

Moscow's Angels of Peace children's dance group dance in Stuttgart, Germany

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At quite short notice, the children's dance group "Angels of Peace" from Moscow gave a performance in Stuttgart on 7 May 2017 following the invitation of the local branches of the Family Federation for World Peace, UPF and WFWP Germany.

At 8am, the bus set off from Bad Camberg with the children and those accompanying them; they had given a performance in the Neumühle at the weekend on the occasion of WFWP's 25th anniversary in Germany. Ute Lemme took advantage of the 3 hour bus journey to explain to the group something about the city of Stuttgart and the special historical relationship between Württemberg and Russia.

Stuttgart city center was the starting point of a one-hour sightseeing trip. From Karlsplatz (Carl's Square) the tour continued to the Altes Schloss (old castle), through its court-yard and splendid galleries, past Schillerplatz (Schiller Square), across Schlossplatz (Castle Square), past the triple-winged Barock style Neuer Schloss (New Castle) and back to the gardens of the castle. We admired the building which houses the Stuttgart City Theater, where one can enjoy opera and performances by the world renowned Stuttgart Ballet. In the Academy garden behind the new castle, we discovered the Hohe Karlsschule (Carl's High School), where at the end of the 18th century not only Friedrich Schiller but also other famous people and Russian aristocracy had received an education.

After the sight-seeing tour, we adjourned to the Stuttgart UPF premises where a diligent team had prepared lunch for the Moscow group as well as drinks and delicious cakes for the audience who would attend the afternoon event. Shortly after 3pm, Karl-Christian Hausmann opened the event in the flower-decked hall. About 100 guests had gathered; many were young families with children who had filled the

front seats in eager anticipation. Many of the audience had a connection to Russia and could speak the language.



Karl-Christian Hausmann introduced Olga Vakulinskaya, the founder of the dance group. She explained the goals she had for the children and young people and their activities in Moscow. A love of music and dance can be a bridge of peace between people of different nations and cultures and contribute to understanding. There then followed a colorful succession of Russians songs and dances, such as, for example the Russian shawl-dance, an Easter song, a Caucasian dance, the song 'Abendglocke' (evening bells), the gipsy dance, the seaman's dance and more. The audience was caught up in the enthusiasm of the young dancers. During the two breaks where the group

changed costumes, a young girl played the violin. The inspiring program was brought to a close by two German songs, a Cossack dance and two Russian songs-, 'Moscow Nights' and 'Katjuscha'.



Each member of the dance group then received a present as an expression of gratitude from the hosts, and there was an opportunity to buy music CDs from the Angels of Peace and Russian dolls, the proceeds going to support the group. The money from cakes sales will be used to cover the costs of the event and to support the Angels of Peace.

Many stayed after the event for to mix socially and enjoy being together.

It was hard for us to say goodbye to the Angels of Peace. They set off again for Bad Camberg at 17.30; we wished 'Auf Wiedersehn!' and waved for a long time after the departing bus.

Reported by Elisabeth Heil
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