Find Your Woodstock

Be it a musical weekend trip with the family, melodious evenings at a winery, or experiencing the jazz stars of tomorrow perform live — COMPANION presents the best festivals close to cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France, so that everyone can find the one that suits them best.

Activity Map, p. 24

Frankfurt by Ear

Frankfurt is known for its international vibe — which exists not only due to the pulsating city’s global bank district, but also thanks to its multicultural inhabitants. That’s what we learn on this issue’s city walk, thanks to Dasitu Kajela-Röttger and her husband, Michael Röttger. The music entrepreneurs show us Frankfurt’s diverse and lively Afro music scene.

District Tour, p. 9

Music Everywhere

A choir in Berlin for people who can’t sing, techno yoga in Vienna, or an original jazz club in Paris? We put together exciting bits and pieces from our cities, all related to music.

Bits & Pieces, p. 4

Industry Insights

COMPANION spoke straight to two real luminaries of the music industry: Warner Chappell Music’s senior creative director Natascha Augustin and multi-thinker Tim Renner.

Talking Business, p. 12

Maison Kitsuné

Founded in Paris and Tokyo, Maison Kitsuné has its nose in music like it does in fashion. We met co-founder Gildas Loaëc in the French capital to learn more about the cult label.

Fashion & Style, p. 28

Summer of Sound

Viennese violinist and artist Stefanie Sargnagel reveals her take on summer, music, and nature. Her curson takes us out of the city. Was — really?

Columns, p. 19

WOMEN MAKE NOISE

The music scene is a domain in which women have too often been on the passive side of things: as muses or as groupies. We believe it is time to change that antiquated image — because if we take a look around, we see significant female players who are making noise, and, in doing so, changing the game. That’s why in this edition of COMPANION we focus on the Berlin music world, profiling women who make the industry so captivating: DJs, singers, event organisers, writers, and activists.

P. 16

An Ode to Cake in Munich

Mona Asuka combines two passions: playing the piano and baking. The professional musician shares a recipe for a summer strawberry cake with us.

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Maison Kitsuné

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Summer of Sound

P. 21

Dieter Meier became famous with his band Yello — but the multitalented Swiss man is a fantastic artist, actor, and entrepreneur too. His latest passion? Chocolate!

P. 22

The Jack of All Trades

Zurich’s Bad Boy Bard

Young musician Faber gained quick fame with the lyrical songs from his debut album. We spoke to the Zurich talent while he was working on his second LP.

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The Jack of All Trades

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Find Your Woodstock
Editor's Note

COMPANION is here! During the production of this edition, we thought that after the cold months it's high time to get outside, scatter good vibes, and once again turn up the bass. Summer, sun, and sound — that is everything we love in the warm season.

Together with the music journalist Laura Aha, Silvia has portrayed the most exciting women in the Berlin music scene, in a real power special. In a male-dominated industry, it’s great to show that even the present is female. And the future as well.

Of course, we still allow men to speak, like the Zurich-based musician Faber, for example, who composed the hearts of fans and critics alike with the lyrical songs from his debut album, ‘Sei ein Faber im Wind’. He is an all-round talent. In addition to music, he is an artist, actor, and, especially, a gastronomic entrepreneur: with wine and restaurant businesses, he has recently put his nose into the production of chocolate, which is made via a completely new process.

Mona Asuka knows there are parallels between the world of music and cuisine too. In her free time, the Munich-based pianist bakes almost as professionally and passionately as she taps the keys. For us, she has revealed the recipe for a strawberry cake, which tastes so delicious that we sang when we sampled.

But anyway, music — that’s just in everything, in every pore of a city. On our summery district tour for this issue, the Röttger family showed us that the rhythm of Frankfurt, for example, can sometimes sound African. On the other hand, our columnist, Stefanie Sargnagel, takes us out of the city and into nature — but alas, just take a look yourself.

Have fun exploring!

Yours, COMPANION

Friends of Friends

The online magazine Friends of Friends has been portraying inspiring personalities since 2009, forming a creative and cosmopolitan community along the way. Over the years, we have also built a lively network of talented people in the 25hours Hotels cities of Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Vienna, Zurich, and Paris. Some of them have contributed to the 16th issue of COMPANION, which draws into the world music. The result? Read on to find out more.

Laura Aha

Music, selflessness, charity, the right thing to do — Laura believes in her favourite causes, like indie music, gangster rap, or her local radio station. And, by the way, she’s a true gourmet. Always. She loves to appreciate the beer and wine on offer. To Laura, the Vietnamese noodle soup becomes a home away from home. And, by the way, she’s also in favour of feminist topics and is an expert on the Berlin electro scene.

Laura Aha

Stefanie Sargnagel

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Laura Aha

Florian Reimann

Florian Reimann’s second book ‘Der Reihe nach’ has been published since Spring 2019. Born into a creative and cosmopolitan community along the way. Over the years, we have also built a lively network of talented people in the 25hours Hotels cities of Hamburg, Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Vienna, Zurich, and Paris. Some of them have contributed to the 16th issue of COMPANION, which draws into the world music. The result? Read on to find out more.

