

# OPENING VIENNA FESTIVAL

*75 Years of Beauty and Scandal*



**FREE  
REPUBLIC OF  
VIENNA  
FESTIVAL**

22 May, 9.20 pm  
Heldenplatz

Today we are celebrating 75 years of the Vienna Festival (Wiener Festwochen): 75 years of beauty and scandal, music and theatre. 75 years of solidarity, with all people, all countries. 75 years of solidarity, with all people, with all countries. All religions and all faiths, all cultures, all parties: welcome to the Republic of Gods.

When the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East won't end; when the Iranian Mullahs suppress their people in the name of God; when Trump compares himself to Jesus even as he attacks one country after another; when religion only drives us apart – that is when we say: we need new Gods and Goddesses. Deities to unite us, not separate us. So today we are celebrating all together: The Schmusechor choir and the Gods Republic band from Vienna, Patti Smith from the USA, Witch Club Satan from Norway, Opera Aperta from Ukraine, VAZISTA from Iran, NENDA, Lara Hulo, Cari Cari, the Niftys, Braco and many, many more: people who are bringing music to Vienna, their struggle for a world at peace, in freedom and equality.

Here we are, in the centre of Vienna: at Heldenplatz! The place where Hitler addressed a crowd and also the location of the largest demonstration against the far right. Here we stand, in the 75th year of the Vienna Festival: united in our diversity.

Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Atheism – it's all the same! Whatever we believe in, we all want Goddesses and Gods of peace, of love, of friendship, Goddesses and Gods of joy, of tolerance, of beauty.

---

# WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

---

**Concept, Direction, Artistic Direction** Milo Rau | Free Republic of Vienna

**Musical direction** Herwig Zamernik

**Costumes** Cedric Mpaka

**With** Patti Smith Quartet, Cari Cari, Schmusechor, Hänsel, Lara Hulo, Nifty's feat. Jelena Poprzan, NENDA, Braco, Witch Club Satan, Steve Katona, inn.wien Ensemble, VAZISTA, Gods Republic, Opera Aperta and many others

**Schmusechor** Verena Giesinger (Direction) Sopran Bernadette Covi, Karoline Ostertag, Claudia Schlemmer, Marlene Stocker, Mave Venturin, Teresa Wirth Mezzo-soprano Astrid Hirzberger, Jasemin Khaleli, Lavinia Lanner, Susanne Mlineritsch, Eileen Okafor Alto Jill Augustine, Katinka Borlein, Anna Dillinger, Judith Köchl, Franny Langenberg, Katharina Serles, Karoline Köller, Claudia Unterweger Tenor Sebastian Abermann, Simon Fetz, Clemens Huber, Bernhard Pertiller, Stefan Röck, Severin Stafflinger, Lena Wohlmuther, Christian Woltron Bass Harald Butter, Joris Heese, Alexander Moser, Josua Niklas, Alexander Poschner, Paul Schlegel

**inn.wien ensemble** Rahel Neyer (violin), Emil Geber (violin), Marlene Penninger (viola), Lisa Braun (cello)

**Witch Club Satan** Nikoline Spielkavik, Johanna Holt Kleive, Victoria Roising, Hedda Laegreid Witches Anna Eline Østgård Berg, Andrea Merete Austeen, Emma Elise Østvang Nordstrøm, Johanne Andere Bøckmann, Hilde Rognlien, Marthe Helene Øvergård, Ingeborg Kristine Gulbrandsen, Valeria Andrea Quezada Munoz, Karen Amanda Haugs Langvik, Joanna Olichwer

**Gods Republic** Lorenz Ambeek, Stefan Gfrerrer, Xavier Plus, Sakura

**Representing the Council of the Republic** Jason Acid, Petra Hajek, Oscar Haubner, Barbara Kopacka, Irmeli Hübchen, Mina Modarressy, Salaheddine Najah, Leila Offinassinga, Leily Offinassinga, Martina Sawa, Ben Schill, Roland Trnka, Thomas Paul Weidovsky, Linus Wilmers

**Additional performers** Richi August-Chi, Ruchi Bajaj, Olivier Benoît, Milan Eror, Marion Messiner, Angelika Rahbar, Olga Shapovalova, Dora Staudinger, Samouil Stoyanov, Fred Weissensteiner, Samed Yilmaz

