



Österreichisches Museum
für Schwarze Unterhaltung
und Black Music

Vienna, 13 May 2022

Vienna is Getting a New Museum: The Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music (ÖMSUBM).

With its inauguration on May 14, 2022, the ÖMSUBM is set to become the foremost museum for Black culture and popular music in the German-speaking world.



Management team ÖMSUBM: Joana Tischkau, Frieder Blume, Dalia Ahmed, Anta Helena Recke, Elisabeth Hampe
Photos: Hannah Aders and Clemens Fantur

As new branch of the Belvedere, and in cooperation with Wiener Festwochen, the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music chronicles the lives of Black artists and entertainers who rose to prominence in what has been a predominantly white German-language entertainment industry. The ÖMSUBM documents the circumstances under which the careers of *Olive Moorefield*, *Arabella Kiesbauer*, *the Round Girls*, *Mola Adebisi*, *Jessye Norman*, *Billy Mo*, and *Roberto Blanco*, among others, have advanced between the 1940s and the early noughties when scheduled television was declining and YouTube was evolving.

An international management team led by *Dalia Ahmed*, *Joana Tischkau*, *Anta Helena Recke*, *Elisabeth Hampe*, and *Frieder Blume* is supporting the ÖMSUBM at the Belvedere. These curators, who established the German Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music in 2020, will stage: the exhibition pavilion of the former Belvedere 21 for its opening to the public on May 15. The grand opening, with free admission, will take place on May 14 at 6 pm.

The German Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music in cooperation with the Wiener Festwochen and the Belvedere.

Stella Rollig, the general director of the Belvedere, says: *The creation of a museum that celebrates Black entertainment and music has been long overdue in this country. Entrusting the Belvedere 21 site to the ÖMSUBM will give the museum a new mandate, one that will rewrite the history of Austrian popular culture.*

Christophe Slagmuylder, the artistic director of the Wiener Festwochen, explains: *The ÖMSUBM will fill in the gaps, reexamine history and correct some of its dominant narratives. The Wiener Festwochen and the ÖMSUBM share the desire to shape reality through art. I am looking forward to our productive and encouraging collaboration.*

According to the ÖMSUBM management team: *The ÖMSUBM focuses on the staging strategies of Black artists, the mechanisms of reception by a predominantly white audience, and the empowering strategies of subversion. Under what conditions did Black artists flourish in Austria? What relevance do their life stories have in today's world?*

Collection Presentation ÖMSUBM

Starting May 15, 2022, permanent exhibition



ÖMSUBM / Photo: Hannah Aders

The ÖMSUBM maintains a comprehensive and ever-expanding multimedia collection that includes records, magazines, autographs, and memorabilia, which will be displayed in a setting conducive to experiencing and discussing Black art and history. This exhibition testifies to the work of Black entertainers and musicians in the German-language entertainment industry between the 1940s and the early noughties. Openness and adaptability are key design principles for the collection. Donations, loans, and purchases from private individuals constitute the core of the archive, which, coupled with its curatorial mandate, establishes a new field of Austrian and German historiography and museum design.

Curators: Joana Tischkau, Dalia Ahmed, Anta Helena Recke, Elisabeth Hampe, Frieder Blume

Program of Events

Starting at 6 pm every Saturday, the Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music (ÖMSUBM) offers a different schedule of events for a wide range of programs that include performances, lectures, panels, and concerts. Black artists, activists, and media professionals currently living in Austria, such as *Arabella Kiesbauer*, *Claudia Unterweger*, *Tonica Hunter* and Kim Cooper, will interact with the museum's collection and establish the ÖMSUBM as a site of dynamic dialogue with the past.

Festive Opening and After-Party

Saturday, May 14, 6 pm to 1 am

Honorary patron: Dr. Mireille Ngosso, Member of the Vienna State Parliament and Municipal Council

Vienna is getting a new museum! The Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music invites you to its festive opening with a wide range of programs. An evening with speeches by *Dr. Mireille Ngosso* and *Vanessa Spanbauer* will be accompanied by a musical program by and with *Jon Sass*, and will offer the first opportunity to see the exhibition. An after-party will round off the festivities with rapper *T-Ser*, DJs *Tonica Hunter* and *Tmnit Ghide*, and special guest *Grace Marta Latigo*, aka *OGG* aka *OriginalGangsterGrace*, until 1 am. Following the after-party, all guests are cordially invited to attend the event „Marjira“ by *Sounds of Blackness* at the Volksgarten Pavillon.