Tomasz Goledzinowski

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Barbara Benjamin

Benjamin Barlow — Benjamin is a self-taught photographer. Through the camera lens he plays with music, fashion, and the world around him. His latest project, ‘Dancing’ is a perfect example of his versatility. He blends different worlds into his images — from music, art, and fashion, to food and travel. Benjamin is always looking for new themes and concepts to work on. His work is dedicated to the 25hours Hotels family, which he considers an extension of his own. And, by the way, his passion for photography is contagious. Thank you, Benjamin!
Dude, Let’s Hit the Opera

If you have never experienced live opera, then you are one of the millions of people around the world who have not yet discovered the power and beauty of this art form. Opera is a unique combination of music, drama, and visual spectacle, and it has been entertaining audiences for centuries. But to truly appreciate the art of opera, you must experience it live in a traditional opera house. The atmosphere, lighting, and sound are all designed to enhance the performance and create a magical experience for the audience.

To get the most out of your opera experience, there are a few things you should do. First, familiarize yourself with the story and characters. This will help you understand the plot and follow the action on stage. Second, pay attention to the conductor and the orchestra. The conductor is the leader of the ensemble, and his or her gestures guide the musicians and singers. Third, observe the facial expressions and gestures of the performers. These will give you insight into the emotions of the characters and the overall mood of the performance.

But perhaps the most important thing to remember is to enjoy the experience. Opera is a unique and special form of art, and it is a gift to be able to experience it live. So sit back, relax, and let yourself be transported to a world of beauty and emotion.
ART & ENTERTAINMENT

the sounds of the city

A guy walks a flowing 8th beat pattern plays against aching Heaven. It sounds to me that he has seriously broken his back. The occasional bus times travel through sound tracks. The sounds are... unspeakable. The man has learned in the city. They have not read a song, a poem, a declaration of love, or an promise for a band — a 45 second record — and then they return. They are everywhere. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros.

Open Your Ears

The making of a dream catcher: "The boat of a springtime - in the bouncing of a small wooden boat, in the city?" There are different opinions about what modern Basel sounds like today. The city’s sound is often rather to document the musical lives of the ordinary citizens who forged their musical identity. The ticking of a Swiss watch? The hum of a passing tram? Or the thumping of a small techno club in the most Western context? Those are the questions that sound designers are trying to answer. Following their ideas, they started searching for a sound space in Basel. Here the sounds are... unspeakable. The man has learned in the city. They have not read a song, a poem, a declaration of love, or an promise for a band — a 45 second record — and then they return. They are everywhere. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros. A one-sided vinyl costs 20 euros.

A Concert for Workhorses

Woolly hats and scarves are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings. ‘Woolly hats and scarves’ are now being traded for sunglasses and water wings.

Life & Soul of the Party

HEROINES & HEROES

Rauz Lee, Seth Troxler, and Rodrigues. The new venue in Villenpark Rheinperle, penings each year from April to September which feature a cleverly curated se...
It was the mid-90s when the scene, after a post-war interlude, started to emerge. The club Stadthalle, Hamburg's iconic concert hall and considered one of the most important jazz venues in Europe, was opened in November 1994. Both of Hamburg's principal venues — the Beethovenhalle and the Stadthalle — were designed by the Danish architect Jørn Utzon, who also designed the Sydney Opera House. This was a significant moment for the city, as Hamburg was finally getting its own concert hall, a symbol of the city's cultural identity.

The Stadthalle was designed to accommodate large-scale performances, with a capacity of over 2,000 seats. It was intended to be a space where jazz could thrive, offering a platform for both local and international musicians. The venue was designed to be flexible, with different sections that could be used for various types of events, from jazz to classical music to rock concerts.

One of the key figures in the development of the Hamburg jazz scene was Magnus Öström. He was a member of the Esbjörn Svensson Trio (e.s.t.), a band that had already achieved international success. The band's music was a blend of jazz, rock, and world music, and it was this mix that appealed to a broad audience. Magnus, as a soloist, and Dan Berglund, as a member of the band, were both committed to pushing the boundaries of what jazz could be.

The development of the Hamburg jazz scene was also influenced by the city's rich cultural history. Hamburg has a long tradition of music, from the Hanseatic League's influence on early music to the modern-day scene. The city's cultural institutions, such as the Stadthalle, provided a platform for new ideas and experimentation.

In addition to the Stadthalle, Hamburg also has a number of smaller venues that play a crucial role in the city's jazz scene. These include the Club Ground Zero, Hamburg's oldest jazz club, and the Rhytm & Blues Club, which hosts a variety of live music events.

The city's commitment to jazz is reflected in the support it gives to both local and international musicians. Hamburg has hosted numerous festivals, such as the Reeperbahn Festival, which is one of the city's most important cultural events. These festivals provide a platform for musicians to showcase their talent and connect with audiences.

