

# Nasushiobara & Linz

## Skygazer: Johannes Kepler



In Japan, July and August is the time of Tanabata, the festival of two star-crossed lovers. Are you feeling nostalgic gazing at the stars? In our Sister City Linz,

roughly 400 years ago, there lived a man who looked at those same stars in deep thought. His name was Johannes Kepler. His thoughts were far from love - he was pondering the movement of the planets. He lived in Linz for 14 years and his legacy remains today. There is the Kepler University and Kepler's house. Here, speeches about science, literature or society are held under the name "Kepler Salon".

2018 is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of his third law in 1618. Using this opportunity, an

association of Kepler fans, the Keplerforum Linz, is planning a special project. Using only private contributions, they want to build the Keplarium

(planetarium, observatory and info center) and a ropeway in Linz. The gondolas of the ropeway would look like the planets and connect various sightseeing spots throughout the city. It is an ambitious project.

One project the Keplerforum Linz has realized already are the "Kepler Planeten", chocolates

fashioned after the planets. They are delicious!



Ropeway © Keplerforum Linz



Chocolates © Keplerforum Linz

## Studying abroad in Linz: Kaname Takase



Miss Takase and Linz City seen from a nearby mountain

Lately, it's become hot in Austria, with temperatures of almost 30°C during the day, but the mornings are cold, so that even now that summer has begun I still wear my jacket on my way to school.

We have a tram running through the city, and you can buy monthly passes for just €10, which let you use the trams and busses at a flat rate. The busses run frequently and are convenient, so there are less cars than in Japan. Emissions are low and the city has a lot of nature, resulting in a good air quality.

Religion is well and alive in Austria. There are many churches not only in Linz but in all of Austria and many people visit them to pray. Furthermore, on Sundays and Holidays most shops are closed for religious reasons. In Japan, I hadn't met many people who believe in religion, so that surprised me!

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## People: Maki Namekawa



*„Culture is a global language that is not limited to one people or place”*

### **Past exchange activities :**

Four years have passed since I coincidentally met Nasushiobara Middle school students wearing cute uniforms in Linz in Austria, where I live since 2004. They answered my question of where they were from with big smiles: “From Nasushiobara!” I was intrigued, inquired at the City Hall, learned about the short-term student exchange program and was determined to help out if needed. That is how I got involved. Since then, it gives me great joy be able to share the contacts I have built through my work as a pianist and use them as a base for cultural exchange with Nasushiobara. I have been blessed with opportunities to show both middle school students and members of the visiting delegations around the brand-new state theatre that has been built only four years ago and had the pleasure to give a piano concert with my husband. I am hoping to deepen the exchange in the future. Culture comes with a price tag. But if measured up to the danger of people not having the opportunity to understand the importance of living with mutual respect for other people as could happen in cities with a high number of people not blessed with opportunities to experience culture, I think the readjustments to such a world come at a higher cost. I believe a rich cultural exchange is something that should not be missing in order to raise a healthy human being.

### **Profile**

**Surname:** Namekawa

**First name :** Maki

**Born in :** Tokyo

**Living in :** Linz, Austria

**Occupation :** Musician,  
Pianist

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

On the last day of their stay in Linz the middle school students and their host families were invited to Count Salm-Reifferscheidt’s castle where they performed in their yukatas. The purity of the performance took me back to my own days of middle school in Japan, and at the same time I was also deeply moved by the amazing teamwork of the teachers, the cities’ employees, the supporting Japanese people living in Linz and Austrian volunteers, under whose mild guidance the meeting was realized. Culture is not only to be shared and accepted, but it consists of giving and receiving in return. It’s the same as neighbourly bartering in the good old days.

This was also the moment I became convinced that a steady, careful fostering of relations is the basis of cultural exchange.

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

Being born as Japanese and growing up in the peaceful Japanese society and then having the luck of being active as a musician in Europe for a long time, I would like to somehow pass on this joyful experience to the younger generation. In Europe I give free concerts for people whose circumstances don’t permit for them to visit concert

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halls and I participate in efforts to collect for disaster-stricken areas, insufficient though my efforts may be. These activities are something I want to continue in the future. Since we live in times of an aging population, I want to give classical concerts that can be attended comfortably also by elderly people who are haven't been able to come to concerts before. I want them to understand that classical music does not have a high threshold at all, Mozart's philosophy is not that far apart from the view of life everyone has gained through their daily life experiences. For the shrinking youngest age group, I am currently in the process of breaking new ground with projects concerning the benefits of children listening to music and conducting the kind of concert they will be looking forward to. From here on, I want to focus on letting people experience that culture is a global language that is not limited to one people or place. I am deeply grateful for meeting everyone in Nasushiobara.

## Lively Sister City Exchange



### **May 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2018: Austrian Triathlete's Training Camp and Exchange in Nasushiobara**

Two male and three female triathletes completed their training for the ITU World Triathlon Yokohama 2018 in Nasushiobara. The triathletes said they were happy with the pool and other facilities, they were touched by everyone's hospitality and enjoyed the exchange with the children of Oharama Elementary School. At the Yokohama Triathlon, Alois Knabl finished 16<sup>th</sup>

and Therese Feuersinger came in 20<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Perterer, not content with her 32<sup>nd</sup> place in Yokohama, finished first in Cagliari. She is doing her best for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics!

### **June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018: Visit by Middle School Students from Linz**

This year too, the visiting middle school students from Linz were invited to visit the mayor and the chairperson of the city council in the city hall. When we asked them about their first impression of Nasushiobara, apart from their many fun experiences they were also impressed by their host families who did their best to communicate despite not knowing perfect English.



### **June 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2018: Premiere of "Heike Monogatari – Nasu no Yoichi" in Linz**

Just in time for the second anniversary of Linz and Nasushiobara becoming sister cities (on June 13<sup>th</sup>) Global Culture Nasu performed "Heike Monogatari – Nasu no Yoichi" in the New City Hall of Linz and in Steyregg Castle. In total, about 350 people came to see their performance and it seems they were very impressed. After the dance, there was a chance for conversation and the performers could mingle with the people of Linz.



Visiting the Mayor of Linz in the City Hall

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## Handmade ☆ Rhubarb Compote

Wash 400g of rhubarb and peel it. Cut it into 1~2cm pieces. Put the rhubarb, about 500 ml of water, 100g sugar and the spices (one cinnamon stick or some cinnamon powder and 4~6 cloves or some clove powder) in a pot and bring it to a boil. Lower the heat and boil till soft (till the rhubarb starts falling apart). Add sugar if it's too sour. Take out the cinnamon and cloves... Ready!

In summer it's best served cold!

Answer below



**Q** Which river runs through Linz?

**A:** Traun

**B:** Pinka

**C:** Rhine

**D:** Danube

## Culture Corner : Golden Bonnet, Linz-Style



Linzer Goldhaube  
©Werner100359, CC BY-SA 3.0

Called „Linzer Goldhaube“ in German, it is a gold-embroidered traditional women's headdress from the state of Upper Austria, where Linz is located. The characteristic shape with the knob on the back of the head first appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The bonnet is handmade and takes as much as 300 hours to finish. Since the embroidery uses gold thread and golden sequins or beads, the material costs are around 80,000~90,000 Yen. The craft of making Linzer Goldhaube has been registered as UNESCO intangible cultural heritage in 2016!

Do you have any questions?



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Answer : A and D :  
There are two rivers,  
Danube and Traun!