



CHORNACHRICHTEN

Nr. 20

April 2009

Kontakt mit Japan

Über die Vorgeschichte des Japan-Kontaktes berichtet die Münsterländische Volkszeitung vom 3.11.2008 → http://www.mv-online.de/lokales/kreis_steinfurt/westerkappeln/782381_In_Japan_spricht_Urs_Borer_Italienisch.html

Hello,

2.3.2009

this is Lothar Melching from the Meller Madrigalchor. Our choirmaster Urs Borer told me to contact You, because Your email did not yet reach me. I hope You to get the correct address this way.

I guess, Urs will have told You a lot of stuff about the Meller Madrigalchor, so I do not need to inform You, who we are and what we are doing. You will get a slight impression visiting our homepage <http://www.meller-madrigalchor.de/> . You will also get there via my personal homepage <http://lotharmelching.de/> .

We would be very happy, if You could afford to come to Germany this year. We are preparing two big concerts in 2009. The first will be our autumn concert "Insalata mista", that is Italian and means "mixed salad" or "a little bit of everything". It will take place on the 13th of September. The second will be our christmas concert "Lieder der Völker" which means "(Christmas) Carols of the Peoples (from all over the world)". We are planning to run this on the 20th of December. That date is very close to christmas this year, but during the weeks before there will be some other concerts in Melle presumably, and we have to consider the needs of the catholic parish, because we usually perform our christmas concert in the chapel of St. Matthew in Melle.

Many greetings from Melle
Lothar Melching
Engelgarten 6
49324 Melle

Dear Lothar,

3.3.2009

How nice to receive your kind English e-mail that I have been waiting for !

In fact, I can understand and speak a little bit German, but unfortunately, it takes a lot of time and effort for me to write German. So, I am so glad to communicate with you in English !

Thank you very much for giving me informations about your Madrigalchor's concerts schedule together with your homepage adresse. We, among members of newly established chor called " Chorus Andante", are now discussing about the possibility of visiting your country this year.

The problems are :

- our chor is only one year's old and therefore we cannot sing well like you, very experienced Madrigalchor members,
- so, even though we want to join your Christmas Concert, the choice of songs will be very li-

mitted;

- the majority of our chor members is the famer, so they will only be available for 4~5 days off;. they cannot expect any financial support from their dorf, therefore they have to manage all the expenses by themselves; etc.

Anyway, we all know that this is a great opportunity for us to begin with, for having a good friendly relationship between our two countries through Chor, that Mr. Urs Borer kindly offered to us. So, in a month or so, they will decide to come to visit Melle and join your concert, I am sure ! As soo as they will let me know their decision, I will contact you to ask your advice on how to organize this trip.

Hoping to have a good friendship between us,our two chors, our two city and dorf, our two coun-tries, in the future,

Sincerely yours,
Mariko Kudoh

Dear Lothar,

26.3.2009

Following our first contact by e-mail, I am very glad to inform you that Chor Andante accepts, with many thanks, your kind offer of our first cultural exchange in Germany through Chor !

They are in mind to come to Germany for Christmas concert for about one week, including travel time, and asked me the followings ;

- 1) How many peoples can you accept at your members' houses ?
- 2) Could you be so kind to tell us a budget for this home-stay accomodation ?
- 3) Can you also check a price of hiring a bus from Frankfort Airport to your place (go and back) ?

Looking forward to receiving your e-mail letter, I remain

Sincerely yours,
Mariko Kudo

Dear Mariko!

26.3.2009

Thank You for Your nice e-mail. I am very happy to read You are coming to Germany this year. I am looking forward to a wonderful time.

We get Easter holidays from next week on, so our choir will not meet until April 20th. I beg You pardon because of not sending immediatly further information about Your three questions. I promise to deal with them as soon as possible.

As I already told You our Christmas concert will be run on December 20th in St. Matthew's chapel in Melle. Have a look on the attached photo of Melle in January 2009. There are two chapels to be seen. The left one is the protestant chapel of St. Peter, and the right one is the roman-catholic St. Matthew's chapel.

I guess we will have a good time in December.

Sincerely Yours
Lothar Melching

Dear Lothar,

26.3.2009

Thank you so much for your prompt reply with a wonderful photo! I am looking forward to having a news from you on April 20. (coincidentally, this day is my birthday ! So, I hope to have a favourable answer from your chor member !)

Have a nice Easter holidays !

Mariko

Dear Mariko!

19.4.2009

Congratulations for Your birthday! I send my best wishes to You. May You achieve everything You desire. I hope You will have a good time on this happy day and may Your happiness last for the whole upcoming year. And here is just another photo of beautiful Melle last winter.