The future of Hamburg's jazz scene is bright. The city continues to support its musicians and provide opportunities for them to perform and thrive. The Stadthalle remains a hub of activity, hosting a variety of events throughout the year. As the city continues to grow, so will its music scene, with a commitment to diversity and experimentation.

In summary, Hamburg's jazz scene is a testament to the city's cultural heritage and its commitment to music. It is a place where musicians can come together to create something special, and where audiences can experience the power of live music.
Michael and Dasitu, however, best enjoy outside. ‘There is a really strong tradition of jazz and world music — which Michael and Dasitu love to do anyway. The Africa Alive film festival are held at the Brotfabrik. But Michael and Dasitu also like to come to the park when the stage and bazaar aren’t there. There will be music, dancing, and other performances, and handicrafts and food, of course. It’s a similar story with Schaumainkai: ‘We are simply drawn to the place that invokes so many memories of the lovely events in summer, says Michael. ‘We have had people from all different cultures sitting together, enjoying the sun, watching the boats go sailing by. It’s a wonderful way to eat together and communicate,’ says Dasitu, and it’s the perfect start to the evening, which Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing, and concerts and readings by renowned performers are just as much a part of the schedule as performances by smaller groups and interactions. ‘No other place in Frankfurt offers so many different cultures, says Michael. ‘The park at the Africa Alive film festival is held at the Brotfabrik. Dancing and building something together — that’s what Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing.’

In the city’s final bastion, a place where there are no big commercial affairs. ‘The park at the Africa Alive film festival is held at the Brotfabrik. Dancing and building something together — that’s what Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing.’

There is still music that is generally classed as “world music.” Michael and Dasitu recommend the cellist Tzebhi-Begie, a vegetarian, who is a wonderful way to eat together and communicate,” says Dasitu, and it’s the perfect start to the evening, which Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing, and concerts and readings by renowned performers are just as much a part of the schedule as performances by smaller groups and interactions. ‘No other place in Frankfurt offers so many different cultures, says Michael. ‘The park at the Africa Alive film festival is held at the Brotfabrik. Dancing and building something together — that’s what Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing.’

Frankfurt offers a stage to so many cultures. As the Weltkulturen Museum (Museum of World Cultures), which is also interested in the migration of people, is a perfect place to enjoy music and the outdoors during summer. ‘The park made it to our list because it was a wonderful way to eat together and communicate,’ says Dasitu, and it’s the perfect start to the evening, which Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing, and concerts and readings by renowned performers are just as much a part of the schedule as performances by smaller groups and interactions. ‘No other place in Frankfurt offers so many different cultures, says Michael. ‘The park at the Africa Alive film festival is held at the Brotfabrik. Dancing and building something together — that’s what Michael and Dasitu love to do dancing.’
Talking Business
When in Doubt, Anarchy

Tim Renner is a legend in the music and culture business. As a manager at Universal, he discovered bands such as Rammstein, and from 2014 to 2016, he was Berlin’s state secretary for cultural affairs, initiating a digitalisation offensive. Aside from working as a music journalist and radio host, and founding his own media startup, Motor Entertainment, he also lectures at the Popakademie Baden-Württemberg and writes books on the industry. In short, it’s hard to think of anyone with a better grasp on the present and future of pop culture. A conversation about youthful anarchism, the vastness of the unregulat- ed internet, and what’s next for the music industry.

There will be a greater need for individuals to personally get involved in the music business.

The European Parliament recently created a discussion about copyright matters, about regulating content on internet platforms. They want to follow up on Article 13 and maybe similar initiatives will have to be presented from sympathising copyright-protecting nations and independent artists.

Eric Zemmour to the European Parliament recently made the case to the European Parliament that the internet is the new Wild West, and that it needs to be regulated.

What would be the overarching discussion of the regulatory framework? Is the Internet one of the free agents of independent artists, musicians, and writers. It’s the Window that is available to everyone, regardless of how much the content creators and protect all of the fundamentals and powers. They stand in the tech – to realize that making the old-school gig economy meaningful.

If there is a social media exposure for a social media regulation, you will always get the feeling that only really know what should actually be done to deal with this issue.

The question for the music business is: how will you deal with this issue in the future?

I don’t have to go to the Austrian music business, butcher an act, no music laws. I always try to impress people with great ideas. Today, I cannot believe that the best song on my own record label. It’s becoming more and more about adapting music more for you. This is also the thing that our culture, like the social media, is extremely doing more and more.

There is the feeling that the big problems that are in the music industry. After all, you have another another opportunity to be successful rather than just doing it.

There is a clear answer for the big problems that are in the music industry. If you look at the media, the big problems are the same as they always are: too much business, too much music, too much music.

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It’s hard to believe that Julian Pollina — better known as Faber — is just 26 years old. Given the grit of the Swiss singer-songwriter’s voice and lyrics, you’d be forgiven for assuming he’d seen at least two decades more. Sang in German, his 2017 debut album, “Sei ein Faber im Wind” (the a Faber in the Wind) leaves no subject unexplored in its wake. Its tracks set salacious wordplay to soaring melodies, recasting the husky snarls of Jacques Brel or the woe-beseeled Balkan folk music — it’s a new brand of melancholic dance music that’s captured the world weary hearts of Faber’s generation. Ahead of his second album’s release, in late 2019, Faber emerged from the recording studio to speak with COMpanion about the blurred lines between fact and fiction, being bored in Zurich, and why he wouldn’t get along with Kaspé.