Everyone Sings Their Own Way – Black Musicians in Austria

Saturday, May 21, 6 pm to 8:30 pm

Blickle Cinema

The Rounder Girls represented Austria at the 2000 Eurovision Song Contest with their song “All to You!” But who exactly are these three soul, jazz, and pop singers? A 1998 documentary, *The Rounder Girls* by Sabine Derflinger, features vocalists Kim Cooper, Lynne Kieran, and Tini Kainrath as well as band founder and keyboardist Gerri Schuller to tell the story of the band's everyday life before their big breakthrough. *The Rounder Girls* will be followed by a sneak preview of the upcoming documentary *Austroschwarz* by Viennese musician Mwita Mataro. *Austroschwarz* tells the story of the current Austrian music scene and its Black protagonists. Following the screening, musicians *Kim Cooper*, *Mwita Mataro*, and *Fred Owusu* will join a panel discussion moderated by *Vanessa Spanbauer* to discuss their experiences and observations and address the music scene in this country yesterday, today (and in the future).

Wurlitzer. Reading and Listening to Austrian Black Stories

A literary and musical request concert with optional dance floor

Saturday, May 28, 6 pm to 8:30 pm

The *Wurlitzer* music program, named after the German-American jukebox manufacturer Joseph Wurlitzer, aired on ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) between 1987 and 1995. Known originally as the red-white-red request program, viewers could request music either by phone or by fax and send greetings to Austrian television viewers. The Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music is reviving this quaint Austrian tradition by presenting its own Black Request Concert. Contemporary Austrian artists and media professionals are invited to read and perform their favorite stories and songs from the archive of the ÖMSUBM. Following the reading and listening session, guests and audience members will be invited to play recordings of their Black treasures (records, cassettes, CDs).

Wikipedia's Edit-A-Thon. What Path Leads to History

Saturday, June 4, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

The online encyclopedia Wikipedia, compiled by volunteer authors, is not as egalitarian as it might seem. In addition to the imbalance in the representation of FLINTA* (women, lesbians, inter, non-binary, trans, and agender persons) on the platform, there is a notable absence of certain articles on Black historical and contemporary public figures. This imbalance must be corrected! *Dalia Ahmed* and *Tonica Hunter* invite you to an edit-a-thon at the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music. During this lab session, participants will compile a list of various Black protagonists from Austria's (entertainment) history on Wikipedia and challenge any racist wording in existing articles. Together, the group will research the biographies of musicians, artists, and writers and reclaim them for the online encyclopedia as part of a large-scale public edit-a-thon event with the visitors!

Edit-a-thon content will be researched and developed as part of the Wiener Festwochen MITTEN Lab framework. Register and learn more at www.belvedere.at/programm.

My Austrian Heart. An Evening for Arabella Kiesbauer

Saturday, June 11, 6 pm to 7:30 pm

During the ten years that Arabella Kiesbauer hosted her talk show, millions of people tuned in daily as she stirred emotions, broke taboos, and, most importantly, spread her trademark good humor. She was the talk show queen of German-language television. A prominent figure still today, she continues to host popular shows such as *Starmania* and plays an active role in politics. In this evening dedicated to her at the ÖMSUBM, she speaks with FM4-journalist *Claudia Unterweger* and reflects on her career, from her days as the host of the [ORF](#) youth program *X-Large* to the present. Furthermore, those who were „Arabellized“ as television consumers at a young age will also speak out, paying tribute to Kiesbauer's influence on their own lives and careers. Her impact on the German-language entertainment industry is unparalleled. An evening with and in honor of *Arabella Kiesbauer*.

Saturday events can only be attended with a free event ticket and valid admission ticket.

Overview Tours: Black Entertainment and Black Music

Sundays, May 15, 22, 29, and June 5, each at 4:30 pm

At ÖMSUBM, the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music, *Arabella Kiesbauer*, *The Rounder Girls*, *Roberto Blanco*, *Tic Tac Toe*, *Milli Vanilli*, and *Billy Mo* are just a few of the pioneers whose stories are told through memorabilia such as records, magazines, photos, and films.

Artist mirabella paidamwoyo*dziruni will guide you through the collection, which pays tribute to the biographies and artistic works of Black entertainers and musicians in the German-language entertainment industry from the 1940s to the early noughties.

€5 (plus admission) / Duration: 1 hour

Free of charge for friends of the Belvedere and annual ticket holders.

