



DEUTSCHER CHORVERBAND

SÄNGER ZEITUNG

Issue Number 31

Spring, 2016



Greetings from the President...
Gary Luther

Dear Singers, Directors and Friends,

I look back on these past three years as your President with pleasure, yet remorse. Pleasure because Marianna and I have met so many wonderful friends in this historic Association. Remorse, because I see all these friends clinging to a culture, which many fear is disappearing and will never come again.

Perhaps I am the eternal optimist. I refuse to look at our Association with remorse. We have over a century of singing and friendship behind us and, I believe, if we roll up our sleeves, re-

main a cohesive, friendly, and forward planning organization, we will continue to survive and flourish.

In this issue of the Sängerszeitung, you will find my State of the NASB report. Evaluate the words and numbers closely. Ron Kabitzke, a member of the Milwaukee Liedertafel, President of the Vereinigte Choere of Milwaukee, and editor of the national D.A.N.K. newsletter has taken the position of editor of the Sängerszeitung from Willi Banzhaf, who had put his heart and soul into publishing our newsletter for decades. Thank you Willi!

The Vorstand goal is to provide you with the most up to date information at the least cost possible.

We are looking to sending more event and activity information to you via modern means through the NASB website, face book and newsletters. Certainly, if you don't have access to these methods of communicating, we

will continue to send you the information via USPS.

Many of us in the past years have attended Sängertag and Vorstand meetings. These events, while making an enjoyable weekend of meetings and friendly gathering, are expensive. Most of us are not in the position to attend these conferences due to cost and family commitments. We will, during this coming year, evaluate how we can possibly best substitute these events at a more reasonable cost to the membership.

The 62. Sängertag is coming up in May. We have placed all the information you will need to know about the Fest in this issue. If you need more information, just let me know and I assure you, we will get the information to you. Another Fest issue of the Sängerszeitung will be published in May prior to our Sängertag to tie up any loose ends we may discover.

Thank you for your support. I am looking forward to seeing everyone of you at our 62nd Sängertag in Pittsburgh!

Mit besten Sängertagen,

President

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North American Singer's Association
Nord-Amerikanischer Sängerbund

62. Nationales Sangerfest

May 26 - May 29, 2016

Greetings fellow singers:

Here in Pittsburgh we are very excited about the upcoming Sangerfest! I know you have all been anxiously awaiting an update on the preparations that have been underway here.

There were some issues with booking a block of rooms at the Wyndham Hotel. These issues have been worked out and you will find more information on how to reserve multiple rooms in this packet.

Our committee has been hard at work making all of the final plans for your visit to our "most livable city".

There is an "early bird" registration option available. This is being done to encourage our choruses to get the number of singers they are expecting to participate, as well as what voice part they are going to sing submitted in a timely manner. This will help us with ordering all of the necessary items for the reg-

istration packet. Refunds will be available on a case by case basis until May 13th, 2016. No refunds will be available after that date. The reason for this has to do with when we have to submit the number of dinners for the banquet to the hotel.

Your packet includes the following:

- ✓ Hotel Registration
- ✓ Registration Form for Singers and Guests
- ✓ Tentative Sangerfest Schedule

You may submit these forms individually or group them together as a chorus.

I know that Pittsburgh is a great distance for many of you, but I am sure that everyone that makes the journey will have a very memorable time. We look forward to your visit in May!

Nicholas S. Lipnichan

President, Pittsburgh Sangerfest

*Of t asked questions by German singing societies around the World**

How large is the Deutsche Chorverband (DCV)?

The DCV is an association of 30 individual associations. These associations have 20,000 choral groups, 660,000 singers and a total of 1,800,000 members of the societies. That largest number of singers under the age of 27 belong to the stand alone association Deutsche Chorjugend under the umbrella of the DCV. There are more than 100,000 young singers in the Chorjugend.

How many singers are in German choral groups?