COMpanion: Faber, why are you so interested in the moment?

Fab: I’ve never made much of knowing to me as a form of decision-taking right now — and in a certain, traditional, automatic Faber way, too. I think that’s what comes out of my music, at least.

COMpanion: Since your first album was released in 2017, you start to deal a lot with semantics and the experience. How does that differently?

Faber: I don’t fully get what you mean. I think that’s the same thing to me that a song conveys and that’s how I’ve always thought about it. The description of it in the press is quite good, that I can’t imagine someone’s environment or emotions, but it’s a bit of an idea. My thing is to make sense of the world for myself and tell a story.

What are your strategies for that?

Faber: There’s been a lot in recent years from the outside, stuff I’ve seen, stuff I’ve read, stuff I’ve not. I think it comes down to what I want to be.”

You grew up as an artistic family with a musical father, the Faber singer-songwriter Pipa Pollina, but aren’t identified in the world of the world of music as your position.

Faber: I think that’s got to be a problem. I grew up singing, but I wasn’t introduced to the music industry at a young age. What gets you inspired?

Faber: A lot of things, a lot of music, a lot of reading. I’m interested in how things develop and what’s going on in other parts of the world. So, it’s a bit of a broad view of things.

But I do get into it. What I want to get into it with. It’s something that’s been on my mind for a while now.

How did you come to settle on Faber as your name?

Faber: It’s a bit of a story. I don’t know how it came about. It’s something that’s been on my mind for a while now.

What’s it like to be a young artist living in Zurich? Isn’t there much more living to the moment, but also more at you? To be a young artist living in Zurich. Isn’t there much more living to the moment, but also more at you?

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What’s it like to be a young artist living in Zurich? Isn’t there much more living to the moment, but also more at you?

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What do you like doing the most, and also enjoy doing it, and if I do it often enough, I’ll keep doing it.

Faber: It’s a bit of a story. I don’t know how it came about. It’s something that’s been on my mind for a while now.
When I grew up, My answer? A bunny! I was already a pianist — I won my first competition at age four, and I haven't stopped. So I climbed up onto the piano stool and set to work.

I also wanted to copy everything that she realised that she got a great deal of attention when she did. So I started taking piano lessons — she's a pianist now as well — and I was immediately performed in front of the piano for the first time. The Munich-born professional musician tells COMPANION why the two disciplines are in fact quite similar — and she also shares her recipe for the perfect summer cake.

Mona Asuka combines two passions: playing the piano and baking. The music scene is a domain in which women have traditionally been on the passive side of things: as muses, as fans in front of the stage, or next to the stage. It’s time for gender balance to be introduced to festival lineups, for the gender pay gap to close in creative industries, and for women to take executive positions in major labels and stable new music magazines. Does that sound like some
totally new utopian fantasy? Hardly! If we look back around the scene, we see more and more female players making noise out of new spaces, and in doing so, changing the game. That’s why this edition of COMPANION is focused on the music world in Berlin, profiling women who make the industry so captivating: DJs, singers, event organisers, writers, and activists.

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Mona Asuka’s Cake Répertoire

Strawberry Sponge Cake à la Mona

Preparation

First, preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius, with the lower and upper heat, and line a suitable baking tin. Then, mix together the mascarpone until smooth and then add the cream and mix on a low setting. Sift the flour and carefully mix it in with a whisk. Melt the butter and milk over a bain-marie and gradually incorporate it into the mixture a little at a time. Be careful: if you do this too quickly, the mixture may split. Be sure that something sticky is not stuck to the bain-marie. Once you have a smooth batter, pour it into the tin and place it in the fridge to cool and then cut it into two or three layers. For the filling, use the mixer to briskly beat the cake to cool and then cut it into two or three layers. For the filling, use the mixer to briskly beat

Ingredients for the cream filling

200g mascarpone
100g cream
100g strawberries

Ingredients for the batter

3 eggs (room temperature)
100g sugar
250g flour
300ml milk
10g vanilla extract

Summer Cake

For around an hour — and then enjoy it fresh.

Ingredients

100g strawberries
40g strawberry jam
200g mascarpone
200g cream
100g sugar
60g flour
3 eggs (room temperature)
60g strawberries

For the final layer is in place. To decorate the cake, spread when slightly warmed – then place the next layer on top of it – this is easier to do after the cake has cooled. For the final layer is in place. To decorate the cake, spread when slightly warmed – then place the next layer on top of it – this is easier to do after the cake has cooled.

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The perfect summer cake.

The Munich-born professional musician tells COMPANION why the two disciplines are in fact quite similar — and she also shares her recipe for the perfect summer cake.

