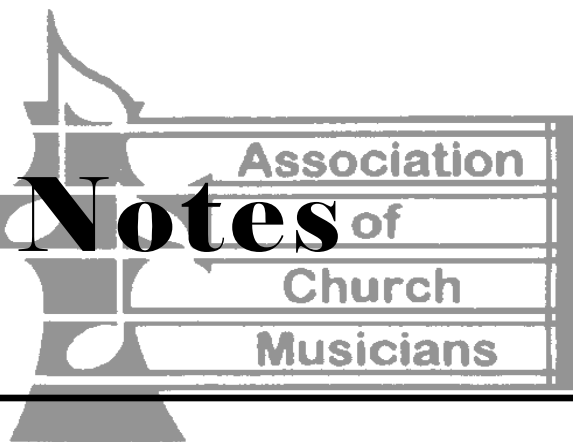


# Church Music Notes

DECEMBER 2007



## Church Music Appreciation Dinner is planned for February

Look for details in January's newsletter about ACM's annual Church Music Appreciation Dinner and Member Recital. We will also put information about the date, time and location up on the ACM website [www.madisonacm.org](http://www.madisonacm.org) as soon as it is available. We hope you will plan to join us at this special yearly event to celebrate church music and church musicians. Clergy are also invited to attend.

## Hymns of Thanks & Praise

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the ACM Hymn Festival at First Congregational Church on November 18, including directors Mark Bloedow, Sonja Kremer and Linda Warren and organists Charles Thomley, Donald DeBruin and Mark Brampton Smith. We appreciate the many volunteer hours that went into making the event a success. Thank you!

## Join us for the April 5, 2008 Chorister's Guild Festival

Registration Deadline is January 30, 2008, Information and Registration forms are on pages 5 & 6

Plan now to join us for the 2008 Choristers Guild Festival on Saturday April 5, 2008 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Madison. The clinician for the day will be John Horman, who retired from teaching after twenty-six years with the Montgomery County, Maryland Public School System. He oversees four choral groups, two bell choirs, and an intergenerational instrumental ensemble. John has served on the Choristers Guild Board of Directors and The Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. In addition to the choir festival we will have a director's workshop on Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-9:00pm, including a dinner from 6:00-7:30pm followed by a workshop with John Horman from 7:30-9:00pm. Fees for the event are \$25 for 1-5 singers, \$50 for 6-15 singers and \$75 for 16 or more singers. Included on pages 5 and 6 in this newsletter are the anthem list for the event, an outline for the day of the festival and a registration form. Registrations for the event are due by January 30, 2008. Please contact Sarah Holtz, President of Madison Area Choristers Guild, at [sholtz@gslcwi.com](mailto:sholtz@gslcwi.com) or 608.843.0520 if you have further questions.

## President's Letter

Greetings to all at the beginning of an extremely busy time for all church musicians. As we help the church and its people to prepare for and to celebrate Christmas, may we find the time to prepare ourselves for this great event and may we find the time to celebrate it within ourselves. If you desire a diversion from the busyness of planning, practice and rehearsals, you might want to read "The Alto Wore Tweed," a light-hearted liturgical mystery by Mark Schweizer. Join police chief and church musician Hayden Konig as he deals with a dead body in the choir loft just before Christmas. You can find the book at [www.sjimpbooks.com](http://www.sjimpbooks.com).

With our national day of thanksgiving and the ACM hymn festival just behind us, please remember to thank Mark Bloedow, Mark Brampton Smith, and all who made this event possible. It takes a lot of effort to put a program like this together. As always, please let us know how we can be of service to you in your service to the church and to its people.

Blessings,

John R. Krueger, 422 Maple Avenue, Madison, WI 53704-5841, 608-249-0679

[jkrueger@chorus.net](mailto:jkrueger@chorus.net)

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2, 7:00pm,** The vocal and handbell choirs of Good Shepherd Lutheran, and St. Stephen's Lutheran and special guests, will present a Christmas Concert at St. Stephen's Lutheran, 5700 Pheasant Hill Rd., Monona on Dec. 1, and at Good Shepherd Lutheran, 5701 Raymond Rd., Madison on Dec 2. A \$5 donation is appreciated, a reception will follow the concert.

