

THE ZITHER NEWSLETTER

Dr. Joel Morris, Editor

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Current American Zither Music and Instruction Books

There are none ! And this is just one of the reasons why the zither has declined in popularity and may soon die-out in the USA. Most important is the need for a current zither instruction book with American songs written in English for Americans. As the old-time zither players die off, who will take their places? The younger generation prefer musical instruments which are simpler and for which there is American music and instruction books. And rightfully so ! There is a wealth of current music and instruction books available for guitar, organ, and piano, but none for zither. If the zither is to participate in American musical culture, it must participate, and not be relegated simply to the playing of landlers and the like. I do not think that American youth will be content to plunk away at the same music zither players have been plunking away at for the past 50 years. Zither arrangements of popular, classical and semi-classical music must be made available to the American zither player if American interest in the zither is to be maintained. Additionally, a zither play-along phonograph record (with music) would be welcomed by many zither players.

ZITHER CLUB NEWS

Milwaukee Zither Club "Alpenkalenge" - Founded 1942. First concert given November 1942 by 12 charter members. Their Spring Concert, conducted 5/5/63, included the following program: "Stephanie;" "Loewinger Peasant Dance" (Matzka); "True to the Homeland" (Richter); "Sounds from Niagara Falls" (Ceigl); "Green Is the Heath" and "Please Open Your Window;" "With United Strength" (Wormsbacher); "Tales from Swabia" (Hoermann); "Tango" (Gerstenberger); "Rustle of the Danube" (Freunendorfer); "Sharpshooter Lisa" (Holzfurtnner). The next concert to be given by the Milwaukee Zither Club will be on 10/13/63. The Club's zither ensemble consists of 8 first zithers; 4 second zithers; 1 alto zither; 1 violin; 1 viola; 2 guitars; 1 mandolin; 1 cello and 1 bass violin. The Club meets each Monday at Schmitts Hall, 2001 West Hopkins Street. Rudolf Mueller is secretary and Hans Fuerst, Director.

Los Angeles Zither Ensemble - The LA Ensemble, under the direction of Alberta Krader, consists of 12 zithers, 2 guitars and 1 mandolin. Their classical quintet consists of 1st and 2nd zithers, elegie, bass and quint zithers. They are presenting the music of Holz, Rutchmann and Erbe, etc. The Ensemble is sponsored by the Los Angeles Municipal Arts and Music Departments. They have also appeared at the Highland Park Auditorium. Other appearances include the USO's in Hollywood and Los Angeles in addition to the VA Hospital. During May the L.A. Public Library Music and Record Department displayed their zithers and historical data.

Chicago Zither Club - The Club, founded 1913, meets at 911 W. Armitage Avenue. The director is Esther Rehberg-Mueller. Johanna Ramirez is secretary (2042 Grace Street, Chicago 18). Frank Meindl is president. Their Spring Concert was given April 27 at Lincoln Turner Hall, 1005 Diversey Parkway, Chicago Illinois. It was a 50th Anniversary concert and dance. The following program was given: "Standchen (Strobl);

"Waldestraume" (Bicherl); "Heut mocht ich tanzen" (Vejvoda); "Steirer Gruss und Bleib ma no a wengerl sitzen; Die beiden Kunstpfeifer" (Damberger); "Bleamerln aus Mittenwald" (Muhlauer); "Die Hochzeit der Winde" (Hall); "Erzherzog Albrecht" (Komzak); "Von Rhein zur Donau" (Rhode). Among those artists featured in the concert were members of the Chicago Club. Mali Mackh, Willy May and the Steirer Damen Chor. Another concert will be given during November 1963. The Chicago Zither Club meets every second Thursday of the month at 8 PM.

Philadelphia Zither Club - Still no formal organization exists although players occasionally get together. Zither activity centers around Zapf's Music Store. Zither players in the area include: Dr. Joel Morris, Mrs. Cindy Bird, Joseph Weber, and the Zapf family---Leonard, Sr., Sophian, Carl, and Leonard. Still to be contacted are Dr. C. A. Kressly, Anna Krause, Franz Linder, Reichert John and George Soldner.

Maryland - Although no formal zither club exists, Paul Guenther (Dundalk, Maryland) and H. E. Klarking (Annapolis) keep the zither alive in the Maryland area. Paul played a spot on TV during 1962 in "What's New In Baltimore."