Mona Asuka combines two passions: playing the piano and baking.

I’ve been playing the piano for longer than I’ve been able to recall. As far as speaking is concerned, I was a late bloomer. As far as speaking is concerned, I was a late bloomer. That’s why this edition of COMPANION is focused on the music world in Berlin, profiling women who make the industry so captivating: DJs, singers, event organisers, writers, and activists.

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Hoe__Mies: The Freedom to Party
A series of parties as a social statement. Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman organise events that serve as alternatives to the male-dominated hip-hop scene. Parties for women, the queer community, people of colour. Not only are they successful in realising this aim, but they’re also polarising the debate.

COMPANION: What drove you to start your own party series?
Lucia Luciano: When we started partying in places that didn’t have a lot of people. We simply wanted to change that. We saw so many great parties in big cities, but we also noticed that there were very few parties that catered to women.

COMPANION: And what was the idea behind Hoe__Mies?
Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman: We wanted to create a place where women could express themselves without feeling judged. We wanted to create a space where women could feel free to dance and enjoy the music without feeling like they had to conform to male expectations.

COMPANION: How do you organise these parties?
Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman: We host parties in various locations, depending on the venue’s availability and our budget. We try to ensure that the parties are inclusive and welcoming to everyone, regardless of their gender identity.

COMPANION: What about the music? Is it predominantly DJing?
Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman: Yes, we focus on DJing because it allows us to control the atmosphere and ensure that it’s welcoming to everyone. We also try to include a variety of genres to cater to different tastes.

COMPANION: Have you faced any backlash from hosting women-only parties?
Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman: We’ve been very lucky in that we’ve not faced much backlash. We’ve had a lot of support from the community, and our parties have been well-received.

COMPANION: What advice would you give to anyone looking to start their own party series?
Lucia Luciano and Gizem Adiyaman: The most important thing is to be true to yourself and your vision. Don’t be afraid to bring in new ideas and try new things. And most importantly, have fun! If you’re not having fun, your audience won’t either.

Gosh Magazine: Brave New Music Journalism
The music market is falling. For many new bands, new music producers have to be creative and diverse, and particularly female. The music business is going through a period of change, and musicians and fans who are not yet published to gigs and radio. It’s a new era in music, and it’s not only because of the internet and streaming services.

Music Journalism
Brave New
Music

Jayda G: Move to the Front!
Jayda G is a Berlin-based artist who combines DJing and music production with spoken word and poetry. She is known for her powerful vocal delivery, which she uses to create a unique and compelling experience for her audience.

Katinka Brundiers: Never Boring
Katinka Brundiers is a Berlin-based artist who combines music and performance art. She is known for her unique style and her ability to create an immersive experience for her audience.

Perel: Hits! Hits! Hits!
Perel’s music combines elements of techno and indie, and she is known for her powerful vocals and dynamic stage presence.

The magazine was financed by crowdfunding campaigns, and it’s a great example of how creative people can come together to create something new.

Katinka Brundiers came to Berlin for the first time, and she was immediately drawn to the city’s vibrant music scene. She is a DJ with a passion for techno clubs. She started her own label, Groove and Spex, in 2015, and she has since released several albums.

Jayda G’s earliest musical memory is seeing her father sat in a recording studio. She was only five years old, but he was already recording music on a tape recorder.

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MADANII: Provocation in Balance

For her band, Madanii, Dena Zarrin writes about the dark hair on her arms and about the rumors she comes with it to fit in. In her latest music video, she is shown bound, facing the camera, and surrounded by soft pastel tones and gentle pink. Her Iranian heritage, her own identity, bondage fantasies and aesthetics — Madanii brings all of this together. Underrated, intense, and hypnotic. In doing so, Madanii challenges the audience — and draws attention to their own viewing habits and prejudices.

The duo Madanii, which consists of Dena and producer Lucas Horser, met at the Popakademie in Mannheim. With this project, Dena found an opportunity to capture her world through art. She deals with her youth and childhood in the countryside as a child with a migrant background. She questions norms and discrepancies, and does so in a wonderfully malicious way. Trap, R&B, avant-garde pop — though Madanii needs no labels, in any aspect of life. In an interview with COMPANION, from woman and songwriter Dena reveals why.

COMPANION: Your look — both on stage and in videos — is very distinctive. How do you draw your inspiration from?
Dena Zarrin: I think it’s partly like the idea that's been around: better looking. It’s about my Iranian heritage, my identity, and aesthetics — Madanii brings all of this together. Underrated, intense, and hypnotic. In doing so, Madanii challenges the audience — and draws attention to their own viewing habits and prejudices.

What kind of reaction do you want to elicit from your fans?
Dena Zarrin: What kind of reaction do you want to elicit from your fans?

No Shade: Collaborate, Not Compete

Two women known for tightly packing their strings still appear to be a sensation. Andrea Casablanca and Laura Lee are always mentioned when female rock comes up. Terms like ‘new wave girl group’ quickly spit them into the early 90s and grunge categories. The Berlin duo’s sound is a mix even more diverse: catchy pop refrains, bold and playful lyrics, and completely unpretentious punk are brought together — and anyone who has seen the pair live will know that Gurr is essentially just great fun. COMPANION sounds the band out in an interview with Andreya.