**Sunday, December 2, 2:00pm,** *Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst* at St. John's UCC; 1724 14th Street; Monroe, WI: Annual German Christmas Communion Service, conducted entirely in German; English translation, including the sermon, provided. [www.MonroeSwissSingers.org/germanservice.html](http://www.MonroeSwissSingers.org/germanservice.html).

**Sunday, December 2, 3:00pm,** "Sing a Song of Christmas" favorite carols at Heritage Congregational Church, 3102 Prairie Road, Madison. For more info, 608.274.0833 or [www.heritagemadison.org](http://www.heritagemadison.org).

**Sunday, December 2, 6:00pm,** Kathy Mohs (soprano) and Doug McNeel (organ) will present a recital of vocal and organ music at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison. This recital will include music of Bach, Handel, Faure, and settings of Noels by Corrette and Guilmant. Free will offering. Please contact the church office for further details, 233-6297.

**Mondays, December 3, 10 and 17, 7:00pm,** Advent Taize Prayer Services in the Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound. Prepare your heart for the gift of Christ's birth in the simple, meditative prayer chants of Taize music. There is no fee or registration. Contact Sr. Mary Ellen Winston at 608.748.4411, ext. 843, or visit their web site at [www.sinsinawa.org](http://www.sinsinawa.org) for more information.

**Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, and 19,** Advent Organ Recitals at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5701 Raymond Road, Madison. Free Soup Luncheon, 11:30am, reservations requested. Recitals, 12:15-1:00pm including Mark Bloedow, Ben Johnston-Urey, Charles Thomley, Diane Madsen, Elixir Trio, Carol Lee Iverson, and 4ever Praise men's quartet. Freewill offering appreciated. More details at [www.gslcwi.com](http://www.gslcwi.com).

## Upcoming Events (continued)

**Friday, December 7, 7:00pm,** The Fayrfax Ensemble and special guests the Trinity Recorder Consort, of Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, will present "In dulce júbilo," an evening of Advent and Christmas music from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave., Madison. Free-will offering. The Fayrfax Ensemble is an early music vocal group under the direction of ACM member Ann Edahl.

**Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8, at 7:30pm,** "Carols of the Bells," Madison Area Concert Handbells (pictured below) Christmas performances at Asbury Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue, Madison. The handbells and handchimes will be joined by guest artists on flute, harp, percussion and organ. Advance tickets may be purchased at Borders Book Shops or Orange Tree Imports, or from MACH's website [www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org). Tickets will also be available at the door.

**Saturday, December 8, 7:00pm,** Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus's 11th season begins with a holiday concert entitled "Seasons of Light" at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona. Concert tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased from chorus members, at the door on the night of the performance, or online at [www.perfectharmonychorus.org](http://www.perfectharmonychorus.org). For more information, call 608.358.1810.

**Sunday, December 9, at 3:00pm,** "Carols of the Bells," Madison Area Concert Handbells (pictured below) Christmas performance, First Congregational Church, 1608 University Ave., Madison, see above for more information.



*Church Music Notes* is the newsletter of the Association of Church Musicians, Madison Chapters of Choristers Guild and the American Guild of Organists

## Keep in Touch...

Send submissions for  
**Church Music Notes** to:  
Linda Warren  
P.O. Box 1611, Madison, WI 53701-1611  
or by e-mail to [linda.warren@tds.net](mailto:linda.warren@tds.net)



Deadline for newsletter submissions is November 15 for the December issue.

