



# Nasushiobara & Linz

## 150 years of Japanese-Austrian Friendship I am from Austria



Rainhard Fendrich (Songwriter)  
©Marcel Brell

Only looking at the meaning of the words themselves, “I am from Austria” is a simple phrase used

for self-introductions. However, when I, as an Austrian, hear this phrase, I feel a little sentimental. Many Austrians do not openly show patriotism. They would feel embarrassed to decorate their house with Austrian flags or brag about being Austrian. While Austria has many positive qualities, we tend to be quite aware of Austria’s past sins such as our role in holocaust and other negative aspects. Because of this, our feelings towards our home country tend to be complicated. These conflicting feelings are expressed perfectly in the song “I am from Austria”. It is often called Austria’s unofficial hymn. The composer of the song, Mr. Rainhard Fendrich, is one of the most famous singers

of “*Austropop*”. While the word *Austropop* is used for all pop music from Austria, it is especially often applied to songs that have lyrics in Austrian dialects or that use colloquial language. There are many different styles and artists, but some of my favorites include Falco, who has a very cool vibe, S.T.S, whose songs are very emotionally expressive, Hubert von Goisern, who blends elements of Austrian folk music and rock music or Christina Stürmer, who comes from Linz. In Japan, opportunities to hear contemporary Austrian music are rare, but this year, just in time for the 150th anniversary of the Japanese-Austrian Friendship, a *Takarazuka*-group is performing the Musical “I am From Austria – *Furusato wa Amaki Shirabe*”. The musical is played in Tokyo from November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 28<sup>th</sup> and showcases music by Rainhard Fendrich. For many years, *Takarazuka* has also played productions such as the musical “*Elisabeth*” which is very famous in Austria. Let’s use the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese-Austrian Friendship to get to experience Austrian culture!

## Linz News: Walking Tour of Nativity Scenes



“*Krippe*”  
displayed in  
Schlossmuseum  
in Linz  
(with Linz as  
backdrop)



It is said that Jesus was born in a stable. Since there was no bed, the newborn was put in a manger (“*Krippe*” in German) to sleep. During the Christmas season in Austria, in which we celebrate the birth of Christ, you can often see displays of nativity scenes, showing baby Jesus in the manger and his parents. Figures of the “holy family” Jesus, Mary and Joseph are placed inside a small stable. This kind of display is also called “*Krippe*”. Apart from the holy family you can often find angels, shepherds, the visiting Magi, livestock or the scenery around the stable in *Krippe* displays. In Linz, especially grand, gorgeous nativity scenes are displayed in museums, Christmas markets and churches during the Christmas season. A walking tour to visit the different nativity scenes is fun and I greatly recommend it!

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## People: Austrian Triathletes

Nasushiobara is a Host Town for Austria during the Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo 2020. The Austrian Triathletes Alois, Lukas and Sara came to Nasushiobara to train for the Tokyo 2019 ITU World Triathlon Olympic Qualification Event (Test Event) in Odaiba on August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We used the opportunity to interview them.



**First name:** Alois "Luis"  
**Surname:** Knabl  
**Age:** 27

**NASUSHIOBARA** I have been a "japan fan" for a long time. Thanks to my sponsor GOLDWIN I had the opportunity to get to know the country and its people outside of triathlon as well. Nasushiobara has given us a very warm welcome and done everything to make us feel comfortable – we generally were never told NO.

**TEST EVENT** One of the Highlights of this season! Accordingly, I came well prepared and am content that I was able to perform at my full abilities and show a strong result on the Olympic course. The organization of the event was great - the Japanese team did a perfect job. The course is very demanding and the extreme heat is something I definitely need to take into account for the Olympic Games next year. On August 29<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> we had the last important triathlon race of the season– the Grand Final in Lausanne. I am content with my top-ten result and can start the seasonal break relatively relaxed. My goal for next year are the Olympic Games. The whole season will be geared towards that one competition and I hope that I will be able to race to my full ability!