When you include the choral groups in music schools, the ADC has approximately 2,400,000 active choral singers **We hear that so many choruses are dying off – is there any fact to this rumor?**

There are always choral groups, which for one reason or another cease such as: a lack of active members coming to rehearsals; their voice sections no longer have enough members due to lack of new singers - or also, because no one is there to take on the responsibility of leadership. Sometimes groups overcome these hurdles, other times, they cease because the management

structure is to conservative and refuse to change – similar to many other organizations and clubs. At the same time there are new choral groups forming; choral groups unite to a new mixed chorus; young singers form project choral groups. Men's and ladies' choruses merge to form mixed choruses. Along with these changes, senior choruses form children's or youth choruses and take on the mentoring of these groups. So, to the point of declining population, it cannot be said there is a dramatic choral reduction within the DCV.

It sounds as if the DCV does not have a problem recruiting new singers?

In comparison with the concerns for churches, political parties and labor unions to recruit and retain members, this problem is significantly less within the DCV. During the last 30 years, the number of young voices has continuously grown to number approximately 30,000. Along with this:

Not every member of a children's or youth chorus goes from the youth choral singing to adult chorus. However, children continue to join in communal singing as in past decades, as long as

62nd Sangerfest rehearsal recordings are available

Frederick Strassburger, director of the Gesangverien Concordia Singers in Sheboygan, WI, has created soundfiles of all of the music in the National Sangerfest booklet of music to be sung in Pittsburgh in May.

There are CD's available for each voice part - S1, S2, Alto, T1, T2, B1, & B2. A set of 3 CD's of each of the women's parts is available for \$20.00 which includes shipping.

A set of the men's parts is available for \$25.00, which also includes shipping.

And a set containing all 7 CD's for Mixed Choirs is available for \$40.00, which includes shipping as well.

For each song on the CD's all of the parts are heard but the individual voice part is louder than the others so that singers can learn their own part.

If you are interested in purchasing a set of CD's, please send a check along with indication of what you would like to:

Frederick Strassburger, 1829 Ohio Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

Once you receive your set of CD's you can then make copies for everyone in your choir who will be attending the National Sangerfest in May. If you have any questions, please e-mail Frederick at: strassburgerf@yahoo.com

they are shown the joy of singing. This is where we see as great opportunity for continuance and growth.

What is the attraction for young singers?

The biggest attraction for recruitment and retention of young singers is an exceptional leadership style...one without layers of management, and with sufficient teamwork possibilities for each and every active singer. What is needed is a creative and demanding choral director along with a musical repertoire, that is challenging. Young people want to be measured in their assignments and by achievement. Therefore, it does not always have to be pop, musical and jazz. We are experiencing exceptional interpretation of classical choral music among our young choruses.

** Extracted from Handbuch Chormangement*

What Awards are available to NASB members and Chör?

Sängerbezirk

Districts often present longevity awards to singers in their districts. As an example, the Wisconsin Sängerbezirk is instituting an awards recognition program, which singles out members singing in five year increments. Wisconsin holds a Kommers (singing competition) each year. During the competition between each choral singing while judges are evaluating the previous chorus, singers with 5, 10, 15... year tenure in the singing community are named by longevity group. A longevity award certificate for the singers is given in a packet to the appropriate chorus president to present to those singers at a rehearsal. Wisconsin does not award a pin for longevity.

Nord Amerikanische Sängerbund

Singers

The NASB awards pins and certificates for singers attaining 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries. These awards can be requested from 4th Vice President Sidney McGinnty. The requests must be submitted at least four weeks before the presentation date.

Sidney McGinnty
sidmcgint@aol.com
(281) 484-4248

Special recognition award – Award of Merit

A special recognition award is being implemented at the 62. National Sängertag to recognize an individual each year the NASB Vorstand feels is deserving due praise for extraordinary services rendered to the Organization. Districts and Choral groups can nominate individuals for the award each year by submitting justification for the deserving individual to the Award of Merit coordinating person. The award will be presented either at a National Sängertag, Sängertag or significant event of the District where the recipient is a member. Current coordinating person:

President, NASB
N71 W30885 Club Circle
Hartland, WI 53029

Deutscher Chorverband (DCV)

Singers

Recognitions for individuals are awarded by the DCV to active members, who at the time of award are singers or choral directors of a member chorus of the DCV. The justification of the singer or choral director activity is sufficient for the number of years. The individual time frames or order of the membership in a chorus as member or director is sufficient. It is not a condition that these years in that the years were in a DCV member chorus. The determining factor is that the individual being recognized at the time of the award is a member of the DCV affiliated Chorus.

