

AUSTRIA CULTUREGUIDE

This unit is published by the Intercultural Outreach Program of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University as part of an effort to foster open cultural exchange within the educational community and to promote increased global understanding by providing meaningful cultural education tools.

Curriculum Development

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WHY STUDY CULTURES?

Por most of us, cultures are misunderstood; they are nebulous, vague, and hidden. Like the famous iceberg analogy, we know that most of what a culture is cannot be seen. But what does that mean? And why, then, should we study cultures if we do not know what we're studying in the first place?

In the late twentieth century, Brigham Young University did not embrace a new discipline, but rather a new area of study—the study of cultures. Typically, anthropology is the social science that studies cultures. Why should they have all the fun? The study of cultures unites other academic disciplines (as needed), drawing upon literature, political science, sociology, and even the more applied areas of nursing, social work, law, and business. The study of cultures has grown into nothing short of a revolt against disciplines, "a mode of inquiry" that looks at things in new ways.¹

In 1982, the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies established Intercultural Outreach² as a formal program to help build bridges of intercultural understanding. Since then, more than 10,000 gratis cultural presentations have been given to local area public schools, taking students to new places using language, multimedia, and imagination. *CultureGuides* derive from the same expertise that has been honed in classrooms—with the exciting exception that these intercultural learning tools are not geographically bound. Thanks to the Internet, accessible multimedia technology, and our trusty eMACs, a limitless audience can learn about different cultures.

Globalization, the driving paradigm of the post-Cold War world, means that now, more than ever, culture matters. Culture is the invisible context that may keep us from understanding important people, places, and ideas; it exists whether or not we think about it. Intercultural education can help us, not only as an intellectual exercise, but also in very practical ways to combat racism, to expand business, and to communicate effectively.

CultureGuides share the same aim as Edward T. Hall, the eminent cultural scholar, to try to "make culture real." Even though our "student guides" are not present in every classroom, we hope that *CultureGuides* will make classrooms of the mind and cultural laboratories wherever you may reside.

¹ Ziauddin Sardar and Borin Van Loon. *Introducing Cultural Studies*, Totem Books, New York: 1998.

²The program was originally called International Outreach when it was established in 1982, but it was renamed Intercultural Outreach in 2006 to better reflect its aims.

³ *The Edge: The E-Journal of Intercultural Relations*, Summer 1998, Vol. 1(3) Posted 10/11/98, http://interculturalrelations.com/v1i3Summer1998/sum98sorrellshall.htm.

TRADITIONS

AUSTRIAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Austrian Christmas markets, or *Weihnachtsmärkte* [vy-nakhts-merkt-eh] (singular: Weihnachtsmarkt), are outdoor markets that are set up near churches or other important city buildings about a month before Christmas Day. Although the Weihnachtsmärkte are places where Austrians can buy Christmas gifts and decorations, they are also places where Austrians can enjoy the festivity of the Christmas holidays and socialize with friends and family. These markets are important to Austrian culture because they allow Austrians to celebrate the Christmas season while spending time with the most important people in their lives.



Starting Points

- 1. Do you and your family celebrate Christmas? What do you do to prepare for it? Many Austrians prepare for Christmas every year by visiting a Weihnachtsmarkt, or a Christmas market. Weihnachtsmärkte help the Austrian people get into the Christmas spirit and give families a place where they can enjoy the holiday season together.
- 2. Think of an important building in your town. Is it ever decorated for Christmas? How? Where do you usually shop for gifts? Important buildings in Austria are decorated at Christmastime, and booths that sell Christmas gifts and ornaments are often set up in front of them.
- 3. Look at a photo of an Austrian Christmas market (see Traditions Visual 1). Is there anything unusual about it? Are there similar holiday decorations in the United States? Christmas markets are a part of Austrian tradition and are set up every year at Christmastime. They allow people to enjoy the Christmas spirit while shopping for presents and eating Christmas foods with friends and family members.



Information

Weihnachtsmärkte

For many people in the United States, Christmas is one of the most exciting and festive times of the year. Austrians love to celebrate the Christmas season as well. One of the most notable Christmas traditions in Austria is the tradition of Christmas markets, known as Weihnachtsmärkte, which are open throughout the Christmas season. Weihnachtsmärkte have existed for hundreds of years in Austria.

