

## **AUSTRIA: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL TRADITIONS**

Austria is a country in the center of Europe, known for its rich cultural heritage and high level of education. Austrian culture is rich and diverse, finding expression in music, theatre, literature, architecture, and folklore.

One of Austria's major contributions to world culture is its musical heritage. Austrian composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert, and many others, have created many masterpieces of classical music. In addition, Vienna is considered the capital of the waltz, which has become an important part of the country's cultural life [1].

The Vienna State Opera is famous as one of the first opera houses in the world. Every day the audience can enjoy a wide range of opera and ballet performances. The Vienna State Ballet shows about 50 performances in each season. The diversity of the program of the Vienna State Opera is strikingly unique worldwide (fig. 1) [2].



Fig. 1. Vienna State Opera [2]

Prominent Austrian writers and philosophers such as Franz Kafka, Arthur Schnitzler and Ludwig Wittgenstein have made a significant contribution to world literature and philosophy. Their works reflect the richness of thoughts and ideas that exist in Austrian culture.

The architecture of Austria shows influences originating in Italy, combined with a distinctly French influence. The most outstanding monuments of Baroque architecture at the intersection of the 17th and 18th centuries were created in Vienna by the architects Johann Fischer and Lucas Hildebrandt. These two masters made a significant contribution to the architectural image of Vienna in the early eighteenth century. Johann Fischer von Erlach (1656-1723) and Lucas von Hildebrandt (1668-1723) were both educated in Italy by Carlo Fontana. Hildebrandt built the Belvedere Gardens for Prince Eugene and the Schwarzenberg Palace. Fischer von Erlach is known for his works, including the Church of San Carlo Borromeo and the Imperial Library [3].

Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) was a famous Austrian artist who is the founder of Art Nouveau in Austrian painting. The female body was the main subject of his paintings. Many of his works are characterized by frank eroticism (fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Gustav Klimt «The Kiss» 1907–08 [4]

Austria's folklore heritage includes a wealth of folk songs, dances, costumes and rituals. Traditional holidays such as Christmas and Easter are

accompanied by music, dance and festivities. On the night of April 30, a celebration known as Walpurgischer Night takes place in Austria. At this time, people dress up in costumes, set up bonfires, and party until the morning. The Austrian period before Christmas is marked by special traditions known as Advent. Every Sunday during this time, a candle is lit on the Advent wreath. In addition, Christmas markets are popular, where you can buy a variety of gifts and delicacies. Butter Lady, also known as Fasching, is a holiday before Lent marked by carnival celebrations. People dress in costumes, hold parades and masquerades, dance and celebrate.

The Austrian education system is known for its high quality and accessibility. Universities and higher education institutions in Austria offer a variety of study programs in various fields, including humanities, natural sciences, engineering and the arts. They are known for their high-quality education and create a stimulating environment for students [5].

The official language of Austria is German, but many higher education institutions offer study programs in English for international students. This promotes internationalization and international cooperation in the field of education.

Austrian universities and research institutions are known for their research achievements and academic traditions. They create favorable conditions for the development of scientific activities and cooperation with international partners.

It can be said that Austria's cultural and educational traditions reflect the richness and diversity of the country's cultural heritage, as well as the high level of education and scientific achievements. These traditions ensure sustainable support and development of the country's cultural and educational potential in the global context.

## REFERENCES

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