

# Nasushiobara & Linz

## Triathlon in Linz



Linz Triathlon© Wolfgang Simlinger/cityfoto

With the Pyeongchang Olympics over, the season for summer sports has come! Austria is generally not very adept at summer sports at competitions like the Olympics, but summer sports are popular.

They are also thriving in “the Steel City” Linz, which is otherwise famous for its industry and culture. Every year, in the warm season there are numerous sport events for the people of Linz.

One of them is the “Oberbank Linz Donau Marathon” held in the city center on April 15<sup>th</sup>. “Oberbank” is the name of the event’s main sponsor. This year, more than 20,000 people participated in the different events such as the marathon, the half marathon, the relay race or the kids’ marathon.

Another event is the Linz Triathlon in June. It is held in Steyregg, a small city next to Linz. It is also the home of Mr. Niklas Salm-Reifferscheidt, a descendant of Viscount Shuzo Aoki. The Triathlon starts with swimming in Pleschinger Lake followed by a bicycle race and a long-distance run.

Nasushiobara, too, hosts a triathlon every year. The Student Triathlon Championship takes place at the Toda Balancing Reservoir. This year it will be on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The city is registered as host town for Austrian athletes for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and is hoping to

welcome the triathletes for a training camp. Actually, one male and three female Austrian athletes registered the ITU World Triathlon



Photo© Wolfgang Simlinger/cityfoto

Yokohama on May 12<sup>th</sup> this year. Nasushiobara is working to schedule a training camp for them in our city. Looking forward to the future exchange!

## Linz News : Building Bridges



Old railway bridge 1900-2016

Currently, a lot of construction work is happening here at Kuroiso station and Linz is busy building, too! They are building three bridges. The first one will be in lieu of the old railway bridge. The old bridge was popular, but due to its age, it had become a safety risk. The second bridge will be built in the west of the city as part of a new highway. It will make Linz even more accessible! The third bridge is an improvement to the existing Voest Bridge, part of the Highway A7. Bypasses will be added on both sides.

The appearance of both Nasushiobara and Linz will change. But the cities’ “hearts” will remain just as amazing as they are.

# Nasushiobara & Linz

## People: Emiko Uchiyama



### Profile

**Surname:** Thiele Uchiyama

**First name :** Emiko

**Born in :** Okayama City,  
Okayama Prefecture

**Living in :** Linz, Austria

**Occupation :** Musician  
(Marimbist), Music Instructor  
at the State Music School

**Motto :** Keep pushing forward  
with gratitude and a smile

*„I will do my best to create an opportunity for meaningful heart-to-heart encounters through music”*

### Past exchange activities :

In September 2017, a delegation from Nasushiobara attended a dinner party in Steyregg castle in a suburb of Linz. I was asked by the owner of the castle, the Earl of Salm-Reifferscheidt, to perform as a welcome-surprise for the guests and got to meet the visitors from Nasushiobara at this opportunity. This February, when returning to Japan for a short while, I was kindly allowed to visit Nasushiobara's City Hall and talk to the Mayor, the President of the City Council and other members of the City Hall as well as representatives of the Nasushiobara International Association. In March there was a joint choir concert by middle school students visiting from Japan and High School students from Linz in the aforementioned castle and it was a wonderful gathering.

### An experience or memory that left a lasting impression:

Ever since the beginning of the exchange with people from Nasushiobara, I have often found myself thinking: *What is cultural exchange? In what way can I, as musician, contribute? How can we boost cultural growth and how can we pass it on to the next generation?*

In Nasushiobara I listened to passionate remarks and hopes from people with many different perspectives - their impressions of Linz, the future development of Nasushiobara and whether it will be possible to make cultural exchange prosper. I was deeply inspired. If I can be of any help, I will gladly offer my support. And while the value of art or culture can't easily be seen at first glance, I believe it is a kind of magic that can fill people's hearts, create many opportunities for people to meet and bring a fresh breeze into our lives.

### My ideas for future exchange, hopes and visions:

2019 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between Japan and Austria in 1869. With the Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Tokyo 2020, the number of overseas visitors to Japan will likely increase. Everyone is waiting to see how well the Japanese people will use this opportunity for exchange to present themselves favorably and how well they can adapt to the circumstances and react flexibly. At that time, I really hope we can convey our wonderful culture with confidence – without feeling ashamed or being too humble. In these two years, I will do my best to create an opportunity for meaningful heart-to-heart encounters through music as a thank you to the people of Nasushiobara.

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## Lively Sister City Exchange

### **March 28, 2018: Piano Duo and Talk / Maki Namekawa und Dennis Russell Davies**



Mr. Davies, who conducted the Bruckner Orchestra and the Opera for fifteen years and the pianist Mrs. Namekawa, a musical power couple living in Linz, gave a concert in Nasushiobara's Mishima Hall. Albeit it was a weekday night, around 350 people attended. It was a moving performance, including some representative Austrian classics. Mrs. Namekawa's talk between the pieces gave the audience a taste of Austria and a glance into the couple's music-filled lives. A splendid evening!

### **June 2018: Citizen-Level Cultural Exchange / Classic Dance**

In July 2017 the cultural exchange NPO Global Culture Nasu showed their new dance drama "Heike Monogatari – Nasu no Yoichi", showcasing local hero Nasu no Yoichi, in Nasushiobara – as their contribution to the city development. 27 members will perform the piece in Linz, telling the citizens of Linz about Nasushiobara and forming new connections.

#### **Public performances in Linz:**

14.6.2018: Steyregg Castle (Abode of Mr. Salm-Reifferscheidt)

15.6.2018: Europagymnasium Auhof (School exchange partner)

16.6.2018: New City Hall Linz, Great Hall

Homepage: <http://www13.plala.or.jp/pc-nasu/>

(Information by Global Culture Nasu, Mr. Wada)



## Culture Corner : Mother's Day



**Breakfast on Mother's Day, Ronniger Family**

On the second Sunday of May, Mother's Day, children get up early in Austria. They make breakfast or brunch for their mothers. There are not only the regular bread and coffee, but special treats like pancakes or an array of jams or cheese. These are placed on a festively set table or in some families, served in bed. Elementary school children give presents or cards they made in class. They give their mother her favorite flowers and present poems they have learned by heart. While in Austria red carnations are not as prevalent on Mother's Day as in Japan, the essence is the same: you show your love and gratitude.

By the way, Father's Day is on the second Sunday in June. You also give cards or presents and spend the day with your father.



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## Handmade ☆ Easter Decoration

Wash a white chicken egg and use a pin to punch two holes of ca. 3 mm on the top and bottom of the egg. Blow into the top hole to blow out the white and yolk. Once the eggshell is empty, rinse the inside of the egg with water and dry.

Decorate the eggshell with paint or permanent markers. Once it has dried, pull a thread through the two holes and fasten it with knots. Hang it on an Easter branch.

Answer below



**Q** What do you think is NOT part of an Austrian breakfast?

**A:** Bread or pastries

**B:** Butter, jam, honey

**C:** Soup or broth

**D:** Cheese or sausage

## Language corner : *Aprilscherz*



In German, the fourth month is called April too. "Scherz" means joke or trick. On April 1<sup>st</sup> you play tricks or tell small lies to other people. You end saying "April, April", letting them know it was just a joke.

I have never been good at telling lies. As a child, every year I used to tell the same joke: "Dad broke his leg. April, April!" – and used to wonder why no one believed me.

There are joke news on radio and TV too. A recent one was about a company selling fresh air from the Alps packed in jam glasses.

Do you have any questions?



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Answer : C :  
Soup or broth