Other correspondence should be sent to:  
ACM, P. O. Box 5321, Madison, WI 53705

**Substitute list coordinators and registrars**  
Karen and Linda Warren  
608-824-9068  
[linda.warren@tds.net](mailto:linda.warren@tds.net)

**Chaplain**, Pastor David Susan  
Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Madison (retired)  
608-246-4216

[www.madisonacm.org](http://www.madisonacm.org)  
[ACM@madisonacm.org](mailto:ACM@madisonacm.org)

### ACM Board of Directors

**President/AGO Dean**  
John Krueger 608-837-3111  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie

**Vice President/AGO Sub-dean**  
Mark Brampton Smith 608-831-1810  
Asbury United Methodist Church, Madison

**Secretary**  
Ann Uresk Herr 608-897-4380  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Monroe

**Treasurer**  
Charles Thomley 608-838-8091  
Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison

**Board Members at Large**  
Linda Krueger 608-238-5656  
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Madison  
Wayne Duddleston 608-222-0888  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Madison  
Rosemary Collingwood, 608-213-2644  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Madison

**Choristers Guild President**  
Sarah Holtz 608-271-6633  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison

**Past President**  
Mark Bloedow 608-271-6633  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison

## Upcoming Events (continued)

**Sunday, December 9, 9:15am and 10:45am worship services**, the Bethel Lutheran Church Choir will present the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* with a professional orchestra and soloists led by Director of Music Gary Lewis. The church is at 312 Wisconsin Avenue in Madison.

**Saturday, December 15, 2:00pm**, The handbell choir of Bethany United Methodist Church, the Bethany Carillons, will be presenting a Christmas Handbell Pops Concert at the Meriter Retirement Community's Great Hall, located in downtown Madison at 330 W. Main St. All are welcome to attend. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible.

**Sunday, December 16, 6:30pm**, Christmas by Candlelight, an annual concert by the choirs, handbell ringers and instrumentalists of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie. Admission is free. A donation to the Sun Prairie Food Pantry is suggested. See the church's website, [www.oslc-elca.org](http://www.oslc-elca.org), for directions to the church and for more information.

**Saturdays December 22, 11:00am**, Free Hymn Sing in Overture Hall with Madison Symphony's Sam Hutchinson on the Overture Organ.

**Saturday, January 19, 9:00am-noon, Handbell Music Reading Session**: The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers is offering a handbell music reading session at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church West Campus from 9:00am to noon, with registration at 8:30 am. Since details are still being finalized, registration forms will be sent at a later date.

**Positions open: for up-to-date listings and those from previous newsletters, please visit our website: [www.madisonacm.org](http://www.madisonacm.org).**



**See pages 7-9 of this newsletter for pictures and an account of Arlyn Fuerst's recent visit to Dresden, Germany to hear his son Michael perform.**



Box 5321 • Madison WI 53705

*Address Service Requested*

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 1399

## Church Music Notes

DECEMBER 2007 — VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

For more information  
on the Association of  
Church Musicians,  
Positions Open and  
Upcoming Program  
Highlights,  
visit our website at  
[www.madisonacm.org](http://www.madisonacm.org)

### Tours by Thomley, LLC

Give your group's travel a purpose and have fun.

Midwest-National-International Tours.

Share your Music—In Parish Churches or

Magnificent Cathedrals.

Associated with Middleton Travel/Carlson Wagonlit,

represented by Charles Thomley

608-692-0986 , [www.thomley.com](http://www.thomley.com), [charles@thomley.com](mailto:charles@thomley.com)

P.J. Swartz, Inc.  
Pipe Organ Services  
Maintenance♦Restoration♦Rebuilding  
More than 30 Years of Experience

Philip J. Swartz  
Area Representative for  
Call us toll-free at  
1-877-792-5485



Mick McClain  
Engineer

Madison, WI  
608.209.1778  
[acousticimagery@tds.net](mailto:acousticimagery@tds.net)

CD quality  
recordings of  
choral &  
instrumental  
ensembles,  
organ & piano  
performances

## Festival Anthem List for Children's Choir Festival, April 5, 2008

### Saints Today, Saints of Old

By John Horman  
Abingdon Press  
712401700 (\$1.50)