Most of the time, Weihnachtsmärkte are set up in front of prominent buildings in the city. In Vienna, there are often five to seven large markets scattered throughout the city. One of the most popular markets in the city of Vienna is located in front of the *Rathaus* [rot-house], or town hall (**see Traditions Visual 1**). The market in front of the Rathaus is often called the *Christkindlmarkt* [krist-kindel-markt] (children's Christmas market) because there are usually special activities for children. Another historic Viennese Christmas market is set up in front of the palace at *Schönbrunn* [Shooen-broon] (**see Traditions Visual 2**). The palace is a charming background for Christmas activities such as looking at gifts and eating food.

What do the markets look like?

Weihnachtsmärkte are a huge mesh of Christmas lights, booths, and assorted decorations. The streets are often lined with booths of all kinds that are decorated with lights and garlands (see Traditions Visual 3). At the Christkindlmarkt, the Rathaus itself is brightly lit up, and the trees surrounding the park in front of the Rathaus are decorated with strings of large, glowing plastic balls of various colors and shapes. In almost every Weinachtsmarkt, there is a large Christmas tree near the center of the marketplace (see Traditions Visual 4).

At the Rathaus Weihnachtsmarkt, a huge advent calendar is made using the windows of the Rathaus (see Traditions Visual 5). Each window is given a number representing one of the days in December before Christmas. As that day passes, the number in the window is replaced with a transparent painting that is lit up.

What is sold at Weihnachtsmärkte?

Weihnachtsmärkte are filled with booths selling Christmas ornaments, foods, decorations, candles, and many other Christmas goods. Food and drink are some of the most popular items at Weihnachtsmärkte.

There are many booths that sell only food, especially pastries and desserts (see Traditions Visual 6). There are literally hundreds of different pastries that are sold at Austrian Weihnachtsmärkte, including breads, doughnuts, strudels, and cakes. In addition to pastries and desserts, *bratwurst* [brot-voorst], a kind of sausage, is sold at Weihnachtsmärkte. Bratwurst usually comes fried, seasoned with a spice such as curry, and wrapped in some type of bread.

Roasted nuts are another popular food found at these markets. Generally these nuts—chestnuts are the most popular type, although several other kinds are available—are roasted on top of barrels heated by small fires. Potatoes are often cut up into small pieces and roasted on top of the barrels as well.

There is one other popular food sold at Christmas markets, and this food is actually a drink called *punsch* [poonsch]. This drink is a mix between hot cider and fruit punch sold hot and usually containing alcohol. Often, the booths selling punsch are large and very busy because the drink is very popular. The booths sell the drink in porcelain mugs, which are purchased with the punsch. When the mug is returned, the money paid for the mug is also returned. There is also a nonalcoholic variety of punsch for children that is known as *kinderpunsch* [kind-er-poonsch].

Food and drink are not the only items that can be purchased at Weihnachtsmärkte; there are also many gifts—Christmas markets are one way that craftsmen have been able to continue selling handmade items in Austria. An example of a handmade gift

is a straw ornament in the shape of a star. Wooden nativity scenes are also very popular. Other items that can be purchased at the markets include wallets, candles, mittens, hats, and jewelry. Wreaths and other Christmas decorations are also popular (see Traditions Visual 7). The wreaths are usually made out of pine branches and decorated with berries or candles.

What can you do at a Weihnachtsmärkte?

Participants at a Weihnachtsmarkt do much more than just buy food and gifts. The simple act of going to a market, looking at the booths and shops, and interacting with the other shoppers is a social event.

At the Rathaus Christkindlmarkt, there are activities for children both inside and outside the town hall. Inside the Rathaus, people of all ages can participate in various crafts for a small fee. They can roll out dough for sugar cookies, cut it into shapes, bake the cookies, and then decorate them (see Traditions Visual 8). They can also decorate wooden notebooks. Participants draw a simple design and then burn the design into the wooden cover of a notebook (see Traditions Visual 9).

Outside the Rathaus Weihnachtsmarkt there are many decorations and festive exhibits. There is often a train for children to ride that runs around the perimeter and through the middle of the Weihnachtsmarkt. A house is set up where children can play with Christmas toys.

Weihnachtsmärkte and Austrian Culture

Weihnachtsmärkte are important to Austrian culture for many reasons. First of all, Austria has historically been a country with deep ties to the Roman Catholic religion. Because of their ties to this religion, they place a strong emphasis on Christmas. Another reason the markets are important to Austrians is that the markets are a way for Austrians to enjoy tradition and celebrate Austria's heritage. Austrians are proud of their traditions, including their Weihnachtsmärkte. The markets have continued the tradition of allowing only small traders to sell goods in the markets. This allows Austrian craftsmen to continue selling high-quality handmade goods, something Austrians are proud of as well.