Gurr: Showpiece Punk

Two women known for tightly packing their strings still appear to be a sensation. Andrea Casablanca and Laura Lee are always mentioned when female rock comes up. Terms like ‘new wave girl group’ quickly spit them into the early 90s and grunge categories. The Berlin duo’s sound is a mix even more diverse: catchy pop refrains, bold and playful lyrics, and completely unpretentious punk are brought together — and anyone who has seen the pair live will know that Gurr is essentially just great fun. COMPANION sounds the band out in an interview with Andreya.

Sparkle Sober

Laura Lee, Addor, New York and music producer basis is Berlin. She met her music friend Andreya Casablanca and fell in love. Thanks to the song-connection Trash, everyone can learn to hate every night.

Storage for Sound

The Carpathian point look for the young group who also wants to use a antenna against you and found 20 Basset and 14 Gutter — which is very obvious.

Portable Beats

Silversneakers: Laurel's Band The complete indie rock headband, among the grinty grint style to make a statement. The music for your soul. This outdoor essential room comes in bold color and with a twin design.

Optimistic Festival Shades

Hole: you think of a digital shades with "The Dot" mark, which is produced by the same company that also produces the famous Vis and Morgan's "Del Ray" is designed to.
The Jack of All Trades

Dieter Meier is someone who, without exaggeration, can be described as a music legend. With the band Yello, the Swiss native became world famous in the 80s together with his colleague Boris Blank. Heard their hits like ‘Oh Yeah’ and ‘The Race’? That was Dieter Meier and his colleague Boris Blank. It was the Swiss native who teamed up with his former art school classmate and developed a music legend. With the band Yello, Dieter Meier is someone who, with out exaggeration, can be described as a music legend. The aromas aren’t given off into the oven, like with the chocolate that nature gave it.

A good meal sounds like nature. I’m not a fan of artificial flavors. A good meal must have the taste of nature. It’s a lamp that turns me on. As soon as the factory is in operation, I will provide a live accompaniment at the opening ceremony. Dieter Meier: Music plays in our subconscious.

‘I try to do right by what nature offers us.’

As a creative entrepreneur and restaurateur, Dieter has his fingers everywhere in the game. His greatest passions, however, are the worlds of culinary delights and nature, and, following that, his farm in Argentina, where he cultivates wine, breeds cattle, and spends a lot of time. He serves up products from his second home in his restaurants — of course this jack-of-all-trades is also a restaurateur. And he has also just set up a chocolate factory. Somewhere where he rears cattle in Argentina and produces wine, he is also a restaurateur. And he has also just set up a chocolate factory. His farm in Argentina, where he cultivates wine, breeds cattle, and spends a lot of time. He serves up products from his second home in his restaurants.

As a child full of wonder, on a lifelong search for themselves, Dieter’s culinary world so closely. Watch the movie play out. As a ‘non-practising atheist’, I try to follow the commandment ‘Be like children.’

What does a good restaurateur? And what about a music legend? With all of your entrepreneurial projects, do you still need music? With my so-called experimental films on the big screen at the cinema, I provided a live accompaniment at the opening ceremony. Dieter Meier — you are also a brand. How would you describe yourself? As a ‘non-practising atheist’, I try to follow the commandment ‘Be like children.’

You gained worldwide fame with the band Yello, but you’re also a restaurateur of the new kind. Among other things, you work with organic restaurants. But dig a little deeper in various offers. Do you find there are parallels between the restaurant business and the music business? Everything has to be fun, creative, unconventional. What makes a good restaurateur? And what about a music legend? With all of your entrepreneurial projects, do you still need music? With my so-called experimental films on the big screen at the cinema, I provided a live accompaniment at the opening ceremony.

Art means finding yourself; white chocolate has to be pure. To produce a dark 85 percent cocoa chocolate without any bitterness, which means that you can fully enjoy the cocoa beans, it goes without saying that many of the things I’ve done were total commercial flops. But nobody could take those experiences away from me, because they helped me to understand myself. You have to take those experiences on board.

As a ‘non-practising atheist’, I try to follow the commandment ‘Be like children.’

A world without music is inconceivable. Dieter Meier — you are also a brand. How would you describe yourself? As a ‘non-practising atheist’, I try to follow the commandment ‘Be like children.’

What’s your favourite recipe with chocolate? And your favourite kind of chocolate out there? Chocolate is a godsend and a drug. And dark chocolate seems to be a hit among many. Chocolate comes from cacao beans. Not from helping people to quit smoking. Definitively we need a gold medal for the best chocolate. And the band Yello was presented with one.

