

# Die Wiener Magische Schule

Text by Magic Christian with foreword by Hanno Rhomberg

## Austria full of magic

With over 40 million visitors, Austria is one of the top tourist destinations in the world. On from culturally important cities, marvellous buildings, and its cultural scene, up the impressive Austrian landscapes: There is something for everyone.

The Austrian capital Vienna is one of the safest, cleanest and liveable cities in the world, with great architecture, famous museums, and its world-famous classic music scene. Austria's „Second City“ Graz is situated in a picturesque Mediterranean-like landscape and known for its contemporary art scene.

Salzburg, world-renowned for its music festival, the birthplace of Mozart and of course as setting of the movie classic “The Sound of Music” is embed in a beautiful lake scenery.

If you are into winter sports, Innsbruck, and its adjacent sophisticated towns such as Lech, Kitzbühel or Saalbach is the place to be.

The westernmost federal state is Vorarlberg at the shores of Bodensee. Follow our links for further information:

<https://www.aboutaustria.org>

Austria has also a rich history regarding the magical scene. From the glorious past to a very active scene nowadays.



Magic Christian

If you plan to visit Austria and want to explore its magical scene, I hope you will find some inspiration on the following pages. Don't hesitate to contact us, if any further questions arise. We are happy to assist you!

Austria's magic societies are organized under the umbrella organisation “Magischer Ring Austria” with currently 350 magicians of 21 different magic societies. The MRA represents its members in the world organisation FISM, is official spokesperson for its members in Austria, publishes the professional magazine “Aladin” and organises an international congress every second year.

One of the MRA's oldest members is “Magischer Klub Wien”, which celebrated its 111<sup>th</sup> founding day in 2020.

But now let us listen to Austria's most famous magician, multiple FISM winner in manipulation: **Magic Christian**.

## Die Wiener Magische Schule

Back in the day, when I still was a 17-year-old apprentice in the art of magic, I heard the legendary words “Die Wiener Magische Schule” for the first time. Reg. Rat **Franz Holl**, **Francis Zwinger-Lebon**, **Franz Stadler**, **Anton Stursa Dr. Bartolomey** and **Charly Eperny** – for me accomplished masters of the art – wallowed in memories of the masters of times gone by, such as **Ottokar Fischer**, **Anton Molini**, **Valentino Graziadei**, **C. H Larette**, **Chevalier Ernst Thorn**, **Fu Man Chu** und **Okito, Musty, Hans Trunk, Rolf Hansen** and many more. Ever since it never ceased to amaze me to hear of these doyens of the art of magic, who made Vienna a centre of the magical world.

I am afraid there is far too little space in this article to honour all of them. But one thing they all had in common: An absolute passion for the art of magic and especially the effect it had on the audience. Without an audience left in awe by wonders, without people trying to explain to themselves the seemingly impossible, the art of magic would not exist. It is the reaction of the audience, that elevates simple trick to the “realm of magic”.

It is indisputable, that imperial Vienna of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was fertile soil for a great number of art performances of a broad variety. **Ludwig Döbler**, inspired by the legendary **Bartolomäus Bosco**, was one of the first to bring the art of magic away from the streets unto the “big stage”. It was Döbler who – as we know today – inspired his cousin **Johann Hofzinsler** to dabble in the art of magic which led to Hofzinsler having the Viennese audience lying at his feet for many decades to come.