 years of Heldenbergen" festival week, the choir community organizes a "Day of Music" in the festival tent on 4 June. With a friendship singing at 8.00 am with the participation of 28 guest choirs. In the afternoon from 2.30 p.m., the "Original Liederbacher" were invited to an afternoon of entertainment with coffee and cake. At 8 p.m., a concert took place in the marquee with the Big Band of the 3rd US Armored Division from Frankfurt. This concert was one of the highlights of the festival week.

1990 01.01.: Mr. Michael Knopke becomes the new conductor of the Heldenbergen choir community. He has 64 active members at his disposal: 33 men and 31 women. The choir is supported by 71 passive members.

1992 21.08: At an extraordinary general meeting, the members present approve the articles of association drawn up by the Board of Directors by secret ballot with 36 votes in favor and one against. The application for entry in the register of associations at Hanau Local Court is approved with 37 votes in favor.

1992 3.12.: The Chorgemeinschaft Heldenbergen e.V. is entered in the register of associations at Hanau Local Court under No. 41 VR 1334.

1993 21.06.: The Chorgemeinschaft Heldenbergen e.V. is recognized as a non-profit association by the Hanau tax office for the promotion of cultural purposes.

1994 12.06.: "Songs in the park" - an idea becomes reality. For the first time, the choir community organizes an open-air concert on the estate of the von Leonhardi family, the Oberburg in Heldenbergen. Other participants include the Nidderau youth choir and the Ostheim trombone choir. On this day, the entire castle is open to the public. 371 visitors make use of this opportunity and enjoy a lovely afternoon with coffee, cake and cold drinks on the well-kept grounds.

1996 2.02.: Heinz Weisbecker is elected 1st chairman at the annual general meeting.

1999 28.10.: Honored by the Main-Kinzig district.

2001 18.11.: The first event in the new Heldenbergen culture and sports hall, which was opened the day before by the town of Nidderau, is a concert by the Heldenbergen choral society on Sunday at 5 p.m. with melodies from "My Fair Lady" and "West Side Story". Other participants are: Kathi Schwedt/alto, Herbert Häfner/bass, Oliver Seiler/piano Dieter Plaue/drums and Jens Weiß/contrabass. The event was supported by the Kulturring der Stadt Nidderau.

2002 October 28: Manfred Reuter is elected 1st chairman at the extraordinary annual general meeting. Mrs. Erika Grix is elected as 2nd chairwoman. This is the first time that a member of the women's choir is represented on the board as 2nd chairperson.

2007 20.08.: Last singing lesson under the direction of Mr. Michael Knopke. After 17 years and 8 months, he leaves the choir community at his own request. During his tenure, the choir regularly performed at concerts and participated in competition singing, where it received good reviews. "Songs in the Park" were held for 14 consecutive years under his direction. The choir currently consists of 50 active members: 18 men and 32 women. 134 passive members support the association.

2007 27.08.: Ms. Susanne Riedl from Frankfurt conducts her first choir rehearsal as the new conductor of the Chorgemeinschaft Heldenbergen e.V.

2008 15.06.: First major public performance by the choir community with new conductor, Susanne Riedl, at "Lieder im Park". The men's, women's and mixed choirs delighted the audience with a varied program, including first performances. 199 visitors did not let the slightly cooler weather and occasional short showers spoil their good mood. The choir will no longer be able to host the "Lieder im Park" event, which traditionally usually takes place in June. Due to the "ageing" of the association, preparation and execution have become too labor-intensive.