New York Zither Club - I am sure that the recent demise of William Gronwald, President of the New York Zither Club, will be felt by all zither players. Bill was an enthusiastic and good zither player and will be a loss to the small number of zither players still active in the U.S. The Zither Club meets Friday evenings, 8:00 PM at the Kalpin House, 165 E. 88th Street, New York City.

Brooklyn Zither Club Harmonie - The club meets each Friday, 8:30 PM, Schwaben Hall, Knickerbocker and Myrtle Avenues, Brooklyn, New York.

Rochester Zither Club. Efforts have been made to determine the current activities of the Rochester Club, but to no avail. The club meets at the Deutschen Haus, 315 Gregory Street. Officers include: Hubert Stiens, Director, Richard Teute, President.

Syracuse Zither Club - Efforts have been made to determine the activities of the Syracuse Club, but no information has been received as yet.

Buffalo Zither Club - I have written to Mr. Kurt Wissing, 2367 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo 15, for information concerning the Buffalo Zither Club of which he is a member.

San Francisco, California - A zither club exists in San Francisco. Efforts have been made to contact the president, John Hermann (BA 1-3953).

Cleveland, Ohio - Oscar Yellinek, Herta Weber, Fritz Koenig, Mr. Friedrich and Mrs. Waldman still meet on an informal basis to keep the zither alive in Cleveland.

Dayton and Columbus, Ohio - Messrs. Adalbert Altrichter (2917 E. 5th St., Dayton), Peter Lund, and William G. Huggins keep the zither alive in the Dayton/Columbus area although no formal zither club exists.

GENERAL NEWS

Music Educators Journal. The September issue of this nationally reknown music journal will feature an article titled "Rejuvenating American Interest in the Zither" by Dr. Joel Morris. This is the first time an article about the zither has appeared in a national American music journal in many a year.

Music Journal. Another article about the zither will appear in the December issue of the Music Journal. This article pertains to zither records.

Zither History. The Bucks County Historical Museum has a collection of old zithers which were played by the Pennsylvania Dutch in Bucks County many years ago. However, they are called Zitters, rather than Zithers.

String Teaching Research and Development, Inc. has been organized to act as a research center for the purpose of obtaining funds for new research projects, administering the funds through grants to research scholars in colleges and universities and serves as a clearing house for research information in the field of stringed instrumental music--- Address inquiries to Dr. Henry A. Bruinsma, School of Music, 1899 No. College Rd., Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

Musikalische Monatsschrift fur Zither - Und Volksmusikfreunde. A subscription to this bi-monthly journal may be obtained through Heinrich Schiede, Munchen-Solln, Grunbauerstrasse 20.

Zither History. The Monthly Journal of the International Music Society, Vol. 10, 1909, Pgs. 341-49 contains a good description of the development of the zither. It compares both the Munich and Vienna systems of playing, and is written in English.

Handbuch der Zither von Dr. Josef Brandlmeier can be purchased from the Suddeutscher Verlag, Munich for 48 DM. The Handbuch is divided into several sections and is devoted to history and development of the zither and zither schools.

Zither Pick-Ups. The following pick-ups have been used by various zither players for electronic amplification. This list is for information only and is not to suggest endorsement.

Knight Guitar Pick-Up
Kent WC-41 Bass Mike

ZITHER ARTISTS

Below is a list of zither professionals and players at the locations at which they appear. The omission of any player is not intentional, but due to the lack of communications between zither players in the U.S. The Newsletter is extremely interested in making this list as complete as possible and requests that anyone who can add to the list write to the Editor. It would also be advisable for out-of-towners to call before visiting the locations listed below since the artists' bookings are subject to change.

Eastern United States

Martin Doppelhammer, Hapsburg House, 315 E. 55th St., N.Y.C. - Nightly

Joseph Seidl, Gay Vienna, 2nd Ave. & 83rd St., N.Y.C. - Nightly
Hans Hansberg, Waldorf Astoria, Park Avenue & 49th St., N.Y.C. - Nightly
Joseph Weber, Town Hall Tavern, 6711 Rising Sun Ave., Phila. - Occasionally
Paul Guenther, Peabody Book Store, Baltimore, Md., - Thursday Evening
Siegfried Fallner, Alpen Inn, Sugarbush Valley, Vermont
Josef Plass, Mountain Top Inn, Swiftwater, Penna., Private Engagements

