

Consul General Stocks Hosts Reception for "Silenced Music" Honorees

Apr 27, 2009 | Germany.info



Consul General Christian Stocks stands among some of the "Silenced Music" honorees. (© Consulate General Los Angeles)

Consul General Christian Stocks hosted a reception at his residence to honor all those who made it possible that "Silenced Music" (*Verfemte Musik*) be heard once again in Los Angeles, on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

The honorees included Brigitte Medvin, daughter of ostracized musician Izzy Fuhrmann, Volker Ahmels, director of the Music Academy Schwerin, noted pianist Friederike Haufe and the many other sponsors who generously helped so that the silenced music could be heard.



Music Academy Schwerin Director Volker Ahmels and Christine Stocks. (© Consulate General Los Angeles)

Volker Ahmels and Friederike Haufe are the founders of "Verfemte Musik," a project of the Music Academy Schwerin/Germany, which teaches students from Germany and throughout Europe about the Holocaust and the persecuted Jewish musicians who were forbidden from performing or publishing their compositions during the Nazi regime, and celebrates their music with an annual festival and competition for young instrumentalists and vocalists.

In 2008, a research project into the music and life Izzy Fuhrmann and composer and conductor Walter Arlen was started. Its results came to fruition now, as the winners of the *Izzy Fuhrmann Award 2008* celebrated their debut in Los Angeles this past week.



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Brigitte Medvin with daughter, son-in-law and husband, Max. (© Consulate General Los Angeles)

The winners of the 2nd "Verfemte Musik" competition performed the music of Izzy Fuhrmann and Walter Arlen at a concert given under the auspices of German Consul General Dr. Christian Stocks at the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles on April 20, and during the week at the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the American Jewish University as well.

They are: Helge Aurich/piano, Daniel Beider/piano, Sonja Bisgiel/ piano, Li Jing/piano, Sumi Sefuri/soprano, Albrecht von Stackelberg/baritone and Claudia Roick/soprano.



The project is supported by the American Jewish University, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the L.A. Opera and the German Consulate General.

Guest, Stanley Black, Christine Stocks, Joyce Black and Brigitte Medvin. (© Consulate General Los Angeles)