to

#### DAY ONE – GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Frankfurt & Leipzig



1 was on play

throughout

called Rocktoberfest. Playing my guitar and singing songs at different gigs throughout Germany, learning about their rich musical culture. The cool air of Indian Summer "Altweibersommer" hit me as I walked off the plane to get my bags. I had to hurry through customs, as my first gig in Frankfurt am Main was only an hour away. Frankfurt gets it names from the Franks who inhabited the area initially, thus "Frank" and "Furt' which is German for "river crossing", so this town is how the Franks crossed the river Main back in old world Germany.

## DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Frankfurt & Leipzig

I hurried to the underground transportation system,



the light rail system, called the S-Bahn & U-Bahn, to get to the center of the city. Frankfurt is the financial and transportation center of



#### DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Frankfurt & Leipzig

Germany and with Oktoberfest happening, the streets and beer gardens were full of festive Germans

singing and dancing on the tables. Yeah, they



dance on tables here; almost everywhere I turned festivity filled the air. Wow this place rocks. I got on the railway and headed to the famous old opera house (Alte



Oper) to play my first festival event, skyscrapers were all around, as Frankfurt is one of four European cities with skyscrapers.

The gig a beer garden, already packed and the smell





Schnitzel and Strudel waffled around in the breezy

## DAY ONE – GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR Frankfurt & Leipzig

river Main's cold air. Many people had huge glasses called Beer Stein's, the servers carrying ten of these huge glasses at a time, with beer spilling over everywhere; it looked like the country was in a river of beer through the streets. This was a rockin' crowd, I was ready to rock, boy these German's love to party and dance, and they really loved hearing my songs. At the end of the show all the students from around the world, who won a trip to Rocktoberfest joined to play German folk songs.



ncluding my favorite, the Oompah or Umpapa.

Afterward we all grabbed

some

Saverkraut, German coleslaw that tasted great, almost sour like a sour candy. I had to hurry to get

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## DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR Frankfurt & Leipzig

my rental Mercedes Benz SLR McLaren and travel 150 miles to Leipzig where my second gig was only hours away. I hopped on the Autobahn, the German Freeway and put the pedal to the metal (there is no speed limit). I cruised at over 100mph to my next gig, at the University of Music and Theater; my parents would kill me if they knew I was even driving. The University of Music and



#### DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Frankfurt & Leipzig



Theater

is one

of the first German conservatoire's built in 1843, Leipzig called "Bach City" after the famous German composer Johann Sebastian Bach, one of my favorite composers. Germany is also home to the "Immortal" Ludwig von Beethoven, another great German composer, along with the crazed Mozart, I wondered would my music live on as long. I won my trip to Germany for my baritone playing in school and I could hear the sounds of the Baroque period, I imagined being in Germany during that time, with horse drawn carriages and the old world buildings all around made me think I was

### DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR Frankfurt & Leipzig

playing for a king in his court. I played a few songs @ UMT and man was I exhausted, I went to the Youth Hostile to catch some z's before I had to get up and drive to Berlin the next day for gigs at the Brandenburg Gate by the famed Berlin Wall which had divided Germany



#### DAY ONE - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Frankfurt & Leipzig

for the rest of the trip and travel together to the different

festivals. Gute Nacht Germany!



#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

Our tour bus got to the Berlin Wall just as I finished writing a new tune that would reflect on the symbolism of the Wall, something a



bit like Pink Floyd. The Berlin Wall divided Germany after World War II into two, a communist Eastern Germany and a democratic Western Germany. Dividing not only the country but dividing the people as well. It was not until 1989 when Ronald Reagan, the US



President, made his famous speech to Russian General Secretary Gorbachev, whereby he said, "if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet

Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization:

Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate!

#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

#### Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"



My song reflected the pain and fear of war and the suffering from the division that afflicted this country but it was truly remarkable that from the ruins a reunification was born at the Wall, not only of Germany but between the US and Russia. I titled my song, "From the Ruins of War to the Rising of Peace" the first verse went like this:

A country torn by vicious war, torn in two, separating families, shattering dreams. For more than fifty years a Wall between them,



#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

seen from eye to eye filling the Berlin sky. Now from the ruins they rise and reunite to form a peace that spreads worldwide.



