

Curriculum Vitae Panelists Live-Podcast “70 Years of Eurovision – 70 Years of Austrian Sound”

1. Rudi Dolezal



Rudi Dolezal is an Austrian film director and producer who has achieved international renown, primarily for his work in the music industry. Together with Hannes Rossacher, he founded the production company DoRo and from the 1980s onwards, the two of them revolutionised the visual style of pop culture for several decades.

Considered one of Austria’s most important producers of his era, Dolezal is a media creator and visual innovator who shaped the visual youth culture of an entire generation. Freddie Mercury once referred to the two artists as the ‘Torpedo Twins’, acknowledging that they brought a brand new pop aesthetic to Austria, achieving international success in the process. Mercury and his band Queen were among their most prominent clients, alongside artists such as Frank Zappa, the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Miles Davis and Hermann Nitsch.

Dolezal trained as a classical guitarist for 14 years before turning his attention to others’ music. Like his future business partner Hannes Rossacher, he began working in media in 1975 as a freelance contributor for the Austrian broadcaster ORF. In the early 1980s, the two – who were already involved in pop music programming at ORF – established their own Vienna-based production company, DoRo. This quickly gained international commissions for music videos and documentaries.

They directed their first video for the Rolling Stones as early as 1982, as well as the documentary ‘The First 20 Years’ about the legendary rock band. They also developed programmes for broadcasters such as ARD, ZDF, the BBC and MTV. National and international stars alike soon queued up to have their music given a visual style created in Vienna.

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The duo created works such as the now legendary “Rock Me Amadeus” video by Falco. DoRo described their mission as creating ‘music for the eyes’. This ambition extended far beyond commissioned productions; together with Rossacher, Dolezal was also involved in shaping the content and development of the new television channels Premiere and VIVA.

Honours for DoRo came thick and fast, ranging from Grammy nominations to the Gold Medal of Honour from the Republic of Austria. Dolezal himself has also received three Golden Arenas.

More information: <https://rudisworld.com/en/rudis-world/>

2. Florian Ritt folkshilfe



Florian Ritt is the charismatic frontman of the Austrian band folkshilfe and a key figure in the Austrian music scene. With his “Quetschn” (accordion) and captivating stage presence, he delights audiences and always leaves a lasting impression. His unique blend of charm, authenticity and musical talent has propelled folkshilfe to the forefront of Austrian folk and pop music. In 2026, the band won the Austrian Amadeus Music Award for Album of the Year with Bunt.

Florian grew up in a musical environment. The son of a successful musician who rose from being a lumberjack to become a celebrated Austrian artist, he developed a discipline and passion for music from an early age. He began his musical journey as a member of the Vienna Boys’ Choir „Sängerknaben“, followed by studies in popular music, jazz guitar and bass.

Florian met his future bandmates during his school years and soon became part of folkshilfe. Through dedication and hard work, he taught himself to play the instruments and developed a distinctive sound „Quetschn-Synthie-Pop“ that made folkshilfe a true audience favourite.

Florian and folkshilfe are actively engaged in social causes. In collaboration with the Austrian aid organisation Volkshilfe, they campaign against child poverty. They also support the Fridays for Future climate movement and performed at major solidarity concerts for Ukraine attended by more than 100,000 people.

Under the artistic direction of Florian, folkshilfe has achieved several notable successes, including winning the Amadeus Music Award for ‘Songwriter of the Year’ for their hit ‘Mir laungts’. Their most recent album, Vire, reached number three in the Austrian album charts, further cementing their place in the music scene.

Alongside folkshilfe, Florian pursues his own solo project, FRINC, with which he has toured Germany to great success. In 2016, he founded the music agency TöchterSöhne, which has collaborated with artists including Cosmó – Austria’s candidate for the Eurovision Song Contest 2026.

More information: <https://www.folkshilfe.at/>

3. Ina Regen



Ina Regen is one of Austria’s most versatile artists. Since the release of her debut single “Wie a Kind” in 2017, she has developed into one of the country’s most important voices, with her sensitive, profound and yet hopeful dialect pop.

Following her debut album Klee (Album of the Year 2019) and its 2021 successor røt, her current orchestral album “Was ma heut net träumen” (2024) also entered the Austrian album charts at number one. Her two most recent albums, were released on her own label, Nannerl. Even the choice of her label’s name reflects the artist’s commitment to female solidarity and gender equality. Nannerl was the nickname of Maria Anna Mozart, who toured

Europe’s aristocratic courts as a pianist alongside her younger – and now world-famous – brother until she reached marriageable age at 14, after which she was only permitted to pursue her talent privately.

As a songwriter, her artistic range extends from intimate solo piano performances to infectious live shows with her band, and even opulent concerts accompanied by an 85-piece symphony orchestra. Her performances are always characterised by her unmistakably velvety yet powerful voice, combined with courageous vulnerability and empathetic openness.

In autumn 2024 and spring 2025, INA REGEN will tour with her new programme, “40... und weiter (40... and beyond)”.

More information: <https://www.inaregen.at/>

4. Nazanin Aghakhani



Over the past 20 years, Nazanin Aghakhani has established herself worldwide as a conductor, composer, pianist and producer. Most recently, she became the first Viennese woman in almost 100 years to conduct the renowned Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Often described as a “pioneer of a special kind”, Aghakhani was also the first woman to conduct an orchestra in concert in Iran, leading the Tehran Symphony Orchestra in 2010.

Born in Vienna to Iranian and Kazakh parents, the artist is known as a “woman with nerves of steel” and is regularly engaged as a last-minute substitute conductor for opera houses, orchestras and festivals, including the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra (Denmark), the Braunschweig State Orchestra (Germany), Musica Nova Helsinki, the Turku Philharmonic (Finland), the Aurora Festival (Sweden), the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra (Sweden), the

Royal Opera Stockholm, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Wien Modern, the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. She has also worked with the Vienna Volksoper.

She is particularly passionate about bringing contemporary compositions to the stage on a regular basis, including her own works. She sees it as her mission to preserve music in its most natural form, including in her recordings. All of her albums are recorded live and remain unedited, often including improvisational elements even in orchestral settings. Her latest orchestral album, IUNCTUS – The Orchestra – Live in Concert, is currently in post-production and will be released in April 2025.

During the pandemic, Nazanin Aghakhani discovered her love of the French chanson genre and recorded her most personal live album to date in the lounge of the deserted Hotel Bristol in Vienna during lockdown. She produced the live video to accompany the audio recording in order to capture authentic music-making without any post-production corrections.

Through her numerous publications, lectures and masterclasses, Aghakhani has earned a reputation as “a truly exceptional teacher”. She conveys the subtleties of refined conducting and rehearsal techniques and considers it her responsibility to share her personal experiences, particularly with regard to artistic responsibility, creating magical moments on stage and the positive impact that music can have on musicians and audiences alike. She is particularly well known in the online sphere for her ‘NCS – Nazanin’s Conducting Series’.

More information: <https://www.nazaninaghakhani.com/>