**NASUSHIOBARA** Japan is extraordinary. The beautiful nature on one hand and a metropolis like Tokyo on the other, yet everything is so beautiful, friendly and incredibly clean. What impressed me the most in Nasushiobara was the friendliness of the people and the hospitality. Unfortunately, we could not see a lot of the city since we were focused on the race and our training. Nevertheless, our excursion to the national park was beautiful like a dream! I love the nature, the water falls and the tranquility – and the cheesecake at the end was superb!

**TEST EVENT** The race was very great for checking out the course, the climate the surroundings and the conditions. A big "Thank you!" to the organizers, all the volunteers and helpers. My biggest goal at the moment is to qualify for the Olympic Games. Another big goal is to keep training constantly, steer free of injuries and stay healthy, and in that way establish myself as a world-class athlete.



**First name:** Sara  
**Surname:** Vilic  
**Age:** 27



**First name:** Lukas  
**Surname:** Hollaus  
**Age:** 33

**NASUSHIOBARA** This year we had the chance to get to know Nasushiobara better since we had more time available. Therefore, we could further explore the area and gain amazing impressions of the landscape, which is quite different to Austria. I especially liked the national park nearby. From a culinary point of view, our stay in Nasushiobara was one of the highlights and we were looked after very well.

**TEST EVENT** I will take home many positive impressions and experiences from the test event in Tokyo, although this year's race did not go perfectly yet (I broke my nose). However, I realized I was able to deal with the extremely warm conditions very well, so I tend to think very positive in regards to next year! But for now, it is most important to defend the Olympia quota place until the end of the qualification period in May 2020.

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## Great results in Odaiba:

Alois Knabl : 12<sup>th</sup>  
Lukas Hollaus : 24<sup>th</sup>  
Sara Vilic : 34<sup>th</sup>

## Travelled directly to the race:

Lisa Perterer : 21<sup>st</sup>  
Julia Hauser : 47<sup>th</sup>



Exchange with Nasushiobara Citizens (August 9<sup>th</sup> ,

## Lively Sister City Exchange



## Austria Festa

On October 6<sup>th</sup> we held Austria Festa in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese-Austrian friendship. We have an Austrian sister city, Linz. At the festival, visitors could enjoy the

Mr. Niklas Salm-Reifferscheidt (an Austrian descendant of Viscount Shuzo Aoki) joined Austria Festa and helped to create a



**Fashion** It was fun to try on Austria's national



**Food** The Austrian food sampling like Linz ' speciality (*Linzer Torte*), the Austrian-style hotdog (*Bosna*)and *Gulasch*



**Music** Concerts of *Alpenhorn*, string quartet and



**Sports** Exhibition about our city's activities as Host Town



**Actively involved** High school and university students (former participants of the middle school exchange program) helped as volunteers

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## Handmade ☆ Flower Crown

In Austria, women traditionally wear flower crowns for occasions such as weddings or first communion. You can also spot them at summer festivals in combination with traditional dresses, where they have gained popularity in the last few years. I made a flower crown for Austria Festa. You cut about 15 to 20 plastic flowers to a few cm length and arrange them in the desired order. Cut about 90 cm of wire and form it into a ring, joining it by twisting the ends together. Fold it to form a semi-circle, with the previous joint section in the center. Twist it together and leave two small loops at the ends. Attach the flowers with wire, starting with the largest flower in the center. Use hot glue to attach a ribbon along the half circle. Lastly, tie ribbons on the wire loops at the ends of the half circle.



Answer below



**Q:** Which sport's trainings camp has Nasushiobara hosted as Austrian Host Town?

**A:** Swimming

**B:** Sailing

**C:** Climbing

**D:** Triathlon

## Culture Corner: Singing on Christmas Eve



Christmas is Austria's biggest holiday. At home, people often celebrate in the following way: First, they decorate the Christmas tree. The family has dinner together and eats cookies. They give each other presents (the kid's present are brought by an angel called Christkind!). Then we sing Christmas carols. There are many German Christmas carols. Even someone without any special musical talents like me can sing about 10 different Christmas songs on the spot. The most famous Austrian

Christmas carol is a song you have surely heard of. In German, we call it "*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*", in Japanese, it is "*Kiyoshi, kono yoru*" and in English it is "Silent Night". Last year, 2018, marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this song!

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Answer : D. Triathlon