



# Faschiana

Autumn 2018

Annual Newsletter of the International

Volume 22

Fasch Society, Zerbst/Anhalt, Germany

## Dear Friends of Fasch,

This issue is a tad late, but with good reason: our musicologist Antje Deicke went on maternity leave (s. p. 5); we really wanted to show off our latest *Fasch Studies* volume (s. p. 3); and our annual “Fasch Trip” only took place at the end of September (s. p. 11). But it was worth waiting for this informative issue: Brian Clark’s introduces a hitherto-unknown autograph letter by Fasch from 1743 (p. 4), and Fasch’s baptismal church in Buttelsstedt welcomed a new church organ on 21 September (s. p. 6). Of course, we also preview the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in April 2019 (pp. 2-3).

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 19 October 2018 (s. “Important Announcements”); it will be followed by a “Fasch-Geselligkeit” event. Please put the 2019 Annual General Meeting on 14 April in your calendar as well – it will be held during the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival, and a new Executive Board needs to be elected. On that note, we would like to extend our most sincere gratitude to two individuals who have announced their retirement from the Executive Board (s. p. 8). Both Karin Spott and Stephan Blaut have volunteered their time for decades (!), and we hope that they will continue to support Fasch and the IFS in the future. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

Best wishes

Barbara M. Reul

IFS Vice-President and editor of  
*Faschiana*

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## Important announcements and Dates (2018):

- Our **Annual General Meeting on 19 October** at 6 pm will be followed at 7:30 pm by a “**Fasch-Geselligkeit**” event with the motto “Wine and Song” at “Von Rephuns Garten” Hotel, Zerbst.
- Our annual **IFS Christmas Concert** featuring the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” Halle University Chorus will take place on 8 December 2018, 5 pm, St. Trinitatis Church, Zerbst/Anhalt. Tickets are available from our IFS headquarters and at the Zerbst Tourist Information Office.
- Other important dates for 2018/2019 will be announced on our FaceBook site (“International Fasch Society”) and on our website ([www.fasch.net](http://www.fasch.net)).





## Faschiana, Autumn 2018 – Newsletter of the IFS, Page 2



### Preview of the Fifteenth International Fasch Festival, “Music in Anhalt-Zerbst”, 11–14 April 2019, in Zerbst/Anhalt

That Johann Friedrich Fasch and his “High Princely Capelle” were responsible for musical life at the Zerbst court being vibrant especially during the first half of the eighteenth century, is no secret. But what else was going on musically in the town of Zerbst and the principality of Anhalt-Zerbst at that time? This question will be the focal point of the upcoming International Fasch Festival.

The latter will begin on Thursday, 11 April 2019, with a festive ceremony during which the 2019 Fasch Prize of the City of Zerbst will be awarded (you will have to wait until spring 2019 to find out the name of the recipient). The ensemble “Fürstenmusik”, directed by Anne Schumann, will perform the opening concert in the Katharina-Saal, Stadthalle Zerbst, at 8 pm. It will involve several modern premieres of works by Zerbst *Kapellmeister* Fasch, edited by Prof. Dr. Manfred Fechner, 2017 Fasch Prize recipient.

The international scholarly conference will take place on Friday, 12 April, and Saturday, 13 April, once again in the conference room of the Sparkasse Anhalt-Bitterfeld in downtown Zerbst. The emphasis will be on musical life in the principality as well as on individuals who have, and music that boasts, an important Zerbst connection. The keynote address will be delivered by IFS vice-president Dr. Barbara M. Reul (Canada). She will examine little known archival materials dealing with “beer fiddlers and other persons who harassed professional [musicians]”. These individuals complicated the lives of professional town musicians in Coswig, Rosslau, and at the Zerbst court over the course of several decades; one of them was the Zerbst court musician Johann Vent whose duties included daily performances with his apprentices on the local Bartholomäi Tower. We look forward to other musicologists who will be travelling to Zerbst from all over the world, including Australia and New Zealand, to present similarly exciting scholarly news.

On Friday evening at 8 pm we welcome Shalev Ad-El, harpsichordist, conductor, and Fasch-Prize recipient from 2008, and his ensemble “Il Gardellino” to St. Trinitatis Church in Zerbst. They will play works by J. F. Fasch and his contemporaries. On Saturday at 4 pm the world-renowned gambist Hille Perl will perform in the Ratssaal (top floor of the Zerbst/Anhalt town hall building) and repeat this concert on Sunday, 14 April, at the Burgkernitz Baroque Church. An entirely different musical approach will be taken by “The Artcores”, a local Zerbst band that is well known beyond town borders, during the “Fasch Midnight” concert at 9 pm on Saturday. Please note: this event will take place on the grounds of the former Zerbst airport, rather than in our usual venue, the Zerbst Palace, which is not accessible at that time of the year due to inclement weather.



