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Kay Locker, Damenchor vice president and organizer of the Kristkindlmarkt, said many Beethoven choir members are German or served in Germany in the military.

Renate and **Sam van der Weide** have been married for more than 35 years and Beethoven choir members for almost that long.

Renate said she met her husband, who served in the **U.S. Air Force** during World War II, in San Antonio while visiting the American family she used to baby-sit for while she was an aviation student in Frankfurt, Germany.

“I guess it's kind of unusual because most of the women in Beethoven ... would say they met their husbands, you know, in the military base in Germany,” Renate said.

A San Antonio couple who had been stationed in Germany came to the event last year and stayed all day.

“He said, ‘We haven't had this much fun since we left Germany,’” Locker said. “They said they didn't know we were there and were glad to find us because it was like going to a Christmas market in Germany and they were having a wonderful time.”



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