

State of Texas *
*
County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing The New Braunfels Gemischer Chor Harmonie with Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker

WHEREAS, The New Braunfels Gemischer Chor Harmonie has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission Subject Marker designating it to be a significant part of Texas history; and,

WHEREAS, The New Braunfels Gemischer (meaning “mixed”) Chor Harmonie was established in November 1937, and was the last mixed-voice group organized in Comal County; and,

WHEREAS, German immigrants to Texas embraced their culture and on March 2, 1850, the singing society “Germania” was organized under the direction of Gottfried Joseph Petmecky (1809-1871). This group sponsored their first event on July 4 that year on the banks of the Guadalupe River; and,

WHEREAS, in 1853 the first statewide Saengerfest was held in New Braunfels on Friedrich Herman Seele’s farm on the Guadalupe River, eventually becoming the home to the first “Saengerhalle”; and,

WHEREAS, by 1876 other singing societies formed in the County, including the New Braunfels Maennerchor, Echo Society, Smithson Valley Echo Society, Anhalt Singing Society, Honey Creek Singing Society, and Walhalla Singing Society at Sattler. These early societies were only for men, but by 1895 mixed-voice societies included the Concordia Gemischer Chor; and,

WHEREAS, Gilbert Becker (1906-1985), whose father Heinrich Becker (1860-1925) was a charter member of the Clear Spring Frohsinn Singing Society, established the New Braunfels Gemischer Chor Harmonie, and by 1938 there were 46 members and it was recognized as one of the best mixed-voice groups in the region; and,

WHEREAS, in 1959, Gilbert Becker donated land on what is now Saengerhalle Road and the “Saengerhalle” was built from old Army barracks for all the local singing societies to share; and,

WHEREAS, by the 1990s the Gemischer Chor Harmonie was the only remaining active German singing society in New Braunfels; and,

WHEREAS, the New Braunfels Gemischer Chor Harmonie continues to preserve and promote this aspect of our cultural heritage; and,

WHEREAS, the sponsors of the marker are John and Cindy Coers, along with the Gemischer Chor Harmonie members; and,

WHEREAS, a marker dedication will be held at 3:00pm on October 30, 2022 in Landa Park, 105 Landa Park Drive, New Braunfels, Texas, near the Founder’s Oak and German Pioneers Monument.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Comal County Commissioners Court duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend John and Cindy Coers on your work towards receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 27th day of October, 2022.


Sherman Krause, County Judge


Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1


Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2


Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3


Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest: 
Bobbie Koeppe, County Clerk