The festive worship service on Palm Sunday, 14 April, begins at 10 am at the former court and collegiate church St. Bartholomäi. It will involve, as always, the Zerbst Kantorei church choir directed by Tobias Eger. We will briefly meet at the Fasch Memorial Stone on the Neue Brücke before heading to the Ratssaal for the IFS’s Annual General Meeting at 12 noon; it will include the election of a new Executive Board. We have got something very special in store for the closing concert (5 pm, Gymnasium Franciscum, auditorium): a cross-over concert brings together the “Cristin Claas Trio”, “Bachs Erben–Jugendbarockorchester Michaelstein”, and the chamber choir of the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” Halle University Chorus, directed by Jens Lorenz. J. F. Fasch’s Vesper psalm settings and a new arrangement of his *Magnificat* will be on the programme – we are excited!



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The final version of the festival programme will be posted on our website ([www.fasch.net](http://www.fasch.net)). Highlights include a wonderful “Fasch Menue” at “Von Rephuns Garten”, a local hotel, as well as an event at the St. Trinitatis Church that showcases “Gruppe 90”. Its members comprise painters, graphic designers, and sculptors from Magdeburg who will paint and draw while listening to, and taking inspiration from, Fasch’s music (“Fasch hören und sehen”). You can also contact the Zerbst Tourist Information Office (<http://www.stadt-zerbst.de/de/tourist-information/tourist-information.html>) about additional events that will take place during the International Fasch Festival.

**The new *Fasch Studies* volume has arrived – “Fasch und die Konfessionen”** (“Fasch and the Confessional Landscape of his Day”, vol. 14 of *Fasch Studies*, Ortus, 2017), edited by Barbara M. Reul and Konstanze Musketa, on behalf of the International Fasch Society and the City of Stadt Zerbst/Anhalt. 432 pp.

This volume contains all papers presented as part of the international scholarly conference which took place in Zerbst/Anhalt on 21 and 22 April 2017 during the Fourteenth International Fasch Festival, “From Luther to Fasch”. The keynote speaker was Michael Maul (Leipzig). He addresses the basic question “No Fasch without Luther?” and examines how Protestant music education developed and their impact on young Johann Friedrich Fasch. Jan Brademann (Dessau) focuses on late confessionalisation in late 17<sup>th</sup>- and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century Zerbst, specifically Reformists, Lutherans, and Pietists. The contributions of J. F. Fasch’s predecessor, Johann Baptiste Kuch, and the early musical life at the Anhalt-Zerbst court from 1715 to 1722 are detailed in a comprehensive study authored by Rashid-S. Pegah (Berlin). Gerhard Poppe (Dresden/Koblenz) then

investigates Dresden, i.e. Catholic terrain in his article on Johann Friedrich Fasch and the Ordinary of the Mass. Gottfried Gille (Bad Langensalza) offers an in-depth examination of extant Zerbst hymnals from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century as well as their impact on the chorales in Fasch’s vocal works. Brian Clark (Arbroath, UK) shares further insights on the chorales, specifically on a set of parts for hymn tunes that have been preserved in the *Musikstube Zerbst* collection in Dessau and are connected to Fasch’s cantata cycle from 1730/31.

Nigel Springthorpe (London, UK) and Marc-Roderich Pfau (Berlin) then view the cantata cycles that were performed at the Zerbst court chapel during and after Fasch’s tenure as *Kapellmeister* through two different lenses. While Springthorpe focuses entirely on Johann George Roellig, Fasch’s successor, Pfau considers them against the backdrop of sacred cantatas by Christoph Förster, a contemporary of Fasch who was active in Rudolstadt that were performed at the Zerbst court chapel; Pfau includes a thematic catalogue (FöVWV).

Fasch’s composition teacher Christoph Graupner in Darmstadt and his sacred cantatas are examined by Beate Sorg (Darmstadt) and Evan Cortens (Calgary, Canada). Specifically, Sorg investigates Graupner’s supposed contributions to the so-called “Dresden” cantata cycle, while Cortens addresses the “Opernteufel” (lit. “opera devils”) of Darmstadt.

