



# THE BIG POND

## A US-GERMAN LISTENING SERIES

**In celebration of the German-American Year of Friendship, the Goethe-Institut is bringing audio features to you via PRX, Spotify, and iTunes for one year.**

The Goethe-Institut, the German cultural center with its North American headquarters in Washington, has partnered with the Public Radio Exchange (PRX), the RIAS Berlin Kommission, KCRW Berlin, and other public radio stations and producers in Germany and the US to bring you 50 unique audio pieces, released on a weekly basis in podcast format. From pretzels and beer to the Berlin Wall, from motorcycles to recycling, THE BIG POND offers a fresh perspective on just how much Germany and the US share and explores the relationship between these two countries in celebration of “Wunderbar Together” – the German-American Year of Friendship.

Radio features are available for free via PRX (<https://exchange.prx.org/series/38468-the-big-pond-a-us-german-listening-series>), iTunes, Spotify, and THE BIG POND’s website ([www.goethe.de/bigpond](http://www.goethe.de/bigpond)) as podcasts as well as for broadcast by public radio stations throughout the United States. The carefully curated collection of audio productions covers a wide array of topics: German motorcycle tourists in Utah, Maryland’s famous Berger Cookies, housing in Berlin and San Francisco, German scientists at NASA, New York City beer gardens, and much more. THE BIG POND is proud to host features from esteemed radio producers such as Katie Davis, a contributor to NPR’s “All Things Considered” and “This American Life”, and the Kitchen Sisters (Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva), producers of the award-winning NPR series “Hidden Kitchens”.

“When an editor asks me to do a radio story, it usually comes with lots of directions,” said radio producer Katie Davis. “When the team at THE BIG POND talked to me about a story for this series, everything was wide open. No rules, requirements; just a wide open canvas with space for original stories.”

Provided with the necessary freedom to tell their transatlantic stories, THE BIG POND producers develop pieces that resonate with audiences of all backgrounds in all corners of the country, conveying a balanced and modern image of Germany. THE BIG POND is not a collection of “puff pieces” about Germany, but rather an exploration of fifty aspects of German and American life and culture. The close cooperation with public radio broadcasters and independent journalists in Germany and the US gives an authentic voice to Germans, Americans, and members of various subcultures within the two countries.

“THE BIG POND’s aim is to support public radio makers in their mission to inform and entertain people while delivering independent, high-level journalism,” said Goethe-Institut Regional Director of Communications Verena Hütter. “We want to connect American and German radio producers and foster exchange within the transatlantic public radio network.”

Anyone interested in listening to the Goethe-Institut’s radio and podcast series can download episodes free of charge at PRX, iTunes, Spotify, or by visiting THE BIG POND’s website. Supporting materials and background information for each piece can also be found at [www.goethe.de/bigpond](http://www.goethe.de/bigpond) and on the Goethe-Institut’s social media channels under the hashtag #thebigpond.

**Social Media:** @GoetheDC ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)), @Goethe\_DC ([Instagram](#)), #thebigpond, #WunderbarTogether

### **ABOUT GOETHE-INSTITUT**

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach promoting knowledge of the German language abroad and fostering international cultural cooperation. The Goethe-Institut conveys a comprehensive image of Germany by providing information about its cultural, social, and political life. Its cultural and educational programs encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. They strengthen the development of structures in civil society and foster worldwide mobility.

### **ABOUT THE YEAR OF GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP**

For the duration of one year beginning in October 2018, the Year of German-American Friendship is traveling across the country, organizing events and exhibits revolving around business and industry, politics, education, culture, and science under the motto “Wunderbar together”. The comprehensive and collaborative campaign from the Federal Foreign Office and the Goethe-Institut with support from the Federation of German Industries (BDI) is seeking to convey a multifaceted, modern image of Germany to showcase how closely it is linked to the US through heritage, common values, and shared interests.

For the project’s press release and other press materials, please visit:

[www.goethe.de/bigpond/press](http://www.goethe.de/bigpond/press)

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