

International Press Trip | 11 – 13 June 2026

Curtain Up for Austria's Cultural Stage

Biographies

1. Grafenegg Estate & Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich

Concert Venue & Resident Orchestra | Lower Austria

Opening concert: Midsummer Night's Gala, 11–12 June 2026 | 20th anniversary festival season

Grafenegg is one of Europe's most celebrated summer music destinations, set within a historic 32-hectare castle park in the Wagram wine region of Lower Austria. Its defining feature is the open-air Wolkenturm stage – a striking architectural landmark designed by Vienna's the next ENTERprise studio and opened in 2007 – complemented by the indoor Auditorium and the newly renovated Rudolf Buchbinder Saal. In 2026, the festival celebrates its 20th anniversary with an exceptional programme featuring the world's leading orchestras, conductors and soloists.

The Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich has been Grafenegg's resident orchestra since 2007 and opens each season with the traditional Midsummer Night's Gala. One of Austria's most important regional orchestras, it performs under Chief Conductor Fabien Gabel and presents a wide-ranging programme spanning the Grafenegg Festival, the Sommerklänge concert serie, school concerts and touring productions. The Grafenegg Festival season runs from mid-August to early September, with orchestras including the Wiener Philharmoniker, Münchner Philharmoniker and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

More information: www.grafenegg.com/en | Tonkünstler-Orchester: www.tonkuenstler.at/en E-Mail: Annemarie.Roetschke@grafenegg.com

2. Alfons Haider

Generalintendant, Seefestspiele Mörbisch

2026 Production: "Ein Käfig voller Narren" (La Cage aux Folles) | 16 July – 22 August 2026

Alfons Haider is one of Austria's most versatile and widely recognized entertainment personalities – a trained actor and musical performer, television host, cabaret artist, singer, and since 2021 Generalintendant of Burgenland's music theatres. In this role, he oversees the Seefestspiele Mörbisch on Lake Neusiedl and the Festival Summer at Schloss Tabor in Jennersdorf (Burgenland).

Mr. Haider trained in Vienna and Los Angeles before building a career on Vienna's major stages. From 1989 onwards, he became a familiar face on Austrian television, presenting more than 1,000 broadcasts across 22 formats for ORF, including the Vienna Opera Ball. As a cabaret artist, his revues took him from Vienna's Theater Akzent to the Carnegie Hall in New York and the Friars Club in Los Angeles. He also directed the Stockerau Open Air Festival for 15 years.

Since taking over as Generalintendant in 2021, Haider has repositioned Mörbisch as a destination of international stature. The 2023 production of "Mamma Mia!" attracted over 180,000 visitors. In 2026, he himself performs the lead role of Zaza in "Ein Käfig voller Narren" – a bold artistic statement that exemplifies his approach.

The Seefestspiele Mörbisch is one of the world's largest operetta and musical festival, set on a natural floating stage on Lake Neusiedl in the UNESCO World Heritage Neusiedlersee landscape.

More information: www.seefestspiele-moerbisch.at/en E-Mail: tickets@seefestspiele.at

3. Daniel Serafin

Artistic Director, Oper im Steinbruch Sankt Margarethen

Europe's largest natural stage, set within a historic quarry

Daniel Serafin is an Austrian cultural manager who has led the Oper im Steinbruch Sankt Margarethen as Artistic Director since 2019. Born in Vienna, after graduating from the Vienna International School he studied at institutions including the Mozarteum in Salzburg, the Konservatorium Vienna and the Juilliard School in New York, where he completed his studies with a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Arts. He directed the Austrian Music Theatre Prize from 2013 to 2017, and in 2016 became Artistic Director of the Viennese Opera Ball New York – the oldest Austrian ball abroad. After leading the Cultural Marketing division of the Esterhazy Group, he took over the artistic direction of Oper im Steinbruch, steering it towards an ambitious programme that will present a production of Puccini's Tosca in 2026. Since 2017, he has also been President and Chairman of the Friends of Oper im Steinbruch.

Oper im Steinbruch takes place in a natural quarry in Burgenland – Europe's largest open-air stage, which, with around 80,000 visitors in 2025, can look back on an exceptionally successful season.