### This Little Light of Mine

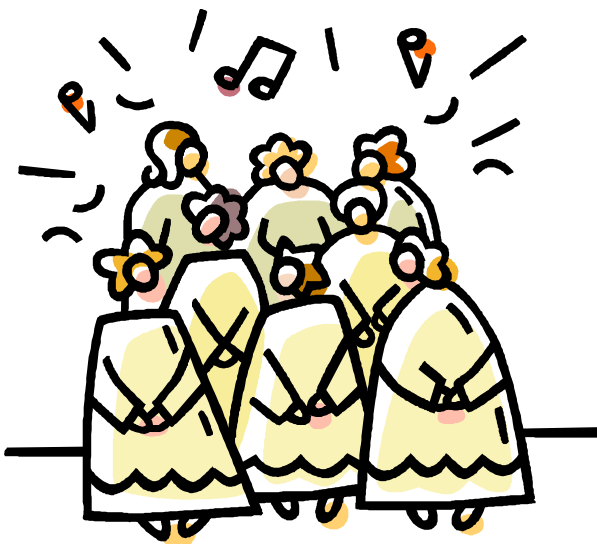
Arr. James Patterson  
Unison/two part  
CGA1108 (\$1.85)

### Forever We Shall Sing

Arr. John R. Paradowsi  
Unison/two part  
CGA1096 (\$1.95)

### Tune My Heart

By James Brighton  
Unison  
CGA1101 (\$1.85)



The fifth piece is the commissioned work by John Horman.

Please contact Sarah Holtz ([sholtz@gsllcwi.com](mailto:sholtz@gsllcwi.com) or 608.843.0520) for copies of the piece.

### Proposed Outline of the Day:

8:30-9:00am	Arrival and Registration
9:00-10:15am	First Rehearsal
10:15-10:45am	Break (snacks provided by each group)
10:45-12:00pm	Second Rehearsal (initial line-up of the group)
12:00-1:15pm	Lunch (\$3.00 per child, or bring picnic lunches)
1:15-2:00pm	Final Rehearsal
2:00-3:00pm	Concert with Free-will Offering
3:00pm	Departure

Madison Area Choristers Guild  
Children's Choir Festival 2008



Registration Form

Choir Director's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of choir members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students for Lunch (\$3.00/child): \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee:    \_\_\_ 1-5 Singers (\$25)    \_\_\_ 6-15 Singers (\$50)

                          \_\_\_ 16 or more Singers (\$75)

Volunteers Needed:

\_\_\_ Publicity    \_\_\_ Planning    \_\_\_ Registrations    \_\_\_ Offering

\_\_\_ Mailings    \_\_\_ Programs    \_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_ Yes, I will be attending the Directors Workshop

Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Return registrations to:

ACM, P.O. Box 5321, Madison, WI 53705

Checks can be made out to Association of Church Musicians

Registrations are due by January 30, 2008

## Dresden: A New Baroque City with Church Music Vitality Today

by Arlyn Fuerst

When our son Michael informed us a year ago, that he would be playing continuo on a positiv organ with the Hannoversche Hofkapelle and Sächsisches Vocalensemble in a performance of Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* in the Frauenkirche in Dresden on Sept. 8, 2007, we knew that we wanted to go for the performance. So our long time friend August Knoll, Carolyn, and I traveled to Dresden, Germany.

We have followed the rebuilding of the Frauenkirche (pictured at right and below) with much interest, and this occasion was a perfect time to see it. Trinity Lutheran Choir, under my direction in 1996, traveled to former East Germany and to the Czech and Slovak Republics. Our tour included a concert at the Loschwitz Kirche in a suburb of Dresden. The architect and builder of the Loschwitz Kirche was George Bähr who was also the architect and builder of the Frauenkirche in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Our performance at the Loschwitz Kirche was a most memorable concert for the choir and for me. The acoustics are spectacular for music, but more lively than normally encountered, so 100 % concentration was required, and this elevated the level of our performance. Because of our memorable time at the Loschwitz Kirche, we wanted to return to experience the Frauenkirche.