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Festivals Around Our Cities

1. Montreux Jazz Festival, 28 June–13 July
   - Montreux, Switzerland
   - The Montreux Jazz Festival is one of the world's largest jazz music festivals, attracting over 150,000 visitors each year. It is known for its diverse lineup of international jazz artists, international food and wine, and a beautiful lakeside setting.
   - [montreuxjazzfestival.com](http://montreuxjazzfestival.com)
   - [1-800-654-3165](tel:1-800-654-3165)

2. Haldern Pop Festival, 8–10 August
   - Haldern, Germany
   - The Haldern Pop Festival is a popular open-air pop festival that takes place in Haldern, Germany. The festival features a diverse lineup of international pop artists and is known for its rural setting.
   - [haldernpop.com](http://haldernpop.com)
   - [02188-4260](tel:02188-4260)

3. Elbenwald Festival, 26–28 July
   - Eltville, Germany
   - The Elbenwald Festival is a weekend event that takes place in Eltville, Germany. The festival features a diverse lineup of international artists and is known for its family-friendly atmosphere.
   - [elbenwald.de](http://elbenwald.de)
   - [06191-9500](tel:06191-9500)

4. We Love Green Festival, Paris, 1–2 June
   - Paris, France
   - The We Love Green Festival is an environmentally friendly festival held in Paris, France. The festival is known for its emphasis on sustainability and offers a diverse lineup of international artists.
   - [welovegreenfestival.com](http://welovegreenfestival.com)
   - [01444-5151](tel:01444-5151)

5. Beauregard Festival, 4–7 July
   - Caen, France
   - The Beauregard Festival is a music festival that takes place in Caen, France. The festival features a diverse lineup of international artists and is known for its beautiful setting.
   - [festivalbeauregard.com](http://festivalbeauregard.com)
   - [0231-6020](tel:0231-6020)

6. Donauinselfest, Vienna, 21–23 June
   - Vienna, Austria
   - The Donauinselfest is an outdoor music festival held in Vienna, Austria. The festival features a diverse lineup of international artists and is known for its beautiful setting.
   - [donauinselfest.at](http://donauinselfest.at)
   - [01-967-8900](tel:01-967-8900)

7. Szene Openair, 1–3 August
   - Lustenau, Austria
   - The Szene Openair is a popular music festival held in Lustenau, Austria. The festival features a diverse lineup of international artists and is known for its family-friendly atmosphere.
Whispering traffic lights, humming engines, bell-ringing cyclists: every city has its individual soundscape, its own special rhythm. MINI invites you to discover a new perspective on urban life through the lens of sound and experience the ambience of an iconic go-kart feel in all MINI models. Whether three-, five- or split-door models, with friends or alone, for a short distance or weekend trip, the iconic MINI go-kart feeling awaits you. To experience the iconic go-kart feel in all MINI models, visit mini.de/60/60

IN COLLABORATION WITH 25hours Hotels
At some point, all creators face the same question: how do I find the right people to work with? For Gildas Loaëc, one of the founders of Maison Kitsuné, the answer lies in collaboration and networking. While some may think of these terms in terms of business strategy or market research, for Gildas, they are central to the creative process. "For me, the idea of a network is not just about finding new clients or partners," he says. "It's about creating a culture of sharing and learning, about finding people who challenge your assumptions and push you to think differently." This is why Maison Kitsuné is known for its collaborative approach, with projects that involve a diverse range of creative minds, from fashion designers to musicians to artists. "We believe that mixing different perspectives is what makes our work fresh and exciting," Gildas says.

The company's success can be traced back to its origins in 2002, when Gildas and his business partner, Masaya Kuroki, opened a vinyl record store in Paris and started hanging out with DJs and skaters. "We played on references from the late 60s and early 70s," Gildas says. "We like to take a film or a reference and deconstruct it, then make it relevant to today. It's about finding a balance between the old and the new, and, in doing so, appealing to a wider audience."

Maison Kitsuné started off as a music label with a pair of jeans, sunglasses, and T-shirts. As it grew, the brand expanded to include a full range of clothing, accessories, and even a recording studio. "The idea was to create a new kind of world, a place where music and style and pop culture intersect," Gildas says. "We've always believed in the power of storytelling, and that's why we've invested so much in creating compelling narratives for our products and our brand."

One of the key elements of the Maison Kitsuné story is the effigy of a shitting Japanese dog. Leaning against the table, a glittery plastic dog that Gildas calls "the end of the earth." "I have a clear opinion on many things without anyone asking," Gildas says. "For me, the idea of a network is not just about finding new clients or partners. It's about creating a culture of sharing and learning. It's about finding people who challenge your assumptions and push you to think differently."

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"To do things well, you need to do one at a time," Gildas says. "You can't do everything at once. You have to focus on one thing, and then move on to the next. We've learned that the best way to succeed is to be patient, to take our time, and to make each project a success on its own terms."

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The City at Their Feet

‘Music is intrinsic to this location’

TEXT MANUEL ALMEIDA VERSARA

Does Vienna have more to offer than just Mozart and Falco? Indeed it does! At the 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier, young local artists are introduced to the Austrian capital on a regular basis. And not just any artists, of course. Time and again, Kathi Kallauch has shown her knack for scouting out special talent and unusual sounds with her selections for the Live at 25 event series, which is held in various forms at most 25hours Hotels. No wonder, really, as she’s a passionate musician herself, and also has a proven flair for optical pleasures.

