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News from Germany...

The German Accordion Federation which was formed on 28 March 1931, celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2001. It is made up of music associates, accordion orchestras and ensembles, soloists and teachers within Germany. The goal of the DHV is the promoting and spreading of accordion music.

Thanks to the high number of young members, the German Accordion Federation is first of all a music federation of the youth. With its headquarters in Baden-Württemberg the associations of the DHV extend over all Regions of Germany.

The DHV has 1,254 member associations in Germany, 654 of them in Baden-Württemberg alone. On average two accordion-orchestras and additional ensembles belong to each association, with an equal number of male and female members. This makes the total number of members of the DHV approximately 120,000, with about 45,000 of them being from Baden-Württemberg. Members in the associations of the DHV are divided into four groups:

(a) Children, (b) Young people under 18 years, (c) Young people and young adults of 18 - 27 years, (d) Adults

Eighty percent of all active members are in the first three categories – children, young people and young adults while the number of adults in the association amounts to approximately a quarter of the members. From this once can conclude that The DHV is a music federation of the youth. Consequently, focus is on the strengthened youth work within the associations as well as literature, which responds to the expectations of today's young people.

The emphasis of the work of the DHV: Promotion of making music; especially with children and young people including the following special activities:

- Introduction of early education concepts in the associations
- Promotion of the social connection of the whole family
- Early advancing to the music
- Training of musical mentors
- Projects such as classes make music with the accordion
- English for Kids
- Class meetings with the accordion in the 2 years term
- Meetings of children and other young people, youth
- Accordion orchestras at festivals
- Training of parents as mentors with the parents academy of Baden-Württemberg Co-operation in the European Park
- Training of social pedagogues to singing mentors
- Forum young accordion - country wide promotion action
- Workshops, Seminars, Leisure times particularly for Youth
- Commissions of compositions "Junge Literatur"
- German accordion music competitions on regional/national level for young accordionists, including chamber music
- World music festival with competitions for accordion, harmonica, orchestra in connection with choirs, Styrian accordion as well as school orchestra
- Project "Integration by Music". Integration of youth of other nationalities by making music in the community
- Co-operation school/association
- Co-operation between DHV & German Music Schools
- Musical Youth activities on the Internet
- Magazine of the federation 'Accordion International'

Technical training is provided with courses and tests for: Soloists, ensemble leaders, teaching in orchestras and associations and conducting an accordion orchestra. Conducting training is held in co-operation with the federal academy of formation of the musical youth.

In addition to the CIA, the DHV holds membership to more than 25 national and international music councils/associations.