The Frauenkirche was built during the era of August the Strong and his son August III in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. George Bähr was the architect and builder of this church known as the "Stone Bell", and also as the most important protestant church in Germany. The front of the church nave is impressive with three levels of great height: the altar: Jesus in Gethsemane in the middle, and the organ on top. The organ, built by Gottfried Silbermann, was dedicated on November, 1736. In December, 1736 Johann Sebastian Bach performed on it.

Dresden was fire bombed by English and USA planes on Feb. 13/14, 1945. The old city was destroyed, and 35,000 people were killed. Since 1945, the Dresden people wished to rebuild the Frauenkirche, but it wasn't until 1990, after the reunification of Germany, that a group of people led by the world renowned trumpeter Ludwig Güttler organized to bring the idea of rebuilding to reality. The cost of rebuilding was beyond what the church, the city, or the state of Saxony could finance, so a "Call from Dresden"

was made to the Queen of England and the President of United States to extend to the world a call for financial gifts to be given for the rebuilding. This was very successful. In 1993, work was started on an archeological removal of the rubble so that stones could be reused in the rebuilding. Original building plans, blueprints made from restoration work in the 40's, and significant pieces from the rubble were used to inform the 40 architects in making plans. The rebuilding in 10 years time, from 1995 to 2005, is amazing, but one marvels at how it was originally accomplished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in 17 years! The cost was 179.9 million euros. The cost of the organ built by the Daniel Kern Firma from Strausburg, France, was 1.5 million euros.



Pictured above is the altar area and organ of the Frauenkirche in Dresden.

While in Dresden, we stayed at the Apartments an der Frauenkirche, which I found on the internet, and when the taxi dropped us off in a courtyard opposite the Frauenkirche, our mouths dropped! This essentially 18<sup>th</sup> century city offers much in music and the arts, all within easy walking distances. There is so much music making going on all the time. There is the Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady), the Kreuzkirche (Holy Cross Church), and the Hofkirche (Court Church) for splendid organ and choral music. The Semper Opera House, built in 1878, has a rich history with many famous composers. Nine operas of Richard Strauss were performed for the first time there. There is also the modern Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra Hall. There are several excellent church and city choirs. One can visit any week in the year and have numerous worship and concert opportunities. In the Zwinger and in the Royal Palace there are fantastic collections of Renaissance and Baroque art.

In the five days we were in Dresden we attended nine worship services and concerts. There is an Organ Meditation at noon and an Evening Service at 6:00 p.m. with organ music daily in

the Frauenkirche. On Wednesday, Samuel Kummer, Frauenkircheorganist played for the

6:00 p.m. service. On Wednesday night we heard Jon Laukvik from Oslo, but teaching in Stuttgart, perform a fantastic organ concert. On Saturday night was the *Judas Maccadaeus* concert in which our son Michael performed. The service Sunday morning is at 11:00 a.m. We stood in line at 10:15 a.m., already a ½ block long and in the rain, for the service in a packed church. Then on Sunday afternoon was a Lecture Concert with a Bach Cantata directed by Ludwig Göttler performed before a full house. The attendances at the Frauenkirche are phenomenal! When attending worship, it was apparent to us that the people knew the liturgy and could sing the hymns.

On Friday afternoon we traveled by train to Leipzig to hear the Thomanerchor sing their Motette Vesper at 6:00 p.m. Again there was a long line of people waiting to enter, and the church was full. Ullrich Böhme is the Thomasorganist and Georg Biller the Thomaskantor. It was wonderful! Then on Saturday afternoon at 6:00 p.m. we heard the Kreuzchorvesper in the Kreuzkirche, Dresden. Kreuzorganist is Holger Gehring and the Kreuzkantor is Roderich Kreile. This choir of 120 boys impressed us with singing choral music as good as we've ever heard it. Both choirs in this small region of Saxony are a treasure to the world of church music.

