

VORWEIHNACHTENSITTEN (PRE-CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS)

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS LIKE A GERMAN

Go to an Advent concert



Adventsblasen at the Marienkirche in Dessau.

Throughout the Advent period churches across the country host carol concerts. You'll most likely recognise a few such as 'Silent Night' and 'Oh, Christmas Tree' which are both tunes Anglophones know, but started out as German songs. Time to pick up a songbook and learn the original German words for those along with classics like '*Kling, Glöckchen*', meaning 'Ring Little Bell', and '*Alle Jahre Wieder*', meaning 'Every Year Again'.

Another form of festive concert to attend is *das Adventsblasen* - "*Blasen*" is what a wind instrument does when you blow into it. So an *Adventsblasen* roughly translates to Advent wind concert. *Adventsblasen* usually take place either in churches or in open places like Christmas markets - and the idea is to bring Christ down to earth with the music.

Get your Stollen baked

Germany loves its baked good and of course, it has a word for the ones you indulge in specifically at Christmas time - *Adventsgebäck*. These traditionally include '*Weihnachtskekse*', meaning Christmas biscuits, *Lebkuchen*, soft gingerbread with a chocolate or sugar coating, and *Stollen*. *Stollen* is a bread-like cake usually made with some combination of dried fruits, candied citrus rinds, nuts and marzipan. The time to bake *Stollen* is now as after baking, the loaf gets rolled in butter and then in powdered sugar and then it gets wrapped up and left to ripen for two to three weeks.