

## **Chronicle of the Heldenbergen choir community 2016 to 2023**

2016 10.04.: "Nidderau sings and helps" - Nidderau choirs sing for the benefit of refugee aid. At this concert in the packed KuSHalle in Nidderau-Heldenbergen, the choir community performed three songs. The concert was a huge success. On 29.04.2016, a cheque for € 7,500 was presented to the refugee aid organization in the town hall of Nidderau in the presence of representatives of the participating associations

2016 05.06.: "Lieder im Park" - For the first time, the event had to be canceled due to the unstable weather conditions, and that was a good thing, because the rain came right on time at 3.30 p.m.

2016 08.10.: "Caribbean, samba and more..." - This was the title of the first concert with the new conductor, Ms. Grebe. "La Cucaracha", "Guntanamera" and the unforgettable "Come back Liza" by Harry Belafonte were just some of the songs that delighted the audience. Other performers included Julia Hofmann (vocals), Torsten Hofmann (percussion, piano), Matthias Wischer (accordion) and Dance-4 Fun (dance group).

2016 10.12.: Advent singing in the Protestant church in Heldenbergen with the choir and Bernd Straib on the organ. The Protestant and Catholic parishes each received €250 from the donations.

2017 06.05.: Landes-Chortage (Hessischer Chorverband) - The choir community participated with Audite Silete, N'kosi Sikelel'i Africa, Aura Lee and What a Saturday night in the performance of choirs from the region in the Bürgerhaus in Nidderau-Ostheim.

2017 02.07.: "Songs in the Park" - For the first time under the direction of conductor Dorothea Grebe. Other participants included the children from the Heldenbergen Catholic kindergarten (conducted by Monika Görtz), "Kammertöne" Büdesheim (conducted by Simone Winkelmann), "BON" Nidderau wind orchestra (conducted by Andreas Weil) and the Stammheim folk choir, also conducted by Dorothea Grebe. Participants and audience alike were delighted with the atmosphere created by this event.

2017 17.12.: Advent singing - In keeping with tradition, this year's concert took place in the Catholic church in Heldenbergen. The children of the Catholic kindergarten with Monika Görtz, the BONSingers under the direction of Luna Leipold, who had chosen the gallery for their performance and delighted the numerous listeners with the choir and Bernd Straib on

the organ "Freuet euch all' ". The two parishes were also delighted with the donation of €375 each.

2018 07.03.: "Sing and Swing the Sixties" in the KuS-Halle in Heldenbergen. This concert was organized with the main choir and a project choir. A band (piano, clarinet, trombone, guitar, bass and drums) supported the choirs and soloist Julia Hofmann in their performances. Songs such as Die Zuckerpuppe, Ich will keine Schokolade, Que sera, sera, Can't help falling in love reminded the audience of the sixties.

2018 26.08.: The choir was able to celebrate "25 years of songs in the park" in perfect weather. The board's decision not to charge admission for this anniversary and to ask for donations instead proved to be the right one. The audience flocked to the park, as this is the only opportunity to move around the well-kept estate of the von Leonhardi family. The donation baskets were also filled to the brim. The choir community, the children of the Heldenbergen catholic kindergarten, the Stammheim folk and youth choir and the "BON" wind orchestra from Nidderau offered the audience a varied program.

2018 15.12.: This year's "Advent Singing" took place in the Heldenbergen Protestant Church with the participation of an instrumental group (recorders, accordion, cello and guitar). "Wenn ich ein Glöcklein wär'", "Engel haben Himmelslieder" and "Stille Nacht" were sung partly with the voices of the audience. The Protestant and Catholic parishes each received €200 from the donations.

2019 27.01.: Start of the year celebration and member honors. A total of 420 years of service to choral singing were honored with coffee and cake and singing in the parish hall of the Catholic church in Nidderau-Heldenbergen.

2019 02.06.: "Songs in the park" - choir community, "Miss Harmonie" Eichen, the "BON" wind orchestra Nidderau and the children of the Kath. kindergarten Heldenbergen offered a varied program. Free admission and the well-known cake buffet once again ensured a very well-attended event.

2019 30.06.: Our choir director Mrs. Dorothea Grebe leaves the choir.

2019 22.07.: Julija Domaseva conducts her first choir rehearsal, singers were thrilled. Unfortunately, the joy was short-lived, as Ms. Domaseva was offered a permanent position in Heidelberg. The engagement was terminated by mutual agreement on 31.08.2019.

2019 01.09.: Christoph Klüh was appointed as the new conductor.

2019 22.12.: "And now it's Christmas". This was the motto of the Advent concert under the direction of new conductor Christoph Klüh. The Catholic church in Heldenbergen was filled to capacity. Some of the visitors stood and listened to the concert until the end. The "Klühwürmchen", a small group from the choir of the conductor from Neu-Isenburg, and the children from the Heldenbergen Catholic kindergarten were the other participants in this musical experience. The conductor's piano solo "Zauberhaft" also helped to make the concert a complete success. Accordingly, the two parishes were delighted with the generous donations.

2020 26.01.: Start of the year celebration with singing and coffee and cake. Our long-standing members were also honored at this event. The honors were performed by Michael Neigert (President of the Hess.Chorverband) and Mrs. Heidi Bauer-Klar (Chairwoman of the Sängerkreis Friedberg).

2020 09.03.: Last choir rehearsal before Corona. From Monday, 16.03.2020, the community centers of the city of Nidderau were closed. This was followed by 3 more choir rehearsals in July 2020, which were kindly held outdoors on the premises of Schäfer-Reisen. After that, the only way to rehearse until 31.12.2020 was with the help of videos and recordings of the respective choir voices for the planned songs by Mr. Klüh and arrangements of various choir songs. Which was very difficult for everyone.

2021 01.01.-26.07.2021: Choir operations are suspended due to the corona pandemic.

2021 12.05.: Resignation of choirmaster Christoph Klüh for personal reasons as of 31.08.2021.

2021 09.08.: At the annual general meeting, the difficult corona situation and the search for a new choirmaster were discussed.

2021 01.11.: Conductor Oliver Pleyer takes over the choir as choirmaster and choir rehearsals take place again.

2022 January to February: Choir rehearsals are suspended again.

2022 14.03.: Choir rehearsals are resumed with great enthusiasm.

2022 31.12.: Oliver Pleyer retired as choirmaster at the end of the year.

2022: Ms. Aylin Günel has taken over the musical direction of the choir since November 2022.

The choir will no longer be able to organize the "Songs in the Park" event, which traditionally usually takes place in June. The choir is considering new ways of organizing (organization and participants in cooperation) of Lieder im Park.

2023 30.06.: Our first concert under new choir management took place on June 30, 2023 in the Catholic Church in Heldenbergen. In front of a full house, we had another successful concert after a long time under the title "German music through the ages".

2023 On December 22, our Christmas concert also took place in the Catholic Church in Heldenbergen. Despite the stormy weather, the concert was well attended. The performance by Aaron Dönges (aged 11) on the organ delighted the audience.

2024 In November 2024, two concerts entitled 'Homage to Udo Jürgens' took place in Florstadt and Heldenbergen. Both the Protestant church in Florstadt and the Catholic church in Heldenbergen were filled to capacity. The concerts were a resounding success.

2025 Due to the previous success, two more Udo Jürgens concerts were performed in February 2025 at the Andreaskirche in Schöneck-Büdesheim and at the St. Bonifatiuskirche in Karben. Once again, the churches were packed. Unfortunately, our choir director Aylin Günel had to leave us in September 2025 for professional reasons. Pascal Franke seamlessly took over the rehearsals and has been the new choir director of the choir community since 8 September 2025.