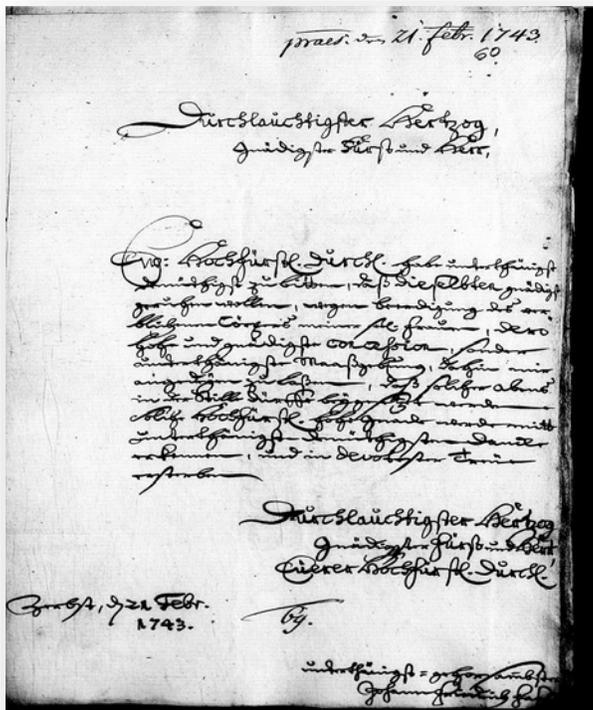




A plethora of archival material was examined for the two articles that follow; both deal with princely funeral music for the court of Anhalt-Zerbst during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Barbara M. Reul (Regina, Canada) addresses the musical protocol (who, what, where, when, and how), with emphasis on the performances at the Zerbst court chapel and the “Gymnasium Illustre” (i.e. the present Gymnasium Franciscum, which can now be added to historical performance venues of works by J. F. Fasch). Irmgard Scheitler (Würzburg) analyzes Fasch’s funeral cantata from 1747 for Prince Christian August of Anhalt-Zerbst, father of Catherine the Great. Finally, Maik Richter (Halle/Weißenfels) introduces eleven newly discovered autograph letters from 1755 written by J. F. Fasch and Köthen court officials that are extant in the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau. These documents emphasize that Fasch not only provided the Köthen court with special music for 25 of the 36 years he spent in Zerbst, but also served as Anhalt-Köthen’s *Kapellmeister* by proxy. Arguably, Fasch must be viewed as J. S. Bach’s successor, if not as the music director of the entire region, i.e. as “*Oberhofkapellmeister*” of Anhalt.

All articles are preceded by German and English abstracts. An index and authors’ biographies round off this volume in the *Fasch Studies* series. It can be ordered via your local bookstore or directly online via the publisher’s website ([www.ortus.de](http://www.ortus.de)). We hope you will enjoy reading it!

B. M. Reul



## “New” letter by Fasch from 1743 discovered by Brian Clark!

While systematically examining the digitized “Zerbster Konsistorialsachen” collection at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau, Brian Clark came across an unknown autograph letter by J. F. Fasch (D-LASA, Z 91 Konsistorium Zerbst, X, no. 72, fol. 60r). He notes: “The Zerbst Consistory was an administrative body, often functioning like a court, dealing with marital matters, loans and debts, and such things as births, marriages, and funerals. I felt sure that *Herr Fasch's* handwriting had to appear at some stage. Digital images of their correspondence from 1738 onwards are now readily accessible, and many interesting letters from and about musicians and musical matters can be identified.

The present, rather sad letter from the “most humble and obedient servant” Johann Friedrich Fasch, written on 21 February 1743, concerns the burial of his beloved second wife, Johanna Helena (née Simers). She had died two days earlier. As per the *Kapellmeister's* wish,

the funeral was to be held “quietly in the evening” (i.e. without music as was customary at the time). An inscription in Latin on the reverse, “Serenissimus clementissime concessit” (“His Royal Highness most mercifully consents”), was signed by Gottfried Reinhold Köselitz (1692–1754), who had been appointed *Konsistorialrat* (i. e., the lay head of the Consistory) in 1743.

In that context, let me refer you to a second letter (Z 91, no. 87 ff. 82, 43 [sic], 84) of 7 December 1758. It is a similar request from Fasch’s youngest daughter, Johanna Friedericka (written for her by a lawyer), to allow a coach to accompany her father, who had died on 5 December 1758, to his burial.”