When I got to the Wall, I felt so nervous looking at the wild crowd finding spots to listen to my music at the door separating

the Brandenburg Gate. The Gate, the door separating East and West of the past, the place where Bach wrote the Brandenburg Concerto's, a symphony in the spirit of revolution. We were ready to rock their socks; we rocked out until 10:30 at night, they loved my song.

#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

Next, it was off to Bavaria in the morning, Germany's southernmost state, the "Bundesland". We loaded our gear and began the journey to the German Alps. The scenic beauty of this region, surrounded by the vast Alps mountain range was beyond description and sure looked good to grab some snowboards and tear up the mountains before our next gigs at the Mad King Ludwig castles.



Mad King Ludwig's reign was from March 10, 1864 - June 13, 1886 and he died at the young age of 40 but not before leaving his mark on the world and creating the Oktoberfest. The party

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## DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

is a symbol of the people coming together in celebration after being torn again and again by war after war. Oktoberfest is a sixteen-day festival held each year during late September and early October. It is one of the most famous events the city and the world's largest fair, with some five million people attending every year.



The original "Oktoberfest" occurred in Munich, on

October 12, 1810. For the commemoration of their

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#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Berlin to Bavaria

marriage, Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese of



#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Berlin to Bavaria

Saxe-Hildburghausen (namesake of the Theresienwiese



#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

#### Berlin to Bavaria

festival

organized a race. In the

the Oktoberfest

cancelled since



great horse year 1812, way Bavaria was

involved with the Napoleonic war. From 1914 through 1918, World War I prevented the celebration of Oktoberfest. In 1919 and 1920, the two years after the war, Munich celebrated only an "Autumn Fest." In 1923 and 1924, the Oktoberfest was not held due to inflation. In 1933, the Bavarian white and blue flag was replaced with the swastika flag. From 1939 to 1945, due to World War II, no Oktoberfest took place. From 1946 to 1948, after the war, Munich once again celebrated. Since 1950, there has been a traditional festival opening: A twelve gun salute and the tapping of the first

# DAY TWO – GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

keg at 12:00 by the current Mayor of Munich with the cry "O'zapft is!" ("It's tapped!" in the Austro-Bavarian dialect) opens the Oktoberfest. By 1960, the Oktoberfest had turned into an enormous world-famous festival. After this foreigners began to picture Germans as wearing the Sennerhut, Lederhosen, and the girls in Dirndl.

It is interesting how the party stops during war times and destroys the great spirit of the German of the people. Without war, Germany is perhaps on of the most festive places on earth and Oktoberfest symbolizes this desire for peace v. war. As long as Oktoberfest continues uninterrupted, Germany remains one of the most festive places in the world. As I reflected on the struggles

#### DAY TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Berlin to Bavaria

of Germany, we grabbed our boards and headed off to the ALPS mountain range, the cold air of the mountains biting at my body. "Auf wiederschen" my friends, at my next gig at the castle gate.





#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen



My band and I were going to our hotel in Munich where we will perform our next gig at a music festival tomorrow after our nights at the castles of Mad King Ludwig. The city of Munich is famous for its cultural arts but for kids, the music festivals are the rave and draw the largest audiences. We will be the opening

tomorrow Day Day, November part of the heritage.



performance at the All Saints concert: All Saints celebrated on 1st, is a significant catholic German To celebrate, there

#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen is a large feast honoring the souls of the dead, which walk the earth with the living, beginning at noon and ending with the ringing of the bells that day. The ringing of the bells releases souls at cemeteries where the people gather to party with spirits before they return to their spiritual eternities. Sounds wild but it is true and we will play songs in the cemetery and have a feast with traditional All Saints Day bread called Strietzel. You can smell the sweet bread baking throughout the city.

Part of the day would be spent hanging out with the locals and hiking and cross country skiing (favorite German pastimes) through the ruins at All Saints' Abbey of Baden-Württemberg. Baden-Württemberg is the third largest state of the sixteen German states and we played soccer with the local boys, they called it FuBball but not to be confused with out football as it is

#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen really soccer. Fußball is the most popular sport and millions of Germans belong to soccer clubs throughout the country. At the ruins, there was also a German café and museum. The café filed with traditional German



foods like, potatoes, potato pancakes, noodles, dumplings, pastries, pork (a main part of the German diet) and my favorite, strudel, oh how I love the strudel. Depending on where you go in

Germany, each region has a different type of Wurst (Sausage) but being a vegetarian I passed and went for the German true food of choice, the sweets. German's have a sweet tooth and it starts with Germany's love of chocolate, like German Chocolate Cake and candies, and ends in Lebkuchen (world famous Gingerbread) that decorates most of the sweet shops. I bet you did not

WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen know the Germans invented the Gummy Bear in 1922

and its real name is the Gummi Bären.