Limited number of participants / tickets at www.belvedere.at/programm

Management and Curatorial Leadership of the ÖMSUBM

Joana Tischkau works as a freelance artist, choreographer, and curator. She completed her bachelor's degree in dance and acting at the School for Performing Arts at Coventry University in England. During her master's degree program at the Institute for Applied Theater Studies in Giessen, she cultivated an artistic practice that integrates the discursive fields of racism, feminism, popular culture, and Black German identity and negotiates them beyond a didactic framework. Her works *Playblack* and *Being Pink Ain't Easy* have toured throughout Europe and were featured at Tanzplattform Deutschland, among other venues. In 2021 she received the Hessian studio scholarship (hap) and the inaugural Otilie-Röderstein scholarship from the Ministry of Science and Art in Hesse, awarded by the Hessian Minister of State Angela Dorn. In the winter season 21/22, she staged the city theater production *Karneval* at the Stadttheater Oberhausen. She is co-founder, co-director, and curator of the German as well as the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music.

Dalia Ahmed is a curator, music journalist, radio host, and DJ. She has been with Radio FM4 since 2015. „Dalia's Late-Night Lemonade“ – her show since 2017 – features her favorite tunes from the Austrian and international pop scene. Her work as a freelance journalist appears in magazines such as *The Gap*, *Missy Magazine*, and *an.schläge*. Dalia Ahmed curated the lineup for Vienna's Electric Spring music festival in 2019 and co-curated the music program for Civa's Media Art Festival in 2020. She will co-curate Popfest Wien in 2022. As of this year, she is also co-director and curator for the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music.

Anta Helena Recke works as a conceptual artist, curator, dramaturge, director, and author of discursive as well as fictional texts. She studied directing at the University of Hildesheim and was an assistant director at the Münchner Kammerspiele from 2015–2017. In the journal *Theater heute's* critics poll, she was chosen as young artist of the year for 2018. In 2019, she received the International Theater Institute Award and participated in the Vila Sul residency program at the Goethe Institute in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. Her productions of *Mittelreich* and *Die Kränkungen der Menschheit*, which address colonial amnesia and whiteness in Germany among many other aspects, were invited to the Berliner Theatertreffen and radikal jung festivals in both 2018 and 2020. In 2021 she participated in the group exhibition *Behind the Screen* at Galerie Edition Klosterfelde. Since 2020 she has been a co-director of the German Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music and, in 2022, co-founder of the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music.

Elisabeth Hampe is an artist, curator, playwright, and performer. She graduated from the Institute for Applied Theater Studies in 2016. Her theoretical work and practice focuses on current aesthetics and traditional norms, including how black music and cultural productions are perceived. As a dramatist, she has worked closely with Joana Tischkau for several years, including on *Playblack* and *Being Pink Ain't Easy*. In Caroline Creutzburg's video installation *wabe]lost*, from 2019, she explores her GDR-influenced biography and personal surroundings. Together with Tischkau, Recke, and Blume, she founded and curated the German Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music in 2020. Since 2022 she has also served as co-director of the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music.

Frieder Blume is a musicologist, curator, composer, and producer. In his studies of musicology and gender studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, he explored the relationship between music and social identity constructions. As co-founder of the Σ collective, he released several EPs and an album under its synonym. As a sound designer, he collaborated with Joana Tischkau on the productions *Being Pink Ain't Easy* (2019), *Colonastics* (2020), and *Karneval* (2022). He served as sound designer and composer in 2021 for Anta Helena Recke's production of *1000 Serpentinaen Angst* at the Maxim Gorki Theater. He composed the score for Maren Blume's chapter film *The Book of S of I* in 2020. Since 2020 he has been co-director and curator of the German Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music and, since 2022, of the Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music.

Other collaborators:

Exhibition design: Jonas Maria Droste, Simon Stanislawski (und.studio)

Visual appearance & exhibition graphics: Anke Sondi (3-D animation), Yessica Deira (assistance), Justus Gelberg (art direction)

Website: Judith Brook Morejón (coding), Justus Gelberg (design), Manus Nijhoff (coding assistance)

Education & social media: mirabella paidamwoyo* dziruni

Research & artistic assistance: Tmnit Ghide, Simon Schultz, Laura-Marie Pressmer, Tabea Marschall

Audio guide: Tmnit Ghide

Management & administration: Tischkau & Hampe GbR, Lisa Gehring

For more information and dates please visit <https://omsubm.at>.

Tickets can be purchased at the Belvedere/ÖMSUBM ticket offices and online at www.belvedere.at/programm.

Please download the press release and high-resolution press photos at www.belvedere.at/en/press.

Venue

Austrian Museum for Black Entertainment and Black Music (ÖMSUBM)

Schweizergarten, Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna

Opening hours

Tue to Sun, 11 am to 6 pm

Thu, 11 am to 9 pm

(open Mondays on public holidays)

Price: Euro 10.50 (ticket available on-site)

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Further inquiries

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