**Sign language performance** Alice Hu, Günter Roiss

# TIME FOR NEW GODS!

Lara Hulo

Patti Smith Quartet

Gods Republic

Hänsel

Nifty's feat. Jelena Popržan

NENDA

Cari Cari

# AN EVENING WITH

Braco

Witch Club Satan

Opera Aperta

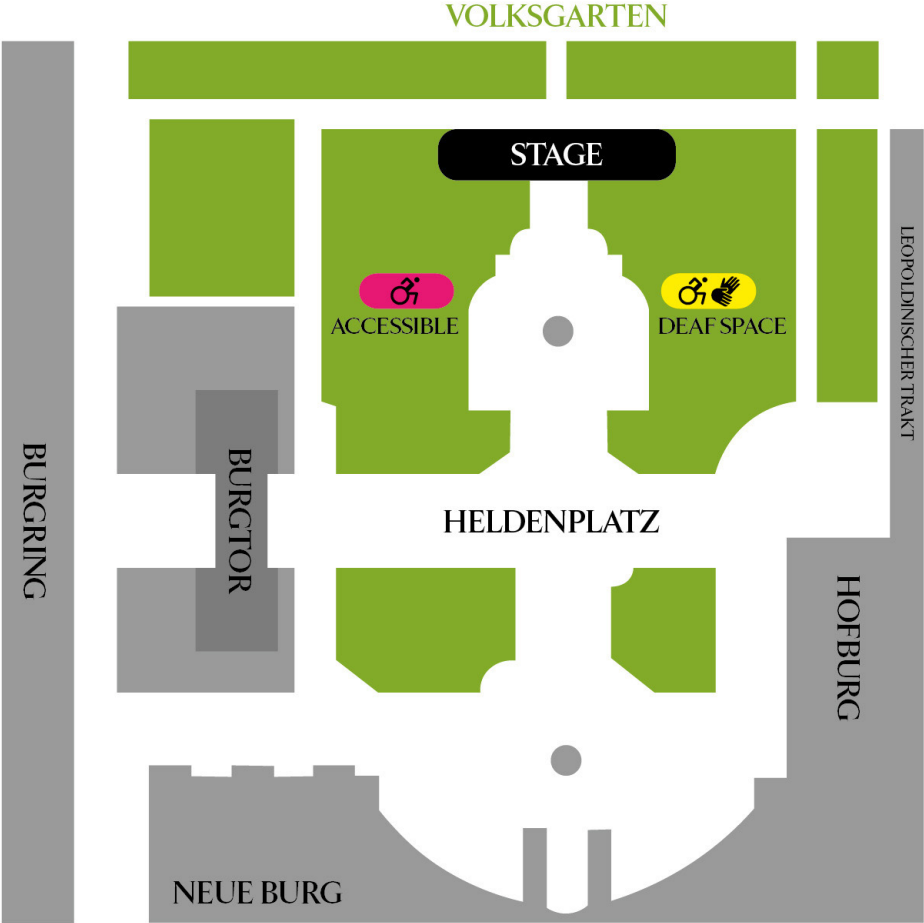
Schmusechor

VAZISTA

Steve Katona

inn.wien Ensemble

# SITE PLAN



---

# TEAM VIENNA FESTIVAL (WIENER FESTWOCHEN | FREE REPUBLIC OF VIENNA)

---

**Production** Alexander Krones, Smilla Kuhlmann, Emilia Rafelsberger, Marlene Spielhofer, Verena Wardy **Stage technicians** Michael Kreuzhuber, Philip Maierhofer, Vladislav Tchapanov **Stage manager** Gregor Mowczan **Light technicians** Andreas Lendaïs, Thomas Gleixner, Harald Reiß **Sound technicians** Pit Kaufmann, Nikolaus Schweiger, Regina Holzmann, Richard Gross, Michael Tischler, David Sokopp, Nicolaus Weidinger, Torben Hebel **Tipo visuals** Szymon Olszowski **Video technicians** Gert Tschuden, Thomas Planitzer, Linus Nägele, Aymen Ben Saad **LED technique** AV-Professional **Live-camera** Georg Eisnecker, Ivica Schmid, Ronald Pfisterer, Julius Lerner, Team AV-Pro **Broadcast sound** Benjamin Wuthe, Philipp Treiber **Technical direction** Roman Streuselberger **Production management** Claudia Purschke **Sign language translation** Eva Böhm, Anna Gravogl, Marietta Gravogl **Picture control** LED walls Richard Treiblmaier **Sound design** Doris Jandl, Volker Werner **Light design** Gerd Schneider **Assistant to the artistic director** Nastasia Griesse **Costumes** Cedric Mpaka **Musical direction** Herwig Zamernik  
**Concept, Direction** Milo Rau | Free Republic of Vienna