Best wishes. Sincerely Yours
Lothar

Dear Lothar,

19.4.2009

How nice of you to send me your kind wishes to my birthday ! Actually, it's one thirty in the morning in Japan and your e-mail is the first appeared in my PC ! Thank you so much for your kind attention to my Birthday !

Sincerely yours
Mariko Kudo

Dear Mariko!

21.4.2009

Yesterday the Meller Madrigalchor had his first practice evening after the Easter holidays. So I could tell the members about the visit. They all were very happy and are looking forward to this visit.

We discussed Your questions and very soon agreed on the following points: as Urs Borer told us Your choir consists of about thirty singers, we think that all of them, that can afford to take part in the visit, will be welcome in Melle and Wallenhorst. Wallenhorst is a little town nearby, and there exists the Männerchor Lechtingen, that will participate in that action. So we will be able to give accommodation to all of Your choir members, that will come to Germany in december.

As they all will be given accommodation by choir members of the Meller Madrigalchor and the Männerchor Lechtingen, there will be no costs considering the accommodation. We will be happy to receive You as our guests.

Concerning the shuttle bus from and to Frankfurt airport we are looking for some sponsoring. About the success I will tell You as soon as possible.

Kind regards from the Meller Madrigalchor to Chor Andante. Sincerely Yours
Lothar Melching

PS: You will find Melle looking at the map of Europe I have attached. Melle is situated between the larger towns of Bielefeld and Osnabrück. The big town of Hanover is situated about 120 kilometres to the east.

Dear Lothar,

21.4.2009

How wonderful news you brought to me, Lothar !

I am so glad to know that your Chor members, as well as Mennerchor Lechtingen, showed a warm positive reaction to our Chor yet unkown to you. And I am sure that all of our Chor members will be exited to hear about your generous offer !

I will get in touch with several travel agency to check the air-ticket price go and back to Frankfort, and will visit Showa-Mura to discuss with them on this matter.

Meanwhile, will you be so kind enought to advice me from what date to what date in december is convenient to you.

I am looking forward to being able to work with you for the success of this big project.

Thanking you again for your generoucity,

Sincerely yours,
Mariko Kudo

Dear Mariko,

23.4.2009

Thank You for your kind response.

What date would be the best to visit Melle? As I told You our choir will perform a Christmas concert on December 20th at 19:30 h. Is it possible for You to take part in this concert? Urs Borer told me he sent the notes of the "Halleluja" from the "Messias" by Georg Friedrich Händel to You, that is highly appreciated in Germany. It would be nice for both choirs to join and sing it together.

There would be time enough for choir Andante to sing something of their repertoire in that concert, too. December 20th is a Sunday, and on the following Monday we got a tradition for many years, that all the choir meets for a common dinner. It is a very special German dinner called "Grünkohlessen" = "green cabbage dinner". If You will be still to Melle on that day, we would feel happy to invite You to take part in that dinner.

It might be a good idea to visit the Christmas market in Osnabrück during your visit. Osnabrück is only 25 kilometres away from Melle.

From December 24th to December 26th we usually celebrate Christmas in our families, so we hardly can look after You on these days. So the best would be to come to Melle during the time from December 12th (or later) to 22th (as long as You can afford).

I do not know whether in Japan You celebrate Christmas days as well. In fact Germans would not start such a journey in what we call "Adventszeit" = "the last 4 weeks just before Christmas". So if it is not comfortable for You to come to Germany during the time mentioned above, we would like to receive You at any other time. But as the Meller Madrigalchor does not meet during school holidays we beg You to avoid them. School holidays will last from June 25th to August 5th and from October 5th to October 17th.

You got time enough to discuss my proposal. Feel free to decide what is the best for You.

Sorry, I posted this e-mail off before it was completed. Many greetings from Melle.

Sincerely Yours
Lothar

Dear Lothar,

24.4.2009

Thank you for your heartfull advice !

The period from December 12th (or later) to December 22nd that you suggested seems to be just convenient to us. Almost all members of our Chor (except 2 or 3 christians) are buddist, and our most important holidays are the New Year's holiday and the buddist holiday in the middle of August.

I am sure that all the members will be so excited to be able to have unique experiences such as a Christmas Concert in a church on December 20th and visiting christmas market in Osnabruck, as well as the Grunkohlessen dinner which will be held on the last day of our stay in Melle!

We will be very happy to join your concert and look forward to having the note of Hendel's Messias from Urs.

Sincerely yours,
Mariko Kudo

Der Madrigalchor im Internet → <http://www.meller-madrigalchor.de/>