More information: www.operimsteinbruch.at/en E-Mail: t.puntigam@esterhazy.at

4. Gerold Haubner

Head of Promotion, Nova Rock Festival | Nickelsdorf, Burgenland

Nova Rock Festival 2026 | 11–14 June 2026, Pannonia Fields, Nickelsdorf

Gerold Haubner has been part of the Nova Rock story since the very beginning. As part of Barracuda Music – Austria's leading music promotion and events company, responsible for Nova Rock, FM4 Frequency, Clam Rock and Lovely Days – he has helped build one of Europe's most respected rock festival brands over two decades, bringing acts such as Metallica, Foo Fighters, Muse, Slipknot and Linkin Park to Austrian audiences year after year.

What makes Haubner an unusually well-rounded voice on the festival industry is his parallel life as an artist. Under the name Rokko Ramirez, he is a DJ and performer who has shared stages with Papa Roach, My Chemical Romance, Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson, and has toured China three times – including appearances at the Midi Modern Music Festival, China's largest rock event, where his distinctive stage presence earned him something approaching cult status. An Austrian newspaper once dubbed him the country's most important cultural export after the Mozartkugel. That combination of industry experience and firsthand knowledge of what it means to stand on a festival stage gives him a perspective on live music culture that is genuinely rare.

Nova Rock takes place each June at the Pannonia Fields in Nickelsdorf, Burgenland, close to the Hungarian and Slovak borders. It is one of the largest rock festivals in Europe, drawing tens of thousands of fans from across the continent. The 2026 headliners include The Offspring and The Cure.

More information: www.novarock.at/en | Barracuda Music: www.barracudamusic.at
E-Mail: office@barracudamusic.at

5. Susanne Tiefenbacher

CEO, Salzburger Marionettentheater

Susanne Tiefenbacher has led the Salzburger Marionettentheater since 2020. Born in Zell am See, she studied business and communication sciences in Salzburg before professional stints in Beijing, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Portugal. She brings over 30 years of experience in arts, culture and event management to the role, having previously served as Managing Director of the Salzburg Winterfest – one of the largest contemporary circus festivals in the German-speaking world.

The Salzburger Marionettentheater was recognised as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2016 for its exceptionally refined and lifelike style of marionette performance. Its repertoire spans Mozart operas, theatre, musicals and fairy tales, and all figures, costumes, props and stage sets are crafted entirely in-house by puppeteers who hold both artistic and traditional craft training. The theatre performs over 170 shows per year and has a long history of international touring, making it internationally renowned.

More information: <https://marionetten.at/en/> E-Mail: info@marionetten.at

6. Angela Glechner

Artistic & Managing Director, SZENE Salzburg & Sommerszene Festival

Sommerszene Salzburg 2026 | 8–23 June 2026

Angela Glechner is one of the most influential figures in Austria's contemporary performing arts landscape. Since 2012, she has served as Artistic and Managing Director of SZENE Salzburg, programming the internationally recognized Sommerszene festival – one of Austria's leading festivals for contemporary dance and theatre – as well as the year-round venue SZENE Salzburg.

Born in Upper Austria, Glechner studied journalism, communication science and history at the University of Vienna. Her career spans Europe's most important performing arts institutions: production manager for the Tanzquartier Wien (2000–2003) and at KunstenfestivaldesArts in Brussels, City of Vienna curator for off-theatre and dance (2007–2009), and curator of the International Sommerfestival Hamburg at Kampnagel (2008–2012). She also led the European network apap – advancing performing arts project. Under her artistic direction, the Sommerszene has developed into a platform for bold, boundary-crossing work connecting local and international artists. The 2026 edition (8–23 June) features 14 productions including five Austrian premieres, with works by Sasha Waltz, Jan Martens, Leila Ka, Marco da Silva Ferreira and Rosana Ribeiro, among others. In 2021, Glechner received the Großer Kunstpreis des Landes Salzburg – the state's highest cultural award in the performing arts.

More information: www.szene-salzburg.net/en E-Mail: info@szene-salzburg.net