The Wiener Festwochen would like to point out to the public that the opening will be recorded and broadcast by ORF and that the recordings made in this context (image, film, FS) will be used without remuneration.



## PUBLICATION DETAILS

**Owner, Editor and Publisher** Wiener Festwochen GesmbH, Lehnargasse 11/1/6, 1060 Wien, T + 43 1 589 22 0, festwochen@festwochen.at | [www.festwochen.at](http://www.festwochen.at) **General Management** Milo Rau, Artemis Vakianis **Artistic Direction** (responsible for the content) Milo Rau, Artistic Direction **Translation** Nadezda Müngersdorff (wordsmithery) **Picture Credits Cover** © Franzi Kreis **Produced by** Print Alliance HAV Produktions GmbH (Bad Vöslau) **Design** SIRENE Studio **Layout** Valerie Eccli

Das Erste Bank Sponsoringprogramm  
[erstebank.at/sponsoring](http://erstebank.at/sponsoring)

# Vermehrt Schönes!

Die Erste Bank ist Hauptsponsorin  
der Wiener Festwochen.

ERSTE 



# STIMMEN- VERSTÄRKERIN

## WER UND WAS IST DIE AK?

Die Arbeiterkammer ist so etwas wie das Sprachrohr und die Anwältin der arbeitenden Menschen. Wir kämpfen dafür, dass sie gehört und fair behandelt werden. Aber auch die kulturellen Interessen der Arbeitnehmer:innen werden von uns vertreten und gefördert.

[wien.arbeiterkammer.at/immernah](https://wien.arbeiterkammer.at/immernah)



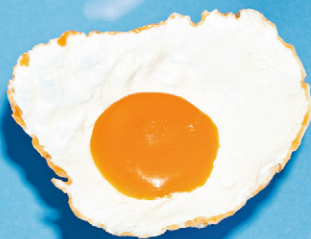
WIEN

GERECHTIGKEIT MUSS SEIN

# DER BLICK UNTER DEN TELLERRAND.

Journalismus,  
der Welten öffnet.  
**Macht was.**

**JETZT  
STANDARD**  
*abonnieren*



# ST

DERSTANDARD

# 75 Jahre Wiener Festwochen, 25 Jahre MuseumsQuartier® – gemeinsam feiern wir 100 Jahre!



Ursula Pasterk  
Ehemalige Intendantin der Wiener Festwochen  
und ehemalige Kulturstadträtin von Wien



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is pointing her right index finger towards a computer monitor. She is smiling and looking at the screen. In the foreground, the back of a man's head is visible as he looks at the same screen. The background is a control room with multiple monitors displaying various images and data.

**„Ich setze  
mich für ein  
Streaming-Erlebnis  
ein, das Österreich  
begeistert.“**

**Eva, Leitung ORF ON**

Eine Mitarbeiterin des ORF, die wie all ihre Kolleginnen und Kollegen den Auftrag hat, mit einem ausgewogenen Programm zu einer funktionierenden Gemeinschaft in Österreich beizutragen.