After dancing with the dead (we played a Grateful

honor of the spirits) it Dead tune, in was time to pack up and leave the German Inn we had 10 0 stayed in. popular Inns are more SEVP8 and rich than hotels to the traveler with local customs, as they are more like homes than hotels. Then it hit me I needed to visit a bank and convert more dollars into euros. When we got to the Deutsche Bank I asked the teller how much is a Euro worth and he said, "One Euro is 1.26690 in US dollars". I was shocked by the fact that the dollar was less than a Euro.

#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen When I asked about the difference in rates, the man



#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen

told me "Did you know that Germany is the worlds 3rd

largest economy ranked by U.S. dollars, the fifth largest



WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR Bavaria to Munich to Remagen

It was off to the famous bridge, the ruins of Remagen, where American troops breached Hitler's West Wall. We play our next gig for the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel and the President, Horst Koehler, who are both part of Germany's federal



parliamentary republic. Different from America the President has no real power and mostly attends ceremonies and



parades. The decision-making and power of government lies with the Chancellor who leads their government. German government reformed after the Nazi party of World War II, where Hitler had become the dictator by overthrowing the prior government. The 1949 Constitution, the Grundgesetz (Basic Law) that remains in effect today is a strong response to the prior

#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen system that failed when Hitler and his Third Reich pulled a coup d'état and stands to prevent such takeover from ever happening again.

Germany's government greatly shaped by war and it was amazing to see that after the ruthless dictators and rulers, Germany now has evolved into a leading democracy. The voting age is the same as in America, 18 years old and even the German kids are very active in government and take a strong interest in protecting their futures. The sixteen states of Germany are also independent and have their own legislatures that decide local issues such as schooling, etc. After WWII, the German country, economy and government were devastated and separated. It has taken Germany years to rebuild their infrastructure (the remains of bombed buildings still an eyesore throughout the country) and recover their moral fiber but it seemed that the country

#### WEEK TWO - GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

Bavaria to Munich to Remagen was now on its way to a thriving democracy. With the reunification of East and West, the impoverished Soviet controlled Eastern Germany could now grow. This difference in the types of government that ruled the East and West, left the West rich and growing while the East suffered in poverty. The East suffered until the recent reunification with the West and they still struggle with the effects of being victims of the oppression of Communism. When traveling between the East and the West, one can see the difference economically and socially between the two former parts but I have faith the German spirit will prevail and slowly rebuild the whole country to one again.

#### WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

I have met some amazing people here in Germany!

In my wonderful trek around, I have noticed that music is a way of connecting with people from around the world. Music is the universal



language that has helped me meet new people and connect with the local German people and customs! I was very grateful for this because I have started to feel a little homesick and was wishing for a little down time



with good friends. My band played anther show and afterwards I was delighted to be invited to stay a night with a German family

that happened to be Jewish like me. Although only 4 % of the population is



Jewish, they informed me the numbers are quickly

WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR rising after the Holocaust which killed most German Jews!

It appears I needed some religious enlightenment.

The family told me about how nearly 1/3 of the population belongs to the Roman Catholic Church, while another 1/3 is Protestant (mostly Lutheran).





Mostly Christian in nature, entire towns and regions belong to a single faith. There is a lot of evidence still today where

Catholics reside mostly in the South and West and Protestants in the north and east. Muslims make up 4% of German citizens, mostly of Turkish descent, and 28% have no religious affiliation or atheist. Hanging out with the locals I was surprised to hear that Germany, especially its capital Berlin, has the fastest growing Jewish community worldwide. There is a German

#### WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR

government policy that grants immigration to anyone

with Jewish heritage escaping communism. Prior to

Nazism, about 600,000 Jews lived in Germany.



The current population is

approximately 82.4 million people and

is decreasing yearly. You

might be wondering how I

knew these facts but I caught up on this

cultural information while spending the

night at my new friends' house. While Germany is

primarily composed of ethnic Germans who make up



91.5% of the population, the Turkish Germans makeup 2.4% of the population while the remaining minority groups from the former Yugoslavia, Italy,

Greece and Poland make up the rest. Germans are mostly urbanized as well, most people live in

WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR metropolitan areas and the men and women often both work. Unlike our country, everyone has health care.