One more reason the Weihnachtsmärkte are important to Austrians is that they give people a chance to spend time together. Family and friends are very important to Austrians, and spending time celebrating Christmas amid festive decorations while eating delicious food is fun for everyone. Typically, most people visit Weihnachtsmärkte in the evening, and the combination of bright lights, crowds of people, and appetizing foods makes the atmosphere very cheerful.



Activities

- 1. Draw a picture of what you think a Weihnachtsmarkt would look like if it were set up in the United States. How would you want it to look if you were to set it up?
- 2. As a class, make an advent calendar to use during the Christmas season. The calendar could contain candies or ornaments to decorate a Christmas tree or the classroom.
- 3. Make (or draw) a Christmas ornament that might be sold at a Weihnachtsmarkt. This could be a small wreath, a candle, or an object made out of wood or straw.
- 4. As a class, make up a story about a family that goes to a Weihnachtsmarkte, and describe what the family sees and what they do while they are at the market.
- 5. Do the word search (see Traditions Visual 10), then discuss the words in the word search. Think about what part each word plays in a Weihnachtsmarkt.



Discussion Questions

- 1. What Christmas traditions do you and your family have? How do they reflect how you feel about your family or what is important to your family?
- 2. Do you think having Weihnachtsmärkte would be a good tradition to start in the United States? Why or why not?
- 3. If you visited a Weihnachtsmarkt, what do you think you would like about it? What would you dislike about it?
- 4. What is something that you do at Christmastime that shows that family and friends are important to you?
- 5. If you had the chance to have your own booth at an Austrian Christmas market, what would you sell? Why?
- 6. Where would be the best place for a Weihnachtsmarkt in your city? Why?

FOLKLORE & LANGUAGE

St. Stephen's Cathedral

St. Stephen's Cathedral is in the heart of Vienna. It is the historical and contemporary center of religion and culture, yet only one of the St. Stephen's towers stands completed. The legend of Hans Puchsbaum explains the partial construction of the north tower and reveals the traditional significance of religion in Austria.



Starting Points

- 1. Listen to a story of an American folklore or myth such as *Blackbeard's Ghost*, *The Headless Horseman*, or *Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby* (see Additional Resources). How do myths originate? How do you think the story you listened to came about? What does this story tell us about American culture? Austrians have their own set of folklore and myths, which tell us things about Austrian culture. One of the most well-known legends in Austria is the legend of Stephansdom.
- 2. Think of the biggest building you have ever seen. What do you know about this building? Why was it built? Are there any stories or folktales relating to the construction of this building? In Vienna, there is an important building that has a folktale relating to its construction.
- 3. Create a list of myths, legends, and stories on the board (e.g., the legend of Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster). Austria has many unique legends as well, one of which is the legend of Stephansdom.



Information

Folklore enriches a country's history and ties its society together. Austria is no exception, and its history is full of many rich, exciting legends that reveal the common practices and beliefs of the past and help connect that past with the present and future. Since these stories are familiar to most Austrians, they help Austrians feel connected to each other.

Stephansdom [shte-fawns-dome], or St. Stephen's Cathedral, sits in the center of downtown Vienna and represents the heart of daily life and religion for the Viennese. Interestingly enough, this glorious cathedral only supports one completed tower, the south tower (see Folklore & Language Visuals 1–3). The following legend explains why the north tower was never completed and helps explain the roots of a building that is as important to daily life today as when it was built.

The Legend of St. Stephen's Cathedral

Once upon a time in the heart of Vienna, the venerable cathedral of St. Stephen's was being reconstructed. The original church had existed for centuries and was being expanded and given a pair of beautiful towers. Master Builder Hans von Prachatitz had

been personally overseeing the construction of the south tower for many years. Upon completion, the tower was to be 137 meters (450 ft) tall—about the height of a modern forty-five-story building.

Although Von Prachatitz loved his tower and was very involved in building it, he loved his beautiful daughter, Maria, even more. The old man knew that one of his workers, Hans Puchsbaum, loved Maria too. Von Prachatitz was wealthy and influential and did not want his daughter to marry a poor mason. Despite the old man's pleading, the girl loved Hans. Stuck in this situation, Von Prachatitz made a deal with Puchsbaum: "If you can finish building the north tower before I finish building the south tower, my Maria will be yours!"