**ORF FÜR DICH UND MICH UND ALLE.**



BUDWEISER  
*Budvar*

**AUF DIE REPUBLIK  
DER KÜNSTE!**

# Unbezahlbare Momente

freier  
Eintritt

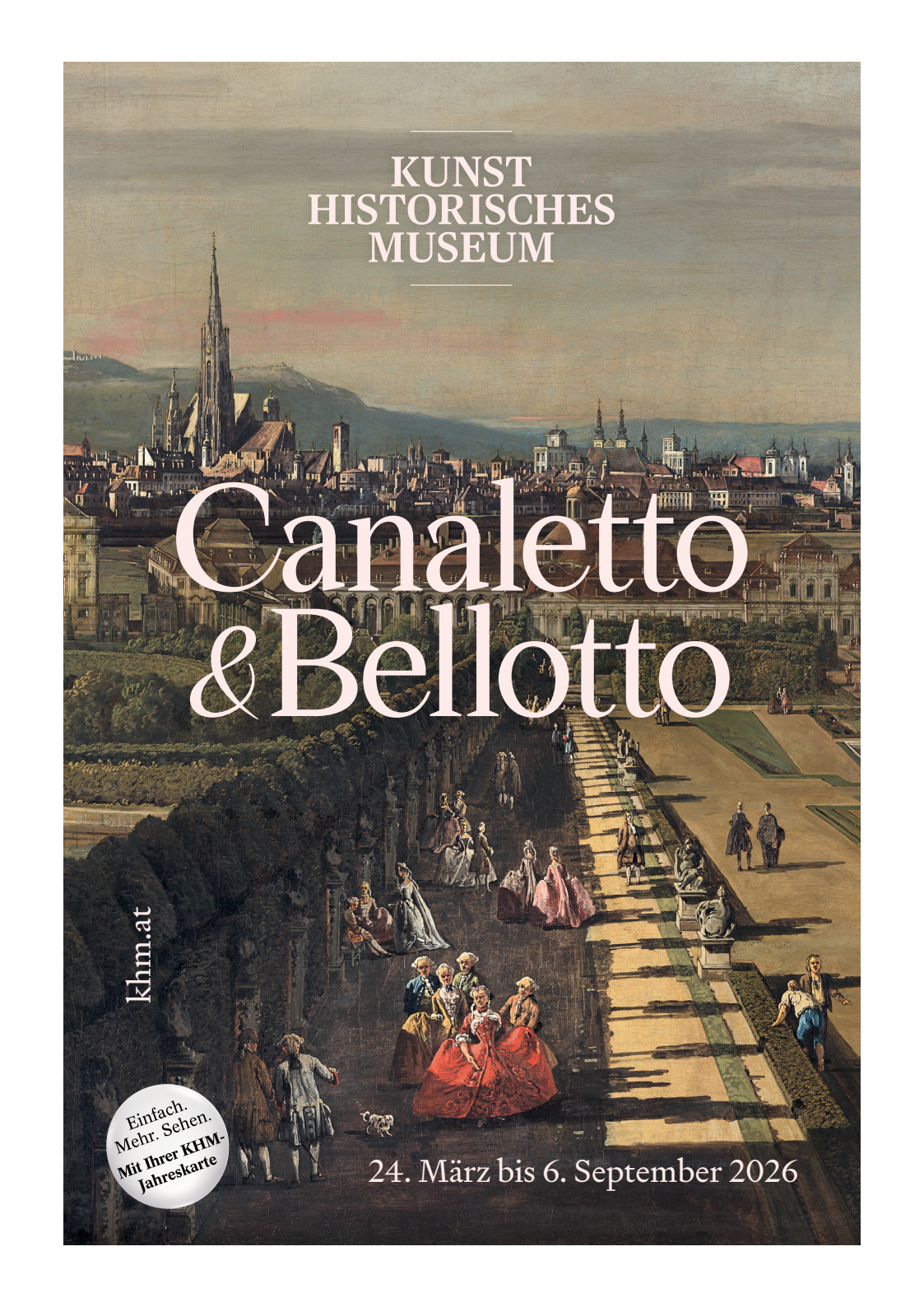


mdw 2026 Bild: Stephan Polzer

bei 1.300  
Events im Jahr

[mdw.ac.at/  
veranstaltungen](https://mdw.ac.at/veranstaltungen)

**mdw**  
universität  
für musik und  
darstellende  
kunst wien



KUNST  
HISTORISCHES  
MUSEUM

# Canaletto & Bellotto

khm.at

Einfach.  
Mehr. Sehen.  
Mit Ihrer KHM-  
Jahreskarte

24. März bis 6. September 2026

15 MAY –  
21 JUNE 2026

REPUBLIC  
OF GODS



MAIN SPONSOR



PUBLIC FUNDING BODY



SPONSOR



MEDIA PARTNERS



DER STANDARD

CATERING PARTNERS



COOPERATION PARTNERS