All of sudden it started to rain and the next show

on the tour cancelled. The skies turned gray and heavy and the weather seemed too cold and dreary for a kid like me from Florida. My



new Jewish friends invited me to stay and as we sat around the fire, we talked and talked for hours as it rained for hours. Again, the smells of saverkraut, bratwursts and gingerbread dessert lingered in the small, pointed tiled roof house they lived in. The conversation got very emotional and my new friends were very somber to speak of the deep and saddened history of the Jewish people in Germany. The effects of Hitler and his Nazi Party and the death of 6 million Jews have damaged their lives and heritage eternally

WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR and have disgraced Germany since the end of World War II. Currently, the social groups of the German people are still affected from years of war and the Berlin Wall still divides social groups. The Eastern States and Western States of Germany still have different social values and classes. The West is predominately more wealthy and felt the burden to rebuild the east after reunification. Western Germans mostly own their homes and are paid higher salaries than those in the Eastern bloc. The citizens living in the East are paid less, have



lower rents and suffer the burden of defending their rights to not be considered second-

class citizens after living under communism for 4 decades. Although they have made a lot of progress since the tearing down of the Wall, it is still a different

# WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR lifestyle.



Figure 2 Occupational status of people in employment\*, East Germany (%)

Many people have moved to Germany to escape



Germany also has a large number of refugees that are there waiting for asylum. A small number of Germans do not welcome outsiders while the majority seem to

WEEK THREE-GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR have a strong sense of regional pride that the government accommodates.

I have a new understanding of the turmoil the people of Germany have been through since World War II. They have lost everything and have had to rebuild their lives while facing global humiliation and distress. I appreciated this day to rest a little and reflect on the



past. I reflected on the German people of today and those that are gone but not forgotten. As I sit here and watch the rain pitter-patter on the cobblestone for hours and hours, I know now what I must do. I

plan to take the train to the concentration camps. With a heavy courageous heart, I know I am ready to see exactly what happened to my ancestors.

#### GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE

Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany



The show must always end. My band and I gazed out the windows of our tour bus onto a peaceful beautiful horizon to our final show: It is amazing how peaceful Germany looks as we head to our final and most memorable experience yet. We will be singing with the Chancellor and President at a festival in remembrance of the Nazi Holocaust at the Dachau concentration camp.

# GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany I have now seen all the historic buildings the war left behind in remembrance. Now I will visit the memory of the people who died and try to cope with the image the war and Hitler left behind for Germany to rebuild from, for the whole world to cope with. No trip to Germany would be complete without understanding the pain that World War II reminds us of and the horrors we cannot forget but must overcome through learning and furthering mankind from the lessons learned. What will I learn?
# GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

As I got to the



gates of Dachaw, I saw the barbed wire that had contained the Jews and other enemies of Hitler. I could smell the death in the air; I

had reached the gates of Hell where many of my people of Jewish decent went to heaven long before their time due to the crimes of Hitler and his Nazi thugs who sent

them to their deaths rights. Not only did but also another 66 countries invaded



with no human 6 million Jews die million people of the and those that

became entangled in World War II before Hitler was defeated died, including:

# Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

Country 🖪	Population 1939 🖪	Military deaths 🛂	Civilian deaths 본	Jewish Holocau st deaths	Total deaths 🗵	Deaths as % of 1939 population
Albania <sup>[1]</sup>	1,073,000	28,000		200	28,200	2.63%
Australia <sup>[2]</sup>	6,998,000	40,500	700		41,100	0.57%
Austria <sup>[3]</sup>	6,653,000		40,500	65,000	105,500	1.59%
Belgium <sup>[4]</sup>	8,387,000	12,100	49,600	24,400	86,100	1.02%
🔷 Brazil <sup>[5]</sup>	40,2 <mark>89,000</mark>	1,000	1,000		2,000	0.00%
<b>Bulgaria</b> <sup>[6]</sup>	<mark>6,4</mark> 58,000	22,000	3,000		25,000	0.38%
Burma <sup>[7]</sup>	16,119,000	22,000	250,000		272,000	1.16%
<b>E Canada</b> <sup>[8]</sup>	11,267,000	45,300			45,300	0.40%
<b>Republic of</b> China <sup>[9]</sup>	<mark>517,5</mark> 68,000	3,800,000	16,200,00 0		20,000,00 0	3.86%
► Cuba <sup>[10]</sup>	4,235,000	V	100		100	0.00%
Czechoslovakia <sup>[1</sup>	15,300,000	25,000	43,000	277,000	345,000	2.25%
Denmark <sup>[12]</sup>	3,795,000	2,100	1,000	100	3,200	0.08%
Estonia <sup>[13]</sup>	1,134,000		48,000	1,000	49,000	4.62%
<b>Ethiopia</b> <sup>[14]</sup>	17,700,000	5,000	95,000	-	100,000	0.6%
+ Finland <sup>[15]</sup>	3,700,000	95,000	2,000		97,000	2.62%
<b>France</b> <sup>[16]</sup>	41,700,000	217,600	267,000	83,000	567,600	1.35%
<b>French</b> Indochina <sup>[17]</sup>	24,600,000		1,000,000		1,000,000	4.07%
Nazi Germany <sup>[18][19][20][</sup> 21]	69,623,000	5,533,000	1,700,000	160,000	7,393,000	11.48%
<b>Greece</b> <sup>[22]</sup>	7,222,000	20,000	220,000	71,300	311,300	4.31%
Hungary <sup>[23]</sup>	9,129,000	300,000	80,000	200,000	580,000	6.35%

#### Human Losses of World War Two by Country

# Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

Iceland <sup>[24]</sup>	119,000		200		200	0.17%
<b>Indian</b> Empire <sup>[25]</sup>	378,000,000	87,000	1,500,000		1,587,000	0.42%
Indonesia <sup>[26]</sup>	69,435,000		4,000,000		4,000,000	5.76%
<b></b> <u>Iran<sup>[27]</sup></u>	14,340,000	200			200	0.00%
E Iraq <sup>[28]</sup>	3,698,000	1,000			1,000	0.03%
<b>Ireland</b> <sup>[29]</sup>	2,960,000		200		200	0.00%
<b>Italy</b> <sup>[30]</sup>	44,394,000	301,400	145,100	8,000	454,500	1.02%
• <u>Japan<sup>[31]</sup></u>	71,380,000	2,120,000	580,000		2,700,000	3.78%
• <u>Korea<sup>[32]</sup></u>	23,400,000		378,000		378,000	1.6%
Latvia <sup>[33]</sup>	1,995,000		147,000	80,000	227,000	11.38%
Lithuania <sup>[34]</sup>	2,57 <mark>5,000</mark>	_	212,000	141,000	353,000	13.71%
Luxembourg <sup>[35]</sup>	295,000		1,300	700	2,000	0.68%
<b>Malaya</b> <sup>[36]</sup>	<mark>4,3</mark> 91,000		10 <mark>0,000</mark>		100,000	2.28%
<b>Malta</b> <sup>[37]</sup>	<mark>2</mark> 69,000		1,500		1,500	0.56%
Mexico <sup>[38]</sup>	19,320,000		100		100	0.00%
<b>Mongolia</b> <sup>[39]</sup>	<mark>819,000</mark>	300			300	<mark>0.04%</mark>
Netherlands <sup>[40]</sup>	8,729,000	15,800	109,300	106,000	231,100	2.65%
Newfoundland <sup>[41]</sup>	300,000	1,000	100		1,100	0.37%
<b>New</b> Zealand <sup>[42]</sup>	1,629,000	11,900	5	57	11,900	0.67%
Norway <sup>[43]</sup>	2,945,000	3,000	5,800	700	9,500	0.32%
<b>Philippines</b> <sup>[44]</sup>	16,000,000	57,000	90,000		147,000	0.92%
Micronesia <sup>[45]</sup>	1,900,000		57,000		57,000	3.00%
Poland <sup>[46]</sup>	34,849,000	240,000	2,360,000	<b>3,000,00</b> 0	5,600,000	16.07%
<b>Entropy of Contract Series 2 <u>Timor<sup>[47]</sup></u></b>	500,000		55,000		55,000	11.00%
<b>Romania</b> <sup>[48]</sup>	19,934,000	300,000	64,000	469,000	833,000	4.22%
<b>Singapore</b> <sup>[49]</sup>	728,000		50,000		50,000	6.87%
<u>South</u> Africa <sup>[50]</sup>	10,160,000	11,900			11,900	0.12%

#### Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

<b>Soviet</b> Union <sup>[51]</sup>	168,500,000	10,700,00 0	11,400,00 0	1,000,00 23,100,00 0 0	13.71%
<b>Spain</b> <sup>[52]</sup>	25,637,000	4,500		4,500	0.02%
<b>Sweden</b> <sup>[53]</sup>	6,341,000	200	2,000	2,200	0.03%
<b>Switzerland</b> <sup>[54]</sup>	4,210,000		100	100	0.00%
<b>Thailand</b> <sup>[55]</sup>	15,023,000	5,600	300	5,900	0.04%
Hand United Kingdom <sup>[56]</sup>	47,760,000	382,700	67,100	449,800	0.94%
<u>United</u> <u>States<sup>[57]</sup></u>	131,028,000	416,800	1,700	418,500	0.32%
<b>T</b> Yugoslavia <sup>[58]</sup>	15,400,000	446,000	514,000	67,000 1,027,000	6.67%
Totals	1,961,913,0 00	25,273,80 0	41,843,80 0	5,754,40 72,872,50 0 0	3.71%

Although Hitler had targeted Jews, you can see he was out to kill everyone in one of those demented world domination schemes, even Germans who opposed his ways were sent to Dachan and killed. 72 million dead, I could see them all piled high and it seemed they would reach the moon. In total, over 200,000 prisoners



from more than 30 countries were housed in Dachau of whom

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#### GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE

Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

two-thirds were political prisoners and nearly one-

third Jews.



#### GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE

Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

The cold air and stillness of the empty camp forced

my eyes closed and I could see the camp filled as if I

were there during the war. My Bubbie and Zaida

(Grandma & Grandpa) had told us stories of their

ancestors who were killed in these camps. The camp

was divided sections and them with closed, the people's was a camp housing the with ovens You heard

kill people, I

in two I could see my eyes horror in faces, there area for workers and crematorium for people. in two

smoke rising from the tall chimneys, and I could taste

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Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany the human ash as it fell like snow in the German cold winter. I opened my eyes to make sure I was not really there. I read the sign on the entrance that told of the camp, it consisted of 32 barracks, including one for clergy imprisoned for opposing the Nazi regime and one reserved for horrible medical experiments.

I at once was overcame by hate for these Nazi's



who did this, who caused such much pain on the world, I was confused

though, did I hate German people for

this crime, was my trip somehow ruined knowing this happened here? Then it dawned on me, I really only hated Nazi's, as German people were also killed here by Hitler, anyone who opposed Hitler and the Nazi's was slaughtered. Many German people helped hide Jews and some even tried to assassinate Hitler including Claus von Stauffenberg who is memorialized in the Tom

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# GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany Cruise movie Valkyrie, anyone of these many German hero's who stood up to the crimes was killed if caught. I guess when an coup d'état by evil men overthrows a



country and then do horrible crimes like torture and murder to other humans it leaves the people of the country stigmatized for years after. There seems to be three kinds of peoples

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reactions once they know their

leaders are



doing bad

things, those

who help



commit the bad acts, those who know but do nothing (they are complacent)

but equally as bad for doing nothing and those who are heroic and stand up to the tyranny at the risk of even their own death. It would not be fair for me to judge all Germans as Nazi's therefore and I now knew that I hated Nazi's and those who went along with them without raising their voices and I loved the Germans who opposed the Nazi's and they were in fact heroes to me.

When an evil regime seizes power, the people suffer if they do not raise their arms and try to stop it, even if they had nothing to do with the crimes. Therefore, it

# GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany would not be fair to hold all Germans responsible for those who were guilty, especially in honor of those Germans who died trying to stop it, again the unsung heroes.

I made peace with Germany and the German people and I knew that I hated Hitler, Nazi's and their allies who devastated our world in this inhumanity called WWII. I now hated anyone who did these things to anyone worldwide and now because of World War II there are international laws to prevent this horror from happening again. There is now a rulebook for warfare called the Geneva Convention and countries around the world have joined to prevent torture and unjust wars and keep the world safe from WW III. Perhaps from this evil would come some good for humanity's future.

