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## ♪ Cliff's Notes ♪

Did you know that the Indianapolis Liederkranz is all about the preservation and cultivation of German culture through song? We were founded in 1872 by German immigrants as an all male singing society. And now we have four musical groups celebrating German culture through song. You can read elsewhere in this newsletter how and where we did that. I will call your attention to the schedule that's included and invite you to attend some of our events at our own building, starting with our Bock Beer Fest on March 1<sup>st</sup> with music provided by the Polkamotion German band.

At our annual meeting last year, we formed a "Technology" committee that has participation from each of the music groups that call the Liederkranz building home. One of their "products" was our new logo, which graces this newsletter and our new business cards. The old logo was difficult to reproduce in a high quality, so the committee (with Board approval) came up with a more streamlined version, while maintaining the main attributes of the old one. Other ideas were discussed by this committee, some of which you should see coming to fruition this year. I'm really excited about the possibilities.

I told you last year that we also needed to update our bylaws. So, we formed a bylaws committee, also with participation from each group, and at our annual meeting in January, we approved revised bylaws which more accurately reflect participation from each of the musical groups.

I almost always include a reminder that we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization, meaning donations are tax deductible, and we are always in need of volunteers. So, even though we need singers for the choir, we can also use your help in other ways. You can contact us through the website at [www.indyliederkranz.org](http://www.indyliederkranz.org) or call me at 317-363-3283.

Lastly, I want to leave you with this quote, which I got from a Mu Phi Epsilon post on Facebook: "Singing in a choir is an absolutely unique experience. It is one of the most important things in the world. Where else do you have everyone doing the same thing at the same time without the use of special equipment and for a greater purpose, and no one is sitting on the bench?" (I would add "except the accompanist" at the end of that.) So, who wants to be part of doing something for a greater purpose, and not only do you not need any equipment, but you get to drink beer too?

Cliff Chandler, President

## Notes from the Liederkranz Damenchor!

I want to start out with wishing all of you a happy, but most of all a healthy "New Year 2025". Ich moechte ihnen ein recht glueckliches, aber vor allen Dingen ein gesundes "Neues Jahr 2025" wuenschen.

The past year was very busy for the Damenchor, especially at the end of the year. We started the year with Gavin Craig as our new choir director, and Rhonda Collins as our accompanist. In February, we sang for the memorial service for Ruth and Eberhard Reichman. He was the composer of our opening song that we use at every concert: "Die Musik ist die Bruecke zwischen Himmel und Erd" (Music is the bridge between heaven and earth).

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**2025 Schedule**  
**Indianapolis Liederkrantz**  
**1417 E Washington St.**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46201**  
**(317) 755-6402**  
**www.indyliederkrantz.org**  
**email: info@indyliederkrantz.org**  
**Choir Director - Gavin Craig (765) 546-7687**

March 1.....Bock Beer Fest  
 March 8.....Liederkrantz German Band Konzert  
 April 12.....Men's Concert & Dance  
 April 25-27.....District Saengerfest-Evansville, IN  
 May 3.....Damenchor Maifest  
 Aug. 2.....Summerfest-German Park  
 Sept. 4, 5 & 6.....Oktoberfest at German Park  
 Sept 27.....Oktoberfest at the Liederkrantz  
 Oct. 18.....Men's Concert & Dance  
 Nov. 1.....Damenchor Bunter Abend  
 Dec. 7 .....Weihnachtskonzert  
 Dec. 14.....Children's Christmas Party

### **Group Rehearsals:**

Bells: Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.  
 Damenchor: Wednesdays 7:15 p.m.  
 Men: Wednesdays 8:15 p.m.  
 Band: Mondays 7:30-9:00 p.m.



## **Notes from the Liederkrantz Damenchor! (continued from Page 1)**

The District Saengerfest was held in Dayton, Ohio. It is always so much fun to sing and get together with the other choirs from the SOKII district, which includes singers from Southern Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. This year, Evansville is hosting the District Saengerfest on April 25-27.

We held our annual Maifest dinner, concert and dance. This year's Maifest will be held on May 3. I hope you will plan to come to enjoy the music, good food and a wonderful concert.