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### A year with the International Fasch Society in Review (09/2017–09/2018)

- **September:** From 8 to 10 September all of Zerbst is involved in a modern stage production of the – historically unique – Zerbst Procession Play from 1507. Rediscovered by Hannes Lemke (Germanist, historian, and head of the Church and Collegiate Church Archives at St. Bartholomäi in Zerbst as well as contributor of a scholarly article to vol. 13 of the *Fasch Studien* series) and directed by Prof. Dr. Hans-Rüdiger Schwab (Catholic University of Nordrhein-Westfalen), it is a great success!
- **October:** On 17 October Deutschlandfunk Kultur Radio offers a feature programme by Georg Beck entitled “The sensitive *Kapellmeister* Johann Friedrich Fasch (1688–1758)”. On 31 October 2017 Lutherans all over the world commemorate the Great Reformer Martin Luther, who had preached in Zerbst as early as in 1522.
- **November:** On 18 November C. F. Chr. Fasch, born to J. F. Fasch in Zerbst, would have been 282 years old.
- **December:** On 12 December the annual Christmas concert featuring the Halle University Choir “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” and directed by University Music Director Jens Lorenz, is held at the Katharina-Saal, Stadthalle Zerbst/Anhalt.
- **January 2018:** The Board of Fasch Trustees and the IFS Executive Board meet on 28 January to discuss the programme content and organization of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in April 2019.
- **February:** On 16 February the 53<sup>rd</sup> “Zerbst Cultural Days” begin, with die IFS organizing the opening concert held at the auditorium of the Gymnasium Franciscum. It features an ensemble comprising international artists led by Marina Drobyshevskaja (soprano and director of the Kammerchor Zerbst). A flyer introducing the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in April 2019 (design: Büro ix, Zerbst, Steffi Heger) can be downloaded from our website in late February!
- **March:** We recommend via Facebook to all current and future friends of Fasch his – gorgeous! – 1748 setting of the St. John Passion during Holy Week. Dr. Gottfried Gille had edited this work for the 2015 International Fasch Festival. The work was premiered by the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” Halle University Chorus and soloists, directed by Jens Lorenz, and broadcast live by MDR Radio to be enjoyed by a global audience.
- **April:** J. F. Fasch would have celebrated his 330<sup>th</sup> birthday on 15 April. The Zerbst Palace, which continues to reivent itself, opens on 24 April (see <http://www.schloss-zerbst-ev.de/>) – it is (always) worth a visit!
- **May:** On 25 May the European Union’s new Privacy Policy takes effect (see the respective link on our website’s homepage). On 26 May summer-like temperatures accompany the highly successful Second “Zerbst Princess Festival”. IFS Executive Board member Sabine Fahle quizzes participants and presents the winner Friederike Beck from Zerbst/Anhalt with the award: she will carry the title for the next two years.
- **June:** The IFS Executive Board meets on 29 June; agenda items include the possible redesign of our Fasch Exhibition in the Zerbst Palace and producing a short promotional film on the International Fasch Festival.
- **July:** Dr. Barbara M. Reul gives a conference paper on princely funeral music at the courts of Anhalt-Zerbst and Anhalt-Köthen in Cremona, Italy. Brian Clark discovers a hitherto-unknown autograph letter by J. F. Fasch, dated 21 February 1743, at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau.
- **August:** We congratulate Antje Deicke, IFS musicologist, on the arrival of Yorik Andris Deicke.
- **September:** *Fasch und die Konfessionen*, vol. 14 of the *Fasch Studies* and the proceedings of the 2017 Fasch Conference, appears in print ([www.ortus.de](http://www.ortus.de)); at 432 pages, it is the longest in our publication series to date. A new Fasch-CD featuring the Rheinische Kantorei, dir. by H. Max, is released. The “Zerbst Palace Serenade” on 15 September features music by Fasch. This year’s destination of our annual “Fasch Trip” (27–30 Sept.) is Bad Kreuznach and vicinity (led by Karin Spott).





### A new organ for Fasch's baptismal church in Butteltstedt!

Upon the invitation of the “Fasch-Krebs-Kirche Butteltstedt” Society, the IFS’s general manager, Dr. Inge Werner, travelled to Fasch’s birthplace in Thuringia on 22 September 2018 to attend a festive worship service and an “organ night”. The latter showcased an instrument by Weisshaupt-Peternell in St. Nikolai church that had been renovated over the course of three years. With sponsors, supporters, and many guests in attendance, the instrument was played for the first time during the worship service. The tension amongst those present was palpable, and even the organ builder looked up to the organ loft, wondering whether the organ’s sound would meet expectations and reward years of labour. The congregation’s “AHHHH” was clearly audible after the first few sounds, with the organ’s approximately 1000 pipes – all made from wood and many of them replicas because the old ones had stopped working – filling the sanctuary with wonderful music. It was an uplifting experience; the solemnity of the moment was deeply moving. The “organ night” began

immediately after the worship service and featured works Bach, Mendelssohn, Krebs, and Liszt. Three organists showed off the instrument’s different tone colours which sounded grand and powerful in the compositions by Bach and Mendelssohn, and almost song-like and reserved in the works by Krebs. To commemorate this day, the International Fasch Society was given three of the original organ pipes; they will be shown in our Fasch exhibition at the Zerbst Palace next year.