Central United States

Fritz Steins, William Tell Restaurant, 5709 W. North Ave., Chicago - Nightly
Karl Zahaberger, Golden Ox Cafe, 1578 N. Clybourne Ave., Chicago - Nightly
Rudy Weck, 3133 N. Nottingham Ave., Chicago - Private Engagements
Albert Mueller, Swiss Club, 2435 W. Wliet St., Milwaukee, Wisc. - Fri. & Sat.
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Yelinek, McNally Doyle Red Fox, River Road, Gates Mills, Ohio -
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Papa Kukler, 92 S. Main St., Eureka Springs, Arkansas - Private Engagements

Western United States

Alberta Krader, Bavarian House, 57th and Western, Los Angeles - Saturday
~~Karl Kingsbury~~, Rathskeller, 16140 Ventura Blvd., Encino, Calif., - Fri.-Sat.
Fred Bosh, Los Angeles, California, Private Engagements
Franz Gottschalk, 337 Fulton St., San Francisco, Calif., Private Engagements
Joseph Flasch, 1274 Guerrero, San Francisco, Calif. - Private Engagements
Val Bleeker, 510 Turnuy St., So. Sausalito, Calif. - Private Engagements
Herman Primus, The Ram, Sun Valley, Idaho - Nightly

ZITHER RECORDS

The last issue of the Zither Newsletter contained a list of 44 zither records. Below are additional releases and notes:

New Record Releases

Ruth Welcome - "Latin Zither" - Captiol T1863
 Hans Hansberger - "Polkas from the Alps" - United Artists UAL 3259

Additional Records

Anton Karas - "Vienna Souvenirs" - MGM SE 4071
 Anton Karas - "The Strings of Anton Karas" - Design DLP 120
 Anton Karas - "Anton Karas and His Two Rudis"
 Rudi Knabl - "Frohliche Zitherklänge" - Europa 4801
 Rudi Knabl - "Tales From the Vienna Woods" Decca 9871, with Bamberg Symphony
 Robert Karol "Tales From the Vienna Woods" RCA LM 1995, with Arthur Fiedler
 Franz Dietschmann "The Singing Zither", Decca 8112, with Camarata
 Simon Huber - "Musical Tour of the Alps" Fiesta 1375
 Relli Denk - "Yodlers from Austria" Westminster WP 6104

Below is a list of records which feature the zither with symphony or large orchestras. I have been unable to obtain the names of the zither artists on these particular records.

With Andre Kostelanetz (The Count of Luxembourg and the Merry Widow)
 Columbia CL 1199

With Werner Muller (Memories of Heidelberg) - Decca 8635

With Anton Paulik (Tales of the Vienna Woods) - Vanguard SRV 104

With Anton Doroti (Tales of the Vienna Woods) - Mercury MG 50019

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Starting with this issue we will print items for sale or items wanted by readers of the Newsletter. Anyone who has items for sale or who is looking for particular items may have them included merely by writing to the Editor. Terms of sale should be made directly with the seller or buyer. As a start the Editor is looking for the following:

WANTED

1. Carl Fisher's "Home Circle Music Series", No. 17, "The Zither Player's Pastime."
2. Availability and price of Quint, Alt and Bass Zithers.

ZITHER SERVICES

Music stores wishing to advertise in the Newsletter should contact the Editor for advertising rates.

Zither Instruction

Hans Gassner, 2952 N. 48th St., Milwaukee, 10 Wisconsin
 Michael Buechl, 2157 N. 66th St., Milwaukee 13, Wisconsin
 Adalbert Altrichter, 2917 E. 5th St., Dayton, Ohio
 Mali Mackh, 6338 N. Nokomis, Chicago, Illinois
 Martin Doppelhammer, 317 E. 55th St., New York City
 Alberta Krader, 130 N. Parkwood, Pasadena, California
 Zapf's Music Store, 5429 N. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Zither Music

Zapf's Music Store, 5429 N. 5th St., Phila., Penna.
 Music House Binzer, 225 E. 85th St., N.Y.C.
 Mielke Music Store, 86th Street and 3rd Avenue, N.Y.C.

Zithers for Sale

Philadelphia Music Co., Rt. 422, Limerick, Pennsylvania
 Zapf Music Store, 5429 N. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Zither Repairs

Zapf's Music Store, 5429 N. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia Music Co., Inc., Rt. 422, Limerick, Pennsylvania
 Eastman Violin Store, 458 The Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio

Zither Records

Mielke Music Store, 86th St. and 3rd Ave., N.Y.C.