For three days, we manned the cake booth at The German American Klub Oktoberfest held at German Park. Our annual Bunter Abend was held in November. In December, we sang with some of the Liederkrantz men for "St. Nickolausfest" at Sacred Heart. We sang three times at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt and once at the Athenaeum Christkindlmarkt. It is the highlight of the choir year when we get to sing together with our Liederkrantz men. The amazing Loesje Chandler played for all our community engagements in December.

We welcomed two new choir members: Ruth Anne Pruitt and Kelly Sickle. Our practice is on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m., and we are always looking for new singers.

Margit Ball, Damenchor President

## German Band Notes

The Liederkrantz German Band had an incredible year in 2024! As we celebrated our ensemble's 10th anniversary, we saw lots of amazing growth. We're excited to continue that momentum through the next ten years and beyond!

In 2024, the Liederkrantz Band performed at **34 different events** throughout central Indiana, including our first wedding and our first celebration of life. During this past year, we added **19 new pieces of music** to our repertoire. With **9 new members joining the band in 2024**, we now have a total of **34 performers**. Our 2024 Konzert, "Marsch Madness" was our most successful Konzert! It brought over 100 attendees to the Indianapolis Liederkrantz and raised over \$1300 for the band's operational expenses.

We have lots of great things in store for 2025, and we're excited for you to be part of the fun! The season kicks off on **Saturday, March 8** with our annual spring Konzert at the Liederkrantz. This year's theme is "Hoosier Heimat: A Celebration of Indiana's (German) Musical Heritage." For the first time, we will be performing as a featured act at the annual Jasper Strassenfest on **Saturday, August 2**. If you're looking for something more local, be sure to come hear us at Downtown Indy's Oktoberfest on **Friday, September 12** at Monument Circle.

Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Patrick Rutledge, Liederkrantz German Band Director

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## Indianapolis Liederkrantz Membership Form

Please fill out this form (PRINT neatly and clearly) and include a check for the membership dues.

Indianapolis Liederkrantz  
Attn: Membership Chairman  
1417 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201-3846

The Indianapolis Liederkrantz has been granted status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and your contributions (the amount over your annual dues) are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

[ ] Single Membership (\$25.00)                      Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] Family Membership (\$50.00)                    Total:        \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Man's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Woman's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive Liederkrantz notifications by email, rather than by USPS: **Yes No (circle one)**

I give Indianapolis Liederkrantz permission to include me in a member directory: **Yes No (circle one)**

Indianapolis Liederkrantz  
1417 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

## 2025 Membership Due

### Membership Corner

Please consider supporting the Indianapolis Liederkrantz by joining or renewing your single or family membership for 2025. The most convenient way to do so is by going online here: <https://indyliederkrantz.org/membership/>, selecting the “Become a Member” button, and paying via a credit card. Paper membership forms may also be mailed to Indianapolis Liederkrantz, 1417 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46201.

Membership in the Indianapolis Liederkrantz increased by about 26% in 2024; In 2024, there were 93 recorded memberships. Let’s see if we can reach over 100 memberships in 2025!

Lenny Dintenfass, Membership Chairman

### Handbells

Handbell choir rehearsals began on Feb 5th this year. Hopefully that gave our ringers time to recover from last year's busy rehearsal schedule.

In addition to the Weihnachtskonzert during the 2024 holiday season, we braved the cold to play outside at the Cumberland Weihnachtsmarkt for a second year. It's a great venue, and we were happy to be asked back again. We couldn't have played those concerts without three invaluable substitutes who filled in when we had schedule conflicts. Kudos to them, and to our regular ringers who didn't complain about the crazy rehearsals!

This spring, we are preparing to play concerts at retirement communities and nursing homes beginning in April. We are excited about reaching audiences who always welcome more music in their lives. Wish us luck! (If you know of an assisted living facility that would enjoy hosting us, please contact Mark Kindred at [bells@indyliederkrantz.org](mailto:bells@indyliederkrantz.org).)

Mark Kindred, Director