

The Midwest Clinic - 2002
An International Band and Orchestra Clinic

**MID EUROPE
MUSIC FESTIVAL
Schladming-Austria
proudly presents**

**Is European Music
Practical for American Bands?
YES!**

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Ladies and gentlemen. That is our AUSTRIAN/European music you all know – a march. This music has a great tradition in our country. The New Year's Concert performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra is known the world over and at the end of this unique event there is always this march and our secret National Anthem – Johann Strauß's Waltz "The Blue Danube"!

A very warm welcome to our clinic. My name is Johann Moesenbichler. I lecture at the Anton Bruckner-Conservatory in Linz Austria and I am the president of Mid Europe-Conference and of WASBE-Division Austria.

In the next 50 minutes I would like to give you a brief insight of European Music. I hope, that all my information will convince that European Music is Practical for American Bands, too. But to start with, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to Mid West Clinic and its President Dr. Ray Cramer, Dr. David McCormic and to Kelly Jocius and the entire famous team. To have friends here in USA, especially in Chicago is a great honour for me.

Austria is a very small country of around eighty-four thousand square kilometres (it's around the size of the lake Michigan) and about eight million inhabitants. It is divided into nine federal states. Spread all over Austria there are roughly two thousand two hundred wind-bands, all over Europe about 55.000 bands.

What is the difference between Europe and USA? Most Bands in the States are a part of Schools. In Europe most bands are Community-Bands and we only have a few "school-bands". Other differences are the organisational structure, the systems and the method of "how to learn music".

The civilian Wind Music after the Second World War didn't take any notice of Paul Hindemith's idea about the quality in Wind Music. At that time all the bands were very small and its repertoire was based on folk music. for example: waltzes, marches and polkas.

During the last 35 Years, the European Wind Band Associations has began to reorganize the structures and the publishing companies published "new music". This was the beginning of the "new start".

The European Bands are legally protected organisations. There are therefore officers elected by the musicians (chairman, treasurer, secretary) and those appointed by the Executive Committee (bandmaster, drum-major). The officers work without being payed, although it is becoming more and more common to pay bandmasters retainers to cover their expenses and time. A European Community band will perform at numerous events in their local areas:

- Concerts
- Church occasions
- Local festivities
- Festivals
- Entertainment evenings
- Contests

A fundamental feature of the bands is their "youth work". Because for the last twenty-five years there has been a very well-functioning State Music Scholl system, over the last decade there has been a continual rise in the number and quality of pupils learning wind-instruments. All the bands which have a dedicated Youth Adviser and whose bandmaster knows how to motivate the youngsters with and through music have no problems keeping up their numbers. My band, the Community Band of Haag has currently sixty-five members and forty young learners of both sexes.

In that time young composers started to work and a new area was born in Europe!

Here I would like to present you a list of European and Austrian Composers: (which is by no means complete)

Well Known European / Austrian Composers:

Franco Cesarini
Thomas Doss
Jan de Haan
Jacob de Haan
Johan de Meij
Jan Van der Roost
Otto M. Schwarz
Philip Sparke
Pavel Stanek
Kees Vlak
André Waignain
Franz Watz

Unknown, but interesting European Composers / Arrangers:

Gerold Amann
Bojan Adamic
Florian Bramböck
Klaus-Peter Bruchmann
Werner Brüggemann
Herbert Bürstinger
Franz Cibulka
Erland M. Freudenthaler
Johann Hausl
Michael Hazod
Stephan Kuehne
Klaus Kuttler
Alfred Lauss
Herbert Marinkovits
Fritz Neuboek jun.
Hermann Regner
Peter Schneeberger
Manfred Sternberger
Armin Suppan
Gottfried Veit
Gunter Waldek
Wolfgang Weissengruber
Peter WesenAuer
Alois Wimmer
Albin Zaininger
Norbert Zehm