1. Recognition of Individual members
 - a. Choral members, who can prove they are active members with at least 50, 60, 70 years activity will be awarded a pin in gold with certificate.
 - b. Choral members, who can show they were active members for at least 75 and 80 years respectively, will be awarded a certificate. A pin is not awarded for these milestones.
 - c. Individuals, who have shown outstanding services to the DCV will be awarded the "Goldene Ehrenzeichen of the DCV. This recognition award is an award, which is independent of age and time activities. This recognition pin has seldom awarded.

Sidney McGinnty
sidmcgint@aol.com
(281) 484-4248

Choral Directors

1. Recognition of choral directors
 - a. Choral directors, who have been choral directors for at least 25 years, will be awarded the Choral director pin in silver will certificate.
 - b. Choral directors, who have been choral directors for at least 40 and 50 years respectively, will be awarded the choral director pin in silver or gold respectively and with certificate.

Special Recognition

Individuals, who have shown outstanding services to the DCV will be awarded the "Goldene Ehrenzeichen of the DCV. This recognition award is an award, which is independent of age and time activities. This recognition pin has seldom awarded. Mail recommendations to:

President, NASB
N71 W30885 Club Circle
Hartland, WI 53029

Choruses

The DCB awards a recognition certificate to choruses, who can prove they have been at least 75 years (and for each additional 25 years). An exhibit of the founding date, continuous choral activity and membership is to be provided. Mail requests to:

President, NASB
N71 W30885 Club Circle
Hartland, WI 53029

North American Singers Association Foundation

The Nord-Amerikanischer Sängerbund has created a charitable foundation that will provide for scholarships and other charitable gifts. We are very happy to announce that the IRS has approved the North American Singers Association Foundation. Contributions to the Foundation will now be tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

All contributions can be sent to:

North American Singers' Association Foundation
Paul Bockstege, Treasurer
1917 Hawkeye Dr.
Evansville, IN 47720

Remember, your contributions are tax deductible!

State of the NASB 2016

Dear Singers:

Happy New Year to all!

As per the Bylaws of the NASB, I write this State of the NASB letter to you as an update relative to our Association's current well-being and plans for 2016.

Financial Status:

Paul Bockstege, our treasurer provided the following financial breakdown for the NASB Foundation and NASB Organization:

NASB Foundation

The current NASB Foundation Financial Balance as of December 31, 2015 is \$ 15,447.13 against \$18,366.39 in 2014.

We could really use someone to come forward and write grants to help us finance some of the programs we would like to get started.

This is a 501(c)3 corporation and donations are tax deductible.

Significant expenses for the past year were a result of the Vorstand compensation for attendance at Saengertag 2015. We are evaluating the cost of this event and are currently searching for alternatives to reduce this expense.

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The last time a dues increase was suggested and approved was during the term of President Emeritus Elmer Menhart. The NASB Steering committee is evaluating the need of an annual dues increase.

NASB Treasurer Report 2015

Wells Fargo account balance	\$33,345.95
WBF Genoa City Retirement Fund	\$10,000.00
The operating account balance	\$ 1,494.20
Balance for all accounts	\$44,840.15

Membership Report

Lois Lynch, our outgoing Secretary of 20+ years, and keeper of the membership files, provided the following status of our membership and choral organizations by district:

Thank you Lois for your dedication and professional posture supporting the goals and objectives of the NASB through these years!

2013 - 2015 Membership Comparison

District	2013		2014		2015	
	Choruses	Singers	Choruses	Singers	Choruses	Singers
Central	14	321	14	339	13	321
Chicago	8	274	8	263	8	218
Michigan	3	127	3	130	3	126
Pittsburgh	6	424	6	140	5	119
SOKI	12	424	12	427	12	400
Southern	13	498	13	482	13	481
St. Louis	8	164	8	155	7	132
Wisconsin	8	241	8	233	7	216
Independent	2	35	2	29	2	24
Totals	74	2231	74	2198	70	2016

As can be seen, a number of the choral groups are having difficulty-maintaining singers. The Vorstand is hard at work making efforts to find methods to stimulate growth in the NASB and its membership. We believe, this, in part can be achieved through evaluation of choral activities currently being implemented and successfully practiced internationally. Here are a few suggestions, which have been proposed this past year:

1. Seminars for singers. These could be offered online in the form of Webex presentations.
2. Specific training for choral directors. Underwrite choral directors attendance at general director music seminars.
3. Introduction seminars on the Bezirk/choral level. Institute a traveling seminar offering for districts.
4. Conferences and seminars for choral directors. Set up Webex conferences for choral directors to discuss national opportunities and open ideas for furtherance of German American choral singing.
5. Developmental courses for adults working on youth choral groups, jazz, Sunday performing choral groups. Lean on knowledge of the Deutsche Chorverband to stimulate discussions and courses for youth vocal education.
6. Training for youth and their mentors. Hold training camps for vocal training of youth during summer months.
7. Training classes for choral Vorstandsmitglieder. Institute curriculum for board members of choral groups relative to funding, archiving, organizing, and general management.
8. Regional recognition for choral levels of performance
 - o Level one: Performing choral
 - o Level two: Concert choral
 - o Level three: Master choral in the NASB.
9. Conditions for recognition of achievement in various areas of singing: POP, JAZZ, and GOSPEL with the awarding of the LET'S SING medal in gold, silver and bronze along with recognition of the director.
10. Enhance singing of Volkslieder at concerts by awarding a plaque to best rendition by a district of a historic German song at the NASB Saengerfest.

11. Webhosting for members' choral groups.
12. Recognition of children's and youth choruses.
13. Recognition of persons with the NASB Achievement awards.
14. Awards Committee – Develop methods of recognizing singers, choral groups, directors and districts.

Archivist/Historian

Gary Luther will work closely with Marlena Voigt, our Archivist and Wolfgang Wangle, our Archivist Emeritus, in achieving the goal to preserve our files and documents this upcoming year.

Publications

We continue to expand on presenting our membership more information in an accelerated fashion.

The Website is being updated more frequently by our Webmaster, Geoff Kroening. Geoff has just retired and is committed to make the NASB Website a top go to place for information regarding the NASB and districts. The website is found at www.nasaengerbund.org.

The Facebook page is becoming more popular with members showing continuing increases in "Likes" each month.

Our fine Newsletter die Sangerzeitung has been so reliably published by Willi Banzhaf these past years. Alas, Willi has retired and is taking a well deserved respite from the publishing field. Ron Kabitzke, a professional printer and current editor of the national D.A.N.K. newsletter, has agreed to take on the task of publishing the Saengerzeitung. This is the first issue of the Sangerzeitung under Ron's editorship. Let Ron know of any items you might wish to have published in the publication. His email: lutheran@wi.rr.com.

Newsletter via email

This past year, we have had an NASB Steering Committee monthly conference call. The activities have been numerous and now the entire Vorstand is invited to attend the conference calls, which occur on the third Wednesday of the month. It was decided the information discussed during the conference falls is worthy of passing on to the membership. With December's conference call, we have begun emailing the salient discussion points to singers. An email address list was initiated from the address lists from past meetings, Sangerfests, etc. Currently 360 (15%) NASB members are on this email address list. If your choral group, or you as a member, would like to be on the email list, send your list or email address to: gary.luther@sbcglobal.net

NASB Calender

Many of our groups have websites, Facebook pages, and newsletters, which are used to let members know of upcoming events. These happenings are great events and often excellent fundraisers for the choral group. Our members travel throughout the country on vacations, visits to relatives, etc.

An NASB Calendar is a great tool for them to be aware of and partake in your events. We have agreed to post a calendar of NASB community events on our website to make members aware of the goings on though out our NASB. Please take a few minutes and send your calendar (even if it is tentative) to our VP, Peter Herdeg, who has agreed to collate the calendar for the NASB and provide it to members through our website. Peter's information:

Peter Herdeg
2 S. 474 Barclay Place,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6912
swisszh10@aol.com

Sangerfest 2016

Nick Lipnichin and his Saengerfest Board continue preparing for a pleasurable fest. The committee has send all information regarding the Fest to all choral groups. An abbreviated copy of the 12-page document is enclosed with this Sangerzeitung. The information is also published on our website at nasaengerbund.org.

62. Nationales Sangerfest

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania U.S.A.

