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.
The Eutin Guitar Orchestra in Lawrence

Sister city’s Guitar Orchestra of Eutin pays first visit

By Jan Nicoom
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His troupe consists of 39 students from the regional musical school at between the ages of 15 and 20 and an adult ensemble of eight. The group’s US tour is in celebration of the 750th birthday of Eutin (pronounced oy-tin). While in Lawrence, Eutin’s sister city since 1989, the musicians will stay with host families from the area.

GUITAR ORCHESTRA OF EUTIN

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Liberty Hall, 642 Mass.
Tickets: Free

An all-women guitar ensemble is fairly unusual for a large band, even in Europe. Hailing from the orchestra for 25 years, Van Zost says, “It’s an extra thing, it’s important to play it.”

The difficulty is to time 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. Van Zost says. "I like to lose energy."

The orchestra’s visit is part of a larger undertaking. Days in Lawrence and deliver several free concerts at venues throughout the area. This marks the first time the group has toured the United States.

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

Eutin group visits ‘sister’

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coordinated through Kansas University’s Max Kade Center for German-American Research and 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 Barton, a KU professor of German who helped organize the tour.

Baron, who has been involved with the sister city program since its inception, has made frequent teaching visits to Eutin. “Eutin’s actually quite different from Lawrence.”

“The size is a big difference. Eutin is a town of 12,000. 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 Zost says. “They were very excited and would like to come with us. All people who had been in Lawrence want to come back.”
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.
**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 Osborn, 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