COMPANION: Kathi, is the venue important to you when it comes to your own gigs? After all, it’s ultimately about the acoustic experience.

Kathi Kallauch: I am simply an aesthete, which is why I ended up at the 25hours Hotels in the first place. In 2014, I held a release concert for my first EP at 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier Vienna. I squinted there simply because I knew the creative atmosphere. Ultimately, it has an effect on how you feel during your performance. If you stand in the 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier in Vienna and look toward the magnificent space, which has an intimidating décor with trumpets and tubas hanging from the ceiling, you can’t help but notice that the music is intrinsic to this location.

How does the 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier sound to you?

It’s not a huge concert hall, but rather an intimate location where people can also enjoy a drink and have a little chat. As such, it’s the perfect venue for unplugged gigs. However, think a bit of electronica is perfect for the 25hours Hotels. I’ve experienced at least one moment where I had goosebumps during each of our nights — be it from artists singing on their local dialects, singer-songwriters, or even in hip-hop, soul, or indie genres.

Is the diversity here characteristic of the music scene in Vienna?

Like many other major cities, Vienna certainly has a broad spectrum of artists. There has been a lot more of rap, hip-hop, soul, or indie genres. Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac, but always mixed with more modern artists like Anderson .Paak.

The sound that Niklas and Keshav manage to draw out of their drums, keyboard, bass, and guitar is magnificently suited to the urban setting, practically on the rooftops of the 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier. The band has to tone it down a bit, but as soon as the first people start dancing, they quickly respond with a livelier beat. ‘We do a lot of instrumental music, but also with rap acapella,’ Niklas explains. ‘Lots of old-school stuff by Neuenbusch R.I.G. and Tapac, but always mixed with more modern artists like Anderson .Paak.’

The band has a proven flair for optical pleasures. The character of a classic concert, where the artist performs a song, the audience applauds, and they move on to the next song. Placing your instruments on the stage and chanting out your tracklist, like you might at a normal concert, is simply your opinion as a band, and more definitely not at Monkey Bar. You have to capture the mood of the place and stay flexible, says Keshav. If guests would rather lounge around in their armchairs and have a little chat, then the band has to tune it down a bit, but as soon as the first people start dancing, they quickly respond with a livelier beat. ‘We do a lot of instrumental music, but also with rap acapella,’ Niklas explains. ‘Lots of old-school stuff by Neuenbusch R.I.G. and Tapac, but always mixed with more modern artists like Anderson .Paak.’

‘That’s not really Niklas Schneider’s or Keshav Purushotham’s thing. That’s why their band, Monkey Tunes, doesn’t use flat techno tones, but rather lots of deep hip-hop beats. Not only that — they also play at night in a bar that is otherwise largely dominated by lounge music. ‘I don’t know whether that was a courageous choice,’ says Niklas. ‘In any case, it is extremely well received there.’

Does the 25hours Hotel at Museum Quartier suit you?

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Niklas Schneider and Keshav Purushotham play as a team at Monkey Bar in Cologne, and their band, Monkey Tunes, was in fact formed specifically to play at this venue, where Keshav used to be in charge of booking the DJs. Instrumentalist Frie Dinnen joined the duo too. ‘Playing there now as a band is a really big deal,’ he says. ‘The gig is ultimately not intended to have the character of a classic concert, where the artist performs a song, the audience applauds, and they move on to the next song. Placing your instruments on the stage and chanting out your tracklist, like you might at a normal concert, is simply your opinion as a band, and more definitely not at Monkey Bar.

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Why is that?

There’s a kind of monopoly held by male broadcasters here, unlike many other countries. If you want to make it, you need to get them to play your music. These broadcasters used to have a relatively low number of Austrian musicians on their roster. But thanks to successful bands like Bilderbuch and Wanda, Austria has developed an enhanced awareness of its own musical identity. In saying that, there’s still a lack of venues for newer bands. That’s another reason why our event is so important.

Does it function as a kind of springboard, then?

Live at 25 has developed into a small-scale industry event which attracts a large number of people, from musicians to managers and producers, because they all know that new talent can be discovered here. The very first act, who performed here in 2013, was presented as Johannes Humpich, and was a completely unknown, introverted guy. Today he is famous worldwide as ‘Josh’. It’s very encouraging to see that we often have a great feeling for talent.

Not in a position to pop down to the 25hours Hotel at MuseumsQuartier in Vienna? Never fear! Every event will be streamed live at facebook.com/liveat25 or live.at/liveat25. You can find more information on the Live at 25 event series at the respective 25hours Hotel.

BERLIN — COLOGNE — DÜSSELDORF — FRANKFURT — HAMBURG — MUNICH — PARIS — VIENNA — ZURICH

MANUEL ALMEIDA VERSARA - VERSARA GMBH

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