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Akkordeonfestival Vienna

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The Akkordeonfestival Vienna is a vibrant, multi-venue cultural celebration dedicated to the accordion and its rich sonic possibilities, taking place annually from late February to mid-March across the Austrian capital. Now in its 27th edition, the festival embraces the motto “Behind the Scenes,” inviting audiences not only to enjoy concerts but also to gain insight into the artists, stories, and places.

The programme brings together an eclectic mix of performance formats — from virtuoso solo recitals and ensemble concerts to workshops, sessions, tango and folk influences, and even a John Lennon Tribute – goes Accordion — featuring both internationally renowned performers and emerging talents. By transforming concert halls, clubs, and unconventional venues into spaces of musical discovery, the festival highlights the accordion as a truly global instrument that transcends genre boundaries. At once intimate and cosmopolitan, the Akkordeonfestival Vienna offers audiences a rare opportunity to experience musical storytelling that is both deeply rooted in tradition and boldly contemporary.

The ViTa MusicA performance at this year’s Akkordeonfestival Vienna was nothing short of captivating — a joyous and vibrant opening that set the tone for the entire festival. Delivered by the Orquesta Típica ViTa MusicA, the concert showcased an infectious blend of Argentine tango passion and accordion artistry, highlighting the rich cultural heartbeat at the festival’s core. The ensemble’s playing was spirited and nuanced, expertly navigating the subtle interplay between bandoneon, accordion, strings, and winds, while vocalist Paula Barembuem added heartfelt depth to the program.

Each piece felt both meticulously crafted and alive with improvisatory energy, drawing the audience into a musical world that was at once elegant, danceable, and deeply expressive. In the evocative setting of the Evangelische Auferstehungskirche, the performance resonated with an immediacy and warmth that lingered long after the final note. Overall, ViTa MusicA was a breathtaking testament to the accordion’s versatility and emotional power.

The Lechner & Methevier concert at the Akkordeonfestival Vienna was a triumph of musical artistry and creative synergy. From the first note, accordionist Jochen Lechner and his ensemble captivated the audience with a performance that was both technically dazzling and deeply expressive. Their interpretation blended rhythmic precision with spontaneous flair, drawing listeners into a vibrant journey through rich tonal landscapes. Lechner’s command of the accordion was remarkable, balancing nimble virtuosity with warm,

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lyrical depth, while his collaborators provided a dynamic interplay that elevated every moment.

Each piece was played with infectious enthusiasm and artistic nuance, revealing layers of emotion that resonated long after the final chord. The concert demonstrated not only the versatility of the accordion but also its capacity to communicate across genres and moods. In an atmosphere charged with energy and musical curiosity, Lechner & Methevier delivered an unforgettable performance that was celebrated by an enthralled audience and reaffirmed the festival's reputation for exceptional programming.

The Andrew Waite Duo – AccelloRandom concert at the Akkordeonfestival Vienna was an enchanting display of creativity and musical imagination. From the outset, Andrew Waite and his collaborating artist engaged the audience with a performance that was both adventurous and deeply expressive. Their interplay was marked by intuitive communication and rhythmic vitality, bringing out the accordion's most vibrant colors while seamlessly weaving in unexpected textures and improvisational flair. The programme flowed with an inspired sense of spontaneity that kept listeners fully immersed, yet every moment was grounded in thoughtful musicality and technical precision.

What distinguished this performance was its ability to balance playfulness with emotional depth — the duo's inventive interpretations revealed new sonic landscapes that delighted and surprised. In the warm atmosphere of the festival setting, AccelloRandom felt like a celebration of artistic curiosity, leaving the audience invigorated and appreciative of the accordion's rich expressive range. Their performance was a true highlight of the festival.

The Akkordeonfestival Vienna once again proved itself to be an outstanding celebration of musical diversity, artistic curiosity, and cultural openness. Across its many concerts and venues, the festival highlighted the accordion not merely as an instrument, but as a powerful medium of storytelling capable of crossing genres, traditions, and borders with ease. By bringing together internationally acclaimed artists and innovative emerging voices, the Akkordeonfestival Vienna created a welcoming space for discovery, dialogue, and shared musical experience. Its carefully curated programme balanced virtuosity with experimentation, intimacy with exuberance, leaving audiences inspired and deeply engaged.

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