### New Fasch CD with the Rheinische Kantorei and Das Kleine Konzert (dir. H. Max) released (cpo, DDD, 2017, 7971818)!

If you were unable to attend the 14<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival (see our report in the 2017 issue of *Faschiana*) and/or would like to listen to the wonderful concert with the Rheinische Kantorei und Das Kleine Konzert directed by Hermann Max that was recorded by Deutschlandfunk Radio on that occasion, then you are in for a treat. Johann Friedrich Fasch was walking “in the footsteps of Telemann” it says on the label’s website (<https://www.jpc.de/jpcng/cpo/detail/-/art/johann-friedrich-fasch-kantaten/hnum/7971818>). However, the featured works (a cantata, a setting of a mass, and an orchestral suite) clearly indicate that we are dealing with – truly fabulous! – music by Fasch, not Telemann. We hope you will enjoy it!





### Congratulations...!

The following individuals celebrated an important birthday in 2018:

- Yorik Andris Deicke, who was very keen to be born on 4 August (even prior to the arrival of his dad and the midwife!). Weighing 3660 grams and being 50 cm tall at birth, he has kept the entire family, including big brother Arian (born in 2011) and mom Antje Deicke, musicologist with the IFS since 2010, on their toes ever since.
- Dr. Janice Stockigt (Honorary Associate Professor in musicology at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and an expert on Dresden court music) celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14 July. Her late husband, endocrinologist and Baroque bassoon enthusiast Dr. Jim Stockigt, connected with the IFS when visiting Zerbst in 1997. Dr. Janice Stockigt presented her first paper at the Fasch Festival conference in 2001, and we look forward to welcoming her back once again in April 2019.
- The world-famous trumpet virtuoso and conductor Ludwig Güttler, 2001 Fasch Prize recipient, turned 75 on 18 June 2018. His “sound contributions” to concerts as well as radio and CD recordings especially in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century – when he collaborated for many years with musicologists and Fasch Prize recipients Prof. Dr. Manfred Fechner (2017) and Dr. Gottfried Gille (2013) – shaped the early Fasch revival like none other.
- Helmut Behrendt, former mayor of Zerbst, celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 11 April. The International Fasch Festival and the International Fasch Society were always important to him during the 22 years of his tenure (1990–2012). We wish Mr. Behrendt all the best for the coming seven decades!
- Two long-time members of the IFS Executive Board celebrated a milestone birthday in 2018: our secretary Karin Crain turned 70 on 24 July, and Jens Lorenz, vice-president and 1995 Fasch Prize recipient, turned 60 on 9 September. The IFS without these two individuals? Inconceivable! We thank them for their continued support, especially in view of the upcoming Fasch Festival, for which Jens Lorenz conceived and will direct the closing concert on 19 April.



Career achievements and changes in office location have been reported by:

- Dr. Maik Richter, long-time member of the IFS’s scholarly advisory board. His revised dissertation on the Latin settings of the mass ordinary in Lutheran worship services held between 1640 and 1740 in towns and courts of the Central German region, has been published as a book (vol. 8 of Forum Mitteldeutsche Barockmusik, [www.ortus.de](http://www.ortus.de)). On 2 April 2018 Dr. Richter commenced his new position as musicologist with the Heinrich-Schütz-Haus Museum in Weissenfels ([www.schuetzhaus-weissenfels.de/](http://www.schuetzhaus-weissenfels.de/)).
- Dr. Michael Maul, who delivered the scholarly keynote address at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in 2017 (“From Luther to Fasch”, see p. 3), was appointed as the new artistic director of the Bach Festival in Leipzig on 1 June 2018. “That is indeed a pinch-me feeling. What a wonderful opportunity,” noted Maul in his interview with the Leipziger Volkszeitung (<http://www.lvz.de/Nachrichten/Kultur/Kultur-Regional/Der-neue-Bachfest-Intendant-Michael-Maul-im-Interview>).
- Our long-time IFS treasurer, tax accountant Christiane Müller, and her staff moved into their new office space on the Alte Brücke in Zerbst in late July 2018 – coincidentally, they are now located in the same building in which the international scholarly Fasch conference will be held in 2019!



