

The Eutin Guitar Orchestra in Lawrence

Following a concert tour in California, Arizona, and Nevada, the Eutin Guitar Orchestra arrived in Kansas City on Saturday, March 31, and went straight to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, to give a concert.

Volunteer drivers brought the twenty-member group to Lawrence, to Blanton's Crossing, the historic estate of Fred Six, where the visitors watched a reenactment of the "Bleeding Kansas" period of the 1850s. Fred Six welcomed guests and discussed the history of the site. After a drive through Lawrence, the guests met their host families.



Eutin Guitar Orchestra

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Sister city's Guitar Orchestra of Eutin pays first visit

By Jon Niccum

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→ **MORE:** For the Guitar Orchestra's full show lineup, go to www.kworld.com

The young German students who comprise the Guitar Orchestra of Eutin are on the road enjoying their first trip across the United States. Having just performed in Las Vegas for a concert and then making a brief excursion to marvel at the Grand Canyon.

Fortunately, there is no cultural canyon separating Eutin, Germany, and Lawrence, Kan. The pair are sister cities, and in honor of this relationship, the orchestra is using its inaugural American visit to spend five days in Lawrence.

"To have a tour like this is a very great experience for the whole group," says Andreas van Zoest, director of the Guitar Orchestra. "None of the students have been to the United States before."

His troupe consists of 19 students from the regional music school at Eutin (most between the ages of 13 and 18) and an adult ensemble of eight. The group's U.S. tour is in celebration of the 750th birthday of Eutin (pronounced: oy-teen). While in Lawrence

GUITAR ORCHESTRA OF EUTIN

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

Where: Liberty Hall, 642 Mass.

Tickets: Free (all-ages show)

Ticket info: 745-1972

Charpentier, Fernando Sor, Edvard Grieg and Maria Linne-mann. Some selections will be rendered by the full orchestra and others for solo or ensembles.

"When we prepare a program, we work one, two or three years on it," van Zoest says. "It's a good thing to make the youths learn music by playing Bach or Schubert."

But van Zoest also is quick to embrace contemporary composers.

"We play much music of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. I like modern music. It's important to play it," he says.

An all-acoustic guitar lineup is fairly unusual for a large band, even in Europe. Having run the orchestra for 15 years, van Zoest is used to the musical challenges of wrangling so many guitars.

"The difficulty is to tune them up. We are very soft. With bigger halls it's a little bit of a problem. We don't use microphones because I like the natural sound. Unlike a violin, if we play a tone, it loses energy," van Zoest says.

The orchestra's visit is being



THE GUITAR ORCHESTRA OF EUTIN, from Lawrence's sister city in Germany, will spend five days in Lawrence and deliver several free concerts at venues throughout the area. This represents the first time the group has toured the United States.

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Eutin group visits 'sister'

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coordinated through Kansas University's Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Friends of Eutin.

"I was in Eutin this January and I met the conductor and some of the members. The students are enthusiastic, and I think they really know what they're doing," says Frank Baron, a KU professor of German who helped organize the tour.

Baron, who has been involved with the sister cities program since its inception, has made frequent teaching visits to Eutin. He says it's actually quite different from Lawrence.

"The size is a big difference. Eutin is a town of 17,000. It's a small community. They have no university," Baron says.

The adult ensemble of the Guitar Orchestra of Eutin was founded in 1997, and the student group has existed since 2002. They have previously mounted international tours of Norway and Ireland. Their trip to the U.S. is their most ambitious excursion, and it will also include performances in San Francisco, Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

While in Lawrence, the students will follow an itinerary that involves concerts at local schools and explorations of the city's history and culture.

"I've had some (former) students who were in Lawrence before," van Zoest says. "They were very excited and would like to come with us. All people who had been in Lawrence want to come back."

— Entertainment editor Jon Niccum can be reached at 832-7778.

Guitar Orchestra of Eutin, Germany
Lawrence's Sister City
Andreas van Zoest, conductor
Music of Charpentier, Bach, and Sor,
as well as contemporary pieces.



Free and open to the public
Sunday, April 1, 2007
8 p.m.
Liberty Hall
642 Massachusetts

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To celebrate Eutin's 750th anniversary, the orchestra performed works by Marc Antoine Charpentier, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Fernando Sor on Sunday, April 1, before an audience of about 300 at Liberty Hall. On Monday the ensemble played at Free State High School, Southwest Junior High, and the Kansas Union. After a tour of the KU campus on Tuesday, the visitors left for Chicago and later stopped in Cleveland; Washington, D.C.; and New York.



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- **Friends of Eutin** would like to thank everyone who helped to make the stay of the Eutin visitors successful.
- **Hosts:** Nancy and Ken Albrecht, Marlene and Greg Bien, Karen and Kyle Camarda, Margretta DeVries, Winnie and Friedemann Eisert, Phyllis Farrar and Gary Webber, Hamideh and Hossein Gerami, Marta and Marc Greenberg, Kathleen and Tom Hodge, Jim Morrison, Mary Beth and Patrick Musick, Lida and Mike Osbern, and Betty and Frank Baron.
- **Drivers:** Greg and Marlene Bien, Rex Clark and Nancy Baym, Friedemann Eisert, Jon Josserand, Graham Kreicker, Ted Peterson, Charley Reitz, and Frank Baron.
- **And still others:** Judy Billings, Helen Krische, Helen Meyer, Eileen Robertson, Fred Six, Tristan Smith, Liberty Hall, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Natural History Museum at KU, the Nelson Atkins Museum, the Douglas County Historical Society, and the Lawrence Visitors' Center.
- F. Baron for the Friends of Eutin, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, KU, Lawrence, KS 66045

