

Fassenacht in Mainz

www.karneval.de

www.mainzer-fastnacht.de

The Mainz carnival season opens with cries of the carnival call "Helau!" and the Narhallamarsch, a traditional German carnival tune. The "Narrencharta," or "jester's charter" is read, followed by colorful stage performances. "I'm sure we'll have even more people at Schillerplatz on November 11 this year than last year," rejoices Richard Wagner, President of the Mainz Carnival Association. The city's

carnival is known for its political and literary influences, with satirical caricatures often featuring on the floats of February's carnival procession. As the poet Joachim Ringelnatz said, "Humor is the button which stops us losing the plot."



Raucous revelers kick off carnival season in Mainz

They like it. Most Mainzers like their carnival. This is the reported result of a survey done recently by the University of Mainz. Eighty-one percent of the city's population watch the *Rosenmontag* parade — 46 percent of them actually go out onto the street to watch it. Thirty percent of the population participate directly in some carnival festivity, either by attending a *Sitzung*, or a ball, or by decorating their homes. Eleven percent are "hard core" carnival buffs. They attend *Sitzungen*, and balls, and attend the parade. Only 12 percent of those questioned expressed negative feelings about *Fassenacht*.



Carnival season kicks off in Mainz



Carnival celebrations in Mainz, Germany.



Carnival parade in Mainz



This reflection on an instrument in Mainz reads "Elfter Elfter Elf Uhr Elf" (Eleventh Eleventh at Eleven'o'clock'Eleven) to mark the precise date and time that the winter carnival season officially begins