### **New book on Prince Friedrich August of Anhalt-Zerbst, brother of Catherine the Great, by Paul Beckus published!**

We congratulate Dr. Paul Beckus, who earned his Ph.D. degree at the Martin-Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (Historical Institute) in May 2017, on publishing his dissertation as a monograph (*Land ohne Herr – Fürst ohne Hof? Friedrich August von Anhalt-Zerbst und sein Fürstentum*, Quellen und Forschungen zur Geschichte Sachsen-Anhalts, vol. 15, Halle/Saale: Mitteldeutscher Verlag, 2018, 604 pp.) Readers interested in the brother of Catherine the Great who ruled the small principality of Anhalt-Zerbst from exile for thirty years (!), will gain many new insights, for example on the distribution of political power in Zerbst during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the prince's (failed) self-presentation. Especially impressive is the index of historical individuals provided at the end of the volume. This book won the "Preis für Personengeschichte 2018" and will be introduced to Zerbst audiences by Dr. Beckus on 30 October 2018, 6:30 pm (Kreissparkasse Anhalt-Bitterfeld, Alte Brücke 45). A review by Barbara M.

Reul will appear in the 2019 issue of *Mitteilungen des Vereins Anhaltischer Geschichte*.

### **Fa(s)ch-Questions and -Answers**

- *Who chooses the ensembles and artists who perform at International Fasch Festivals?*

Our IFS Programming Committee makes suggestions which are vetted by the IFS president together with the members of the Fasch Board of Trustees and the City of Zerbst/Anhalt – who are jointly responsible for the financial viability of Fasch Festivals – and then turned into attractive festival programmes. The festivals are planned many years in advance; talks about dates for 2025 and 2027 have already begun. Have there been last-minute cancellations? Yes, with an eagerly awaited Australian orchestra even dispersing suddenly (without asking for our permission beforehand)!

- *How are Fasch Prize recipients chosen?*

The IFS Executive Board communicates its top contender to the City of Zerbst/Anhalt, giving equal attention to artists, ensembles, and scholars who have continually promoted Fasch in a meaningful way. An overview of all Fasch Prize recipients chosen to date is available on our website, [www.fasch.net](http://www.fasch.net).



### **IFS Annual General Meeting and "Fasch-Geselligkeit" event on 19 October 2018 – save the date!**

We cordially invite you to attend our annual general meeting at 6 pm and this year's "Fasch-Geselligkeit" event focusing on "Wine and Song" at 7:30 pm. Both are held at "Von Rephuns Garten" Hotel, Rephunstr. 2. Marina Dobroschinskaja with her powerful soprano voice and her ensemble will present "ear worms" from musicals, operettas, and movies to accompany the three-course menu especially prepared by Executive Chef Henning Strüber.

Tickets at 35,50 Euro per person are available from the Zerbst Tourist Information Office and the IFS headquarters.



### “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” Halle University Chorus wins international choral competition!

In April 2018 the “Johann Friedrich Reichardt” Halle University Chorus, directed by University Music Director (and IFS vice-president) Jens Lorenz, participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> “International Days of Choral Music” in Verona, Italy (picture from <http://www.coll-music.uni-halle.de/universitaetschor/>). The chorus received the rating “excellent” (i.e. a gold medal) as well as the special jury prize for the best interpretation of the compulsory piece, “Belle et ressemblante” by Francis Poulenc. Winning the entire competition and being honoured as the best choral group across all categories (beating 32 other vocal ensembles from 10



countries) is awesome! We look forward to this year’s Christmas concert on 8 December, 5 pm, at St. Trinitatis Church in Zerbst as well as the closing concert of the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in April 2019.



### Memorial concert for Ludger Rémy, 2015 Fasch Prize Recipient, on 21 June 2018 in Michaelstein (Harz)

“Befiehl du deine Wege” (“Entrust your ways”) was the title of the concert held to commemorate the passing of Ludger Rémy (picture: H. Rohm). It was hosted by the Musikakademie and the Gesellschaft der Freunde Michaelstein to commemorate the first anniversary of his death, with the Telemannische Collegium and soloists performing; they were directed by Sebastian Knebel.

### We say a special thank you to two members retiring from the IFS Executive Board!

Karin Spott (Zerbst) and Stephan Blaut (Leipzig/Halle) will not continue in April 2019 when a new IFS Executive Board has to be elected. We thank them both for volunteering their time on behalf of the IFS Executive Board for many years. Following her retirement as a music educator in Zerbst, Karin Spott served for nearly a decade as the IFS’s general manager. She not only mentored her successor, Dr. Inge Werner, but continued to serve as the IFS deputy general manager and collaborated with Dr. Werner on a regular basis. Moreover, Karin Spott has led 18 (!) highly popular “Fasch trips” (s. pp. 11–12) and will once again – just prior to her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday next year – supervise events that are geared at school-aged children during the 15<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival. Thank you!