I reflected on what was happening back in America with rumors that our leaders might be responsible for

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similar violations of torture and war crimes, it made me



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wonder how history would judge us. Would the world



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see us as having raised our voices to tyranny or



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condemn us for being complacent? I moved on in my



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mind knowing that the Germany I had seen and the



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Germans I had met were warm and wonderful to me,



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that the past while it must not be forgotten must also



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Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany serve to teach future generations and to learn from so that it makes us stronger

against evil in the future. I have learned so much from Germany. My bags were packed and the gear loaded



up, we headed to the airport on a train and my friends and I talked about what an incredible journey this was. We remembered when we landed in Frankfurt, which is the financial capital, and we changed our first American dollars to Euros, to the amazing travel attractions along the way. Frankfurt is home to the University of Music and Theatre and the Rhine River, the most scenic section with castle-crested hills to

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the bridge in Remagen, where American troops

breached Hitler's west wall, liberating the world.

To Cologne, history of religion is the beautiful Cathedral then

Opera house



Germany's admired in

Gothic

to The State

where the

love and importance of music is shared. Berlin is a city I know I will never forget! The feelings and thoughts that go through my mind when I remember the Berlin Wall and how it separated an



entire country and the effects of wartime Germany that still affect some social groups today. The Brandenburg Gates that

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Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany stand today are wide open, in direct contradiction to the years I learned of when soldiers guarded them.

The overall



beauty of Germany is breathtaking. The mixture of art painted buildings in Oberanmergan, cobblestone streets in Rothenberg and homes that all look like gingerbread

houses.



The gardenlike Bavarian Alps in Munich are like an unbelievable

painting! No wonder there are so many artists in

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#### GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE

Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany Germany, they are constantly inspired by the natural beauty that surrounds them! After spending a day in The Black Forest and The Bavarian Forest, even I was

inspired to

My favorite attraction of I had to choose), the famous King Ludwig II. Neuschwanstein Castle is so magnificent, Walt Disney replicated it for Cinderella's castle. The second was

Herrenchiemsee, a replica of the





paint! travel Germany (if would be castles of



section of

central

the palace at Versailles,

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# GERMANY ROCKTOBERFEST TOUR FINALE Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany France. Finally the Linderhof Palace, the smallest of

three palaces built by King Ludwig II of Bavaria and the only one of which he lived to see completion.

The fantasy like castles reminded me of a fairy

tale. To went with them to age and



think the King mad and crazy power building die at an early never enjoy

them.

I will miss the Strudel! The gingerbread and Gummi Bären were delicious too and some of my favorite German delicacies. It will be a long time before I smell beer on the streets and the party in the air like Oktoberfest!

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Oktoberfest clearly defines Germany and its

people with tons of food

and beer! When Germany

is at peace, they are

partying in the streets to

celebrate. The tradition is going strong today and we all are grateful there has not been a war since World War II and Germans are able to grow and enjoy the beauties around them.

I leave Germany rich with warm memories of their culture, a profound understanding of their history and an enlightenment of art and beauty. As I wave goodbye to the warm and wonderful people I have met I say, "Auf Wiedersehen bis wir wieder treffen!" Good-bye until we meet again! Danke!

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Footnote:

As I slept on the plane home, I started to hum in my dream Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> symphony. A symphony dedicated to a poem of friendship written by the famous German poet Frederick Schiller. Beethoven then wrote the 9th symphony which ends in Choral finale where the poem is sung, the voices sing as instruments. I realized the poem and song were of universal friendships and the spirit of love. I knew that from the ruins of Germany past, my spirit and faith had renewed in people, that we could conquer evil and then our past

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Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany hate of each other. It downed on me that we now were in a very different war, the most important war the kids of the world now face. This war was the war that involves all of the children worldwide in our war

against



environmental destruction of the planet and GOd's creatures leading to the possible extinction of life from this planet. To fight this war, as resources are not indigenous to geographical regions, it will take all of the kids worldwide to fight to protect Mother Earth

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Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany together as one people, without the scarred history of our past interfering. If our past hates blind us we may not succeed and failure would make us all dinosaurs from our own hands.

When I awoke in my England for a layover before my trip to China (I am excited since I have been learning Chinese in school), I knew I had to write a killer album to unite the children. I knew the lessons learned from Germany would be a guiding force in that process. I had a few hours until my flight and I took out my pen and began to write the notes, it opened with jazzed up version of the 9<sup>th</sup> in honor of two of my

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# Reflections of the Past and Future of Germany

favorite German artists, Ludwig Von

Beethoven and Frederick Schiller. Ode to Joy

all and peace out !!!





Bye Germany, your friend, Joshua Ennio Zander Bernstein 😊



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