Thursday, May, 26 — Sunday, May 29, 2016

Nick Lipnichan, Fest President

Fest email: pghsaengerfest@gmail.com

Sangertag 2015

The Dayton Liederkranz-Turners put on a wonderful Sangertag. We had great interface and discussions relative to the NASB management, needs of choral groups, and future opportunities.

63. Sangerfest 2019

Remember the Saengerfest in Peoria? What a great city and great hosts they were. Well, Peoria, thanks to Mary Dempster, has again presented a bid on hosting a Saengerfest and the NASB delegates unanimously voted full support for the offer to host.

In conclusion, we are making every effort to make our NASB a friendly, worthwhile organization. We, the Vorstand, greatly appreciate any feedback so that we can provide the tools you need to keep your chorus vibrant and viable.

Wishing you and your Chor a successful, enjoyable 2016,

Mit besten Sangergrußen,



President

62. Nationales Sangerfest Hotel Information

Thursday, May 26th — Sunday, May 29th, 2016

Please make your reservations as early as possible as space is limited!

Hotel cancellation policy is no room charge if cancelled 72 hours prior to day of arrival.

Meals are not included in the hotel rate. The rate is paid directly to the hotel, and

You must make your own hotel reservations.

Wyndham Grand

600 Commonwealth Place
Pittsburgh, PA 1522

Front Desk: 1.414.391.4600

Reserving by phone? 1.888.317.0197

Group name: Pittsburgh Sangerfest

Booking online? <https://aws.passkey.com/g28700130>

Sangerfest special rate: **\$129.⁰⁰ + tax (14%) per night**

1 King or 2 Double beds

(Special discount rate is available Monday, May 23rd through
Wednesday, June 1st.)

The Hotel is currently listing parking at \$30.⁰⁰ per day with in and out privileges. There is nearby parking that is less expensive for those of you that will be driving.

Omni William Penn

530 William Penn Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Front Desk: 1.412.281.7100

Reserving by phone? 1.412.281.7100

Group Name: Pittsburgh Sangerfest

Booking online? <http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/pittsburgh-william-penn/meetings/pittsburgh-saengerfest>

Sangerfest special rate is **\$139.⁰⁰ + tax (14%) per night**

1 King or 2 Double beds

Special discount rate is available Monday, May 23rd through
Wednesday, June 1st.

Valet parking is currently listed at \$34.00 per day with in and out privileges. There is also self-parking available at the Mellon Square Garage across from the hotel for \$19.00 per day with NO in and out privileges for those of you that will be driving in.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, May 26th, 2016

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm Sangerfest registration pick-up at hotels
6:30 pm Shuttle to Bloomfield Liedertafel begins
7:00 pm - 12:00 am Dammerschoppen - Welcome dinner,
meet and greet with national board
members and Fest committee
1:00 am Last shuttle back to hotels

Friday, May 27th, 2016

9:00 am - 11:00 am National board meeting
10:00 am - 6:00 pm Sangerfest registration pick-up at hotels
11:00 am - 6:00 pm District rehearsals
6:15 pm Ballroom opens for concert seating
7:00 pm Concert starts
9:30 pm - 12:00 am Dance at Wyndham Grand*
10:00 pm - 12:00 am Fellowship at Teutonia Mannerchor -
shuttles will be provided - Live band

Saturday, May 28th, 2016

8:00 am Shuttles to A. J. Palumbo Center at
Desquesne University

9:00 am - Noon Rehearsal for Hauptkonzert
Noon - 12:45 pm Rehearsal for parade of flags
12:45 pm Last bus leaves Palumbo Center for
Hotels
2:15 pm First bus leaves hotels for Palumbo
Center
3:15 pm Last bus leaves hotels for Palumbo
Center
3:45 pm Group Photo
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Hauptkonzert
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Shuttle to hotel for Banquet
7:00 pm Banquet and dance*
8:30 pm - 1:00 am Shuttles to local clubs
1:00 am Last shuttle to hotels

Sunday, May 29th, 2016

9:00 am Shuttles to Teutonia Mannerchor begin
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Fruhschoppen at Teutonia Mannerchor
11:00 am Hotel checkout
2:30 pm Last shuttle leaves Teutonia Mannerchor
for hotels