Musicologist Stephan Blaut served for many years on the IFS’s Scholarly Advisory Board and joined the Executive Board in 1998. He has shaped recent Fasch scholarship by publishing in multiple *Fasch Studies* volumes on, for instance, orchestral suites by J. F. Fasch and the 1743 Zerbst court music inventory, the “Concert-Stube”. His annotated Fasch Bibliography (s. vol. 8 of *Fasch Studies*) and his comprehensive entry on Fasch’s life and works in the most important modern German music encyclopedia, *Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, deserve special mention – keep up the good work!



### Did you know....?

- That an increasing number of German archives digitize documents from the Early Modern Period and make them freely accessible online (see, e. g., [www.Vd18.de](http://www.Vd18.de))? Fasch scholarship benefits, for instance, from the large “Konsistorium Zerbst” (Z 91) holdings at the Landesarchiv Sachsen-Anhalt in Dessau that can now be searched and viewed online (<http://recherche.landearchiv.sachsen-anhalt.de>). This inspires confidence regarding future unexpected “Fasch finds” (s. Brian Clark’s article on p. 4)!

- That Sophia Fasch, J. F. Fasch’s oldest daughter (from his first marriage), lived on Breite Strasse in Zerbst just prior to her death in 1746? This is evident from a hitherto-unknown – and now digitally available – archival

source which Dr. Jens Brademann discovered in 2017 in the above-mentioned “Konsistorium-Zerbst” holdings in Dessau and discusses in his article in vol. 14 of *Fasch Studies* (s. p. 2). Since *Fräulein* Fasch was not married, she could still have lived with her parents. In 1743 they had, incidentally, been renting a house on Neue Brücke Street (s. the respective article by B. M. Reul in vol. 12 of *Faschiana*, 2011, p. 8).

- That Heiner Donath, director of the “Johann Friedrich Fasch” Music School in Zerbst/Anhalt, plans to reestablish the Zerbst court *Kapelle* on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Fasch Festival in 2023 (which is to focus on “300 years in Zerbst: J. F. Fasch as *Kapellmeister*”)?
- That many years ago the IFS headquarters staff received a letter during Carnival (European Mardi Gras) that contained a serious inquiry – was there music by the Zerbst *Kapellmeister* that would go with “Faschingsdienstag” [Shrove Tuesday, which in German begins with “Fasch”, the trans.]? Our (ingenious?) answer: “Yes, but sadly it has not been preserved.”

### Update: Our Fasch exhibition in the Zerbst Palace

Our exhibition “Music at the Zerbst court” on the third floor of the Zerbst Palace has not been accessible since July 2017. At that time, we had to make room for an emergency escape route required by a huge exhibition at the palace that focused on projects in Saxony-Anhalt and was organized by the German Society for the Preservation of Historical Objects.

Significant construction work began in December 2017: the ceilings in our exhibition rooms were finally redone, much to our delight. The construction continued until May 2018. At that time the palace “season” had already begun. Since we lacked volunteers to help get the exhibition rooms up and running quickly, we decided to keep them closed. In the meantime, Bert Siegmund, IFS president, and myself as the general manager, met with Antje Rohm, the City of Zerbst’s director of cultural affairs, und Dirk Herrmann, president of the local Zerbst Palace Society, to discuss the future of the palace. They ensured us that there was great interest in us continuing with the exhibition, and that displays focusing on J. F. Fasch’s life and works as well as the history of the International Fasch Society were part and parcel of the palace’s utilization concept.





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But some of our exhibition pieces have become “long in the tooth”; other items need updating and newly-acquired documents, pictures, and objects must be added, too, not least the sculpture of J. F. Fasch by Yaroslav Borodin, sponsored by the Nindel Family Gallery.

It is crucial that we make these necessary changes soon. But the climatic conditions inside the palace do not allow us to “go all out” and present period instruments, for example. We have, however, started putting our heads together and hope to re-open the exhibition in May 2019. Do join us at the beginning of the Fasch Festival in April 2019 at the local branch of the Zerst Sparkasse bank to view some of our latest acquisitions.

There is much to do until then, so we turn to you for help regarding displays that need to be put up, and rooms that need to be decorated and cleaned. Call us, write us, or send us an e-mail – your assistance will make all the difference March 2019! Thank you in advance for your support.