SUPPORT THE ZITHER NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is looking for news articles pertaining to the following for publication in the Newsletter: history of the zither, biographies of zither players, history of zither clubs, concerts given, present club officers and composition, techniques of playing, electronic amplification, phonograph records, sources of music and publishers, the zither in motion pictures, etc.

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Over 100 copies of the last issue were distributed. Only a small handful of readers acknowledged receipt or indicated their desire to continue receiving the Newsletter.

This Newsletter requires a great deal of time, effort and money which have been my personal contributions. I have seen little or none of your contributions. With a few exceptions the zither playing community has been reluctant to contribute news to the Newsletter. (This indicates that either you have no news or prefer to remain an isolated, dwindling group.) Thus, it has required that I make many trips around the country to obtain news. I would prefer to stay home and play the zither. I feel that it is the responsibility of the president or secretary of each zither club to periodically report data to me rather than for me to "run after them." It required half a year to obtain just the news reported in this issue. If the zither playing community of the USA wants a Newsletter you will have to furnish me the data by November 1 and June 1 of each year in order to publish at least two issues a year. Another alternative is to have each club prepare individual subsequent issues.

Below is a subscription blank to the Zither Newsletter. Since it is highly unprofitable to publish this Newsletter unless our paid circulation increases, we will welcome your subscription. Several people and stores already subscribe to the Newsletter. However, we need many more. If the subscriptions do not equal production costs the Newsletter will be discontinued and your money refunded. Two issues will be published each year. Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK TO ZITHER NEWSLETTER

NAME _____

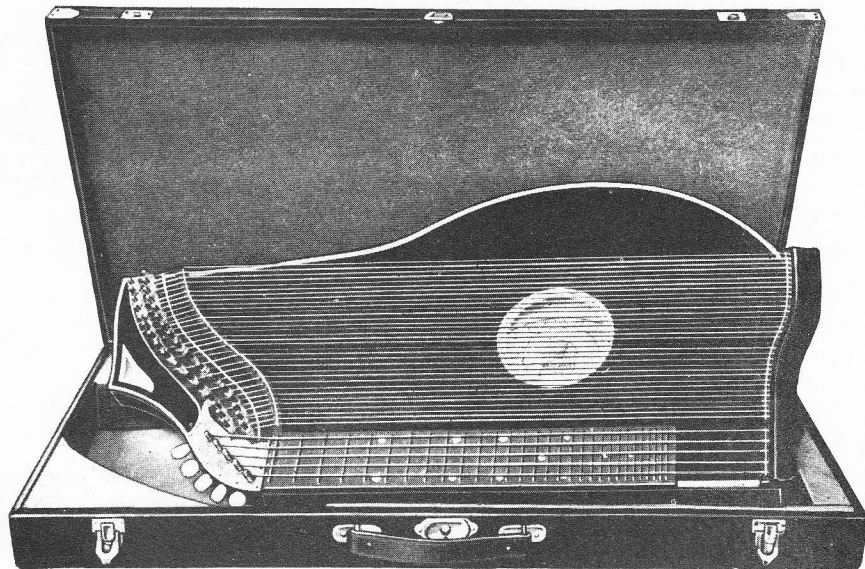
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MAIL CHECKS AND SUBSCRIPTION BLANKS TO: Dr. Joel Morris
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Philadelphia 31, Penna.

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Model (7-30)	40 Strings	\$280.00
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No. 1447 Framus "Elite" silver wound wire

Accompaniment	Bass	Contra
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No. 1447/32C Complete Set of above—\$8.00 per set

No. 1460 Framus "Almrausch", steel with nylon winding

	A	D	G	C	Acc.	Bass	Contra
1460/32	\$.10	.15	.20	.25	.35	.55	.65 each
1460/38	\$.10	.15	.20	.25	.60	.65	.70 each
1460/40	\$.10	.15	.20	.25	.60	.65	.70 each
1460/42	\$.10	.15	.20	.25	.60	.65	.70 each

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1460/32C	— \$12.00 per set
1460/38C	— \$22.00 per set
1460/40C	— \$23.50 per set
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ZITHER MUSIC AVAILABLE

Third Man Theme

Anniversary Waltz

C'est si bon

I Love Paris

My Heart Cries For You

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Ave Maria (Gounod)

Ave Maria (Schubert)

La Paloma

Auf Wiederseh'n

Minuet in B (Mozart)

Minuet in G (Bach)

Scherzo (Schubert)

Tales of the Vienna Woods

Barcarole (Offenbach)

Songs and Dances (Franz Lehar)

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