Rehearsal Schedule Wyndham Hotel

Friday	Rehearsal A	Rehearsal B	Ballroom	
			Stage	House
11:00 AM	Southern		Pittsburgh	
11:10 AM	Staging and Rehearsal		Staging and Rehearsal	
11:30 AM		Wisconsin		
11:50 AM	Transition	Staging and Rehearsal	Transition	
12:10 PM			Southern	
12:30 PM	Central	Transition	Transition	
12:50 PM	Staging and Rehearsal		Wisconsin	
1:10 PM	Transition	Michigan	Transition	
1:30 PM		Staging and Rehearsal	Central	
1:50 PM	Chicago	Transition	Transition	
2:10 PM	Staging and Rehearsal		Michigan	
2:30 PM	Transition	St. Louis	Transition	
2:50 PM		Staging and Rehearsal	Chicago	
3:10 PM	SOKII	Transition	Transition	
3:30 PM	Staging and Rehearsal		St. Louis	
3:50 PM	Transition	NASSA	Transition	
4:10 PM		Staging and Rehearsal	SOKII	
4:30 PM	NÖSB	Transition	Transition	
4:50 PM	Staging and Rehearsal		NASSA	
5:10 PM	Transition	Director's	Transition	
5:30 PM		Staging and Rehearsal	NÖSB	
5:50 PM		Transition	Transition	
6:10 PM				House
6:30 PM				Opens
6:45 PM			Transition	
9:30 PM				

This is the proposed rehearsal schedule for Friday. Please make every effort to be in Pittsburgh for your rehearsal time. I know that not everyone is planning on arriving Thursday night, but this is the only way we could work the schedule considering the space limitations of the facility and allotting every group time in the ballroom to rehearse.

Guenther Pfingsten celebrates 60 years with Houston Sängerbund

Guenther Pfingsten joined the Houston Sängerbund in 1956, making him the member with the most years of membership in the Houston Sängerbund today. Besides enjoying singing, he was also a huge soccer fan and founded the Sängerbund Kickers in 1963. He managed the club for many years and it is still in existence today. Everyone liked him and he was always ready to have fun. Together with Helmut Merz, another soccer enthusiast, they were the back bone of the club and frequently called the Gold Dust Twins. Besides all the fun he had at the Saengerbund, he also served on the board of directors and was president in 1973 and 1981.

To honor his 60 years of membership he was recently awarded a 60 year membership certificate by Elmy Biermanns, Secretary of the Houston Sängerbund, during a small ceremony. He was also awarded the pin for 60 years of singing. He sang 57 years with the Houston Sängerbund Männerchor and continued to sing under the umbrella organization of the Nord Amerikanische Sängerbund, whose pin he received during the ceremony.

It was an honor for the Sängerbund Männerchor to serenade him with 'Aus der Traube' and to congratulate him on this most remarkable milestone.



United German Choruses of Milwaukee 29th Annual Christmas Concert (Weihnachtskonzert)



The United Choruses (Milwaukee Damenchor, Director Steven Joyal; Milwaukee Liederkrantz, Director Steven Joyal; Milwaukee Liedertafel, Director Wolfgang A. Calnin; Milwaukee D.A.N.K. Chor, Director Dr. James Norden; and Schwaben Männerchor, Director Dr. James Norden) performed at the Nathan Hale High School Concert Hall, West Allis, on November 29th.

The weather was great and singing

even better. There were approximately 300 guests in attendance to hear from the guest group Pommersche Späldiel - Freistadt, which performed a medley of wonderful German classic Christmas carols accompanied by an accordionist and guitar.

Each choral group performed three carols. The combined choruses under the direction of Wolfgang A. Calnin sang Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe; O, Du fröhliche; Ding Dong Merrily on High;

The Snow lay on the Ground; O Come All Ye Faithful and Stille Nacht.

Following the concert, singers, directors and guests met in the cafeteria for coffee, milk and Weihnachts Stollen. Santa made his appearance to the joy of the children.

A special thank you goes out to all the singers and guests who assisted in the set up and take down of the equipment and table decorations, as well as serving the delectable Stollen and coffee.

AIRFARES-GERMANY

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Can't Get These Stations. Why Not Listen Online! germanamericanhour.com