Inge Werner

### 18<sup>th</sup> “Fasch Trip”: Destination Bad Kreuznach and vicinity, 27–30 September 2018

This year’s trip led from Zerst/Anhalt to Southwestern Germany, specifically Bad Kreuznach, Mainz, and Bingen on the Rhine. Expertly guided once again by Karin Spott, 26 travellers boarded a motor coach on Thursday, 27 September 2018. The sun was shining while Peter, our bus driver, took us to our destination safely and without getting stuck in traffic.

Our first excursion on Friday led to Mainz. We climbed up to the citadel (fortress) on the Jakobsberg at the outskirts of the historic part of Mainz. We tagged along with our female tour guide who provided lively and entertaining descriptions while leading us through the fortifications, above defensive walls, and underground through a labyrinth of paths and steps. The citadel was built in 1660 and is as much proof of the Roman occupation of Mainz as the “Drususstein”, a “fat” tower comprised of boulders that was built by the 9<sup>th</sup>-century Roman commander Claudius Drusus. Moreover, the citizens of Mainz found shelter and protection underground when the town was bombed in February 1945.

That history had shaped the town of Mainz in both positive and negative ways, was evident in the guided tour we went on in the afternoon. We walked through the post-1945 Mainz and then explored some of the Romantic little alleyways of the historic downtown core. A visit of the Mainz Cathedral was impressive. Some participants also visited St. Stephan’s Church with its blue and colourful windows which Marc Chagall created in 1978 as a sign of Jewish-Christian solidarity. In the evening we enjoyed a time of fellowship that involved music, dancing, and many stimulating conversations.





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On Saturday we went to Bingen where another experienced female tour guide made her home town come alive. She told us many anecdotes about the “Mäuseturm” (lit. “Mouse Tower”), St. Martin Cathedral, Klopp Castle, and St. Rochus Chapel. Enjoying the wonderful weather, we walked along the shores of the Rhine river, watching many ships go by and admiring castles on the other side of the Rhine.

We spent the afternoon visiting the Müller winery in Okenheim. A walk through a grapevine arbour allowed us to taste different varieties of grapes that were sweet as sugar. Eventually, we tried their liquid versions – delicious, energizing wines. As a result, the trip ended surprisingly quickly, and we returned home on Sunday, satisfied and filled with many new impressions.

First and foremost, we must express our gratitude to Karin Spott – everything was perfectly organized, allowing all travellers to have a great time. We are also grateful to Claudia Adolf, our hostess on board of the bus. Thanks are due as well to the travel agency Ruthe for its support, and to Peter for driving our bus calmly and expertly. Finally, we thank the wine maker for his hospitality.

Inge Werner

**We commemorate the passing of Georg Credo**, the first administrator of the former district of Zerbst which had been “born” after Germany reunified as a country. As the local “Landrat” Credo was the main point of contact when the IFS was founded in 1991. He valued the international profile of our Society and the Fasch Festival above all. Credo died in February 2018; we offer our sincere condolences to his family. In an interview from 2015 Credo talked about the early years of the district and his career path as a local politician (see [www.volksstimme.de/nachrichten/lokal/zerbst/1471582\\_Kein-endloses-Debattieren.html](http://www.volksstimme.de/nachrichten/lokal/zerbst/1471582_Kein-endloses-Debattieren.html)).



### We congratulate all of our members and friends of Fasch who celebrate milestone birthdays in 2018!



40<sup>th</sup> birthday: C. Koop (Zerbst./A.)

45<sup>th</sup> birthday: C. Steltner (Kiel); C. Müller (Zerbst/A.)

50<sup>th</sup> birthday: H. Donath, C. Brüggemann (Zerbst/A.)

55<sup>th</sup> birthday: R. Müller (Dessau); J. Held (Rosengarten); A. Thielemann (Switzerland)

60<sup>th</sup> birthday: J. Lorenz (Petersberg)

65<sup>th</sup> birthday: B. Sikora (Vreden); M. Flämig (Niesky); H. Müller (Bordelum)

70<sup>th</sup> birthday: H. Behrendt, C. Krain, C. Siebert (Zerbst/A.); J. Lüdecke (Trebritz)

75<sup>th</sup> birthday: L. Güttler (Dresden); E. Walla (Loburg); K. Engelhart (Sweden); H. Graßhoff (Zerbst/A.); S. Hanser (Tübingen)

80<sup>th</sup> Birthday: J. Stockigt (Australia); D. Franklin (USA); H. Spott (Zerbst/A.)

282<sup>nd</sup> Birthday: Carl Friedrich Christian Fasch (born on 18 November 1736 in Zerbst)

330<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Johann Friedrich Fasch (born on 15 April 1688 in Buttstedt near Weimar)

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