I will close by writing a couple of personal stories. The Sunday service at the Frauenkirche was so memorable. The bells rang 10 minutes before the service. Then on the hour Matthias Grünert, Frauenkirchekantor, but serving also as organist that Sunday, performed Bach's C Major Prelude. Following the opening hymn, Kyrie, Gloria, and Collect, the choir performed Bach's Cantata "Lobe den Herren" (on the familiar hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"). The congregation remained seated for the postlude which was the Fugue to the C Major Prelude. After the service we saw Matthias Grünert in the street and I introduced myself and my colleague August Knoll to him as a church musicians from the USA. In our conversation we discovered that both of us had studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Lübeck, and that both of us spent a lot of time practicing at the Dom (cathedral) in Lübeck. Matthias's professor was my Professor Uwe Röhl's successor as organist and kantor at the Dom. Then on Monday evening we were in Hamburg to visit our son's family. That evening we were guests of the organist and kantor at the church our son attends. This organist has roots in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, where the Trinity Choir sang in 1986. The organist, Herman Grünert is blind, and Carolyn, our two deaf sons, and I were guests at the organist's home. We often talk with our Hamburg friends about Herr Grünert, and I asked what they knew about Herr Grünert. We were told that his son is Kantor at the Frauenkirche. Then the light went on for me! We had just the day before talked with the young Matthias, but at that time I made no connection with 1986. When we returned home I pulled out our 1986 picture book to look at photos from our stay with the Grünert family who hosted us. Sure enough, Matthias, as an 11 year old, is there with his three sisters. I scanned the photos and sent them via e-mail to Matthias. He replied the next day, and indicated how he enjoyed the story with the remark "the world is indeed small!"

I have already written about Trinity Choir singing at the Loschwitz Kirche in Dresden. Before our trip to Germany I sent an e-mail to Pastor Selunka, who was pastor at the church in 1996 and continues there today. He invited us to see him on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. The Loschwitz church was also destroyed in 1945, and the rebuilding was completed in 1994. In 1996, when Trinity Choir sang there, the two levels of side and rear balconies with the organ on the top balcony were not yet installed. The balconies and organ came in 1997. So we were looking forward to seeing the church again. It was a very interesting visit over tea in the parsonage and parish house. Pastor Selunka told of his meetings all day with 800 Saxon Lutheran pastors meeting at the Frauenkirche with Chancelor Angelica Merkel addressing the group on "The Church and Freedom." Merkel grew up in East Germany as a daughter of a Lutheran pastor. After the morning meetings and lunch at the Palace, the pastors met at the Kreuzkirche for Gottesdienst. After this long eight hour day, Pastor Selunka still found time to meet us. It was another memorable time together that ended with a "welcome back for tea the next time you come to Dresden."

This trip to Dresden, Leipzig, and Hamburg is one that impressed us deeply. After chemo treatments from February to May, I am in remission from chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The trip was a gift! I recommend, to any of you wanting to visit Germany, consideration of Dresden as a destination for several days. Travel in Germany is easy for English only speaking people. The depots and trains, at least the ICE (inner city express) trains, have printed information and spoken announcements in both German and in English. In Dresden, you can easily use English as needed. Dresden, Leipzig, and the state of Saxony offer a wide variety of old cities, churches, castles, museums, fortifications, and landscape to enjoy.

From attending the numerous concerts and worship services in Dresden and Leipzig, and by experiencing the warmth from the people in Dresden, one can't help but think that the spirit of "Soli Deo Gloria" in which Heinrich Schütz and Johann Sebastian Bach composed and served is engraved in the marrow of the bones of people in Saxony. As on many organs, the Silbermann/Kern Orgel in the Frauenkirche has in large letters S.D.G. at the top of the organ. If you want inspiration for working in church music, you will find it in Dresden.

Arlyn Fuerst, 10. 28.07