Hans accepted the challenge and began to work. He worked harder than he had ever worked in his life, but despite all his efforts, the walls of the north tower hardly seemed any taller while the south tower stretched far into the sky. Frustrated, Hans threw down his tools and cried, "This is impossible! Not even the devil himself could finish this tower in time!"

Suddenly, a well-dressed gentleman standing nearby murmured smoothly, "For a certain price, nothing is impossible, Hans." The poor mason trembled because he knew that Satan had heard his rash words and now stood before him. "I'll finish your tower," the devil continued. "However, until it is finished, you must not speak the name of God or the name of any saint."

"What if I do?" Hans asked.

The devil grinned. "Then your soul will belong to me," he answered.

Poor Hans hesitated. He wondered if he should trust the devil, especially in the construction of this church? But Hans knew that there was no other way he could ever finish the tower and marry Maria, so he agreed to the terms.

The weeks flew by and the tower grew higher and higher. The people all agreed that Hans Puchsbaum's speedy work seemed like a miracle. Hans worked hard and always took care to never speak a holy name. The devil, seeing this, figured out a way to make Hans break his pact and lose his soul.

One day, as Hans worked on top of the high scaffolding, the devil put on a woman's shawl and disguised himself as Hans' love, Maria. High above the marketplace, Hans glanced down and saw a familiar figure slowly walk across the square. Hans' heart leaped. Joyfully, he waved and shouted, "Maria!" With that fateful word, the girders under Hans's feet groaned and cracked, and poor Hans fell to his death.

Today, the north tower remains much shorter than the lofty south tower because no one is brave enough to finish the tower built with the help of the devil.

Catholicism in Austria

Legends play an enormous role in culture and help to show what is significant to a people throughout history. In reading the legend of Hans Puchsbaum, we can recognize that religion—especially the Roman Catholic Church—has been important to Austrians. Historically, the majority of Austrians attended Mass and were Catholic. In Hans Puchsbaum's day, most people could not understand Latin or many

of the religious ceremonies, but they understood the basics: do your best to serve God, fear him, and fear the devil even more. These beliefs are evident in the story of Puchsbaum, who embodies the weak mortal. He gives in to worldly desires, sacrifices his moral standards, and ultimately loses his soul even in the pursuit of something good. This legend also teaches that the devil cannot be trusted because he lures the faithful Christian servant into his schemes and then enjoys the Christian's inevitable demise and misery.

The role of the Roman Catholic Church in Austria today has diminished because many individuals no longer find it necessary to depend on the Church. Since the Middle Ages the economic standing, education, and general world philosophy of Austrians has changed. Although the majority of Austrian citizens still consider themselves Roman Catholic, many do not attend Mass every week. Still, religion plays a role, if only a small one, in the majority of Austrian lives. All Roman Catholic citizens are required to pay a *Kirchensteuer* [keer-khe-stoy-er], or church tax, to the Roman Catholic Church; all Protestant citizens must pay a tax to their church as well. However, many members of other faiths, such as Muslims or Jews, are not required by civil law to pay church taxes. In fact, many people exempt themselves from church taxes by revoking their church membership.

Despite this movement towards agnosticism, a large percentage of the population, including many who are not Roman Catholic, traditionally attend Mass on Christmas Eve and Easter. The Christmas Midnight Mass is a popular tradition where families and friends make their way to the cathedral for a special mass beginning at midnight on Christmas Eve. Traditionally, this is also the only time throughout the entire year the congregation sings the well known song "Silent Night."

In the past, religion played a major role in Austrian society, as evidenced by the hundreds of churches scattered throughout the Austrian countryside (see Folklore & Language Visuals 4–9). Today, despite the decline in the importance of organized religion, one can usually find individuals praying within any of these churches at any time of the day, even at St. Stephen's in the heart of Vienna.



Activities

- 1. Make up a play about the legend of St. Stephen's Cathedral and act it out for the class.
- 2. Create a news program. A couple of students can be newscasters while others can be witnesses of the accident at Stephansdom. Have one student be Maria and another, her father. Have the newscasters interview the witnesses to get the story.
- 3. Choose an important building and create a myth about it. Be sure the myth explains some aspect of the building's appearance.
- 4. Complete the crossword puzzle (see Folklore Visual 10).
- 5. Think of a legend you know, and do some research to find out how much of it is true. Share your findings with the class.



Discussion Questions

- 1. What role did myths, legends, stories, and folklore play in society historically? How has that role changed today?
- 2. How do myths, legends, and stories, like the legend of St. Stephen's Cathedral, influence Austrian lives as well as the lives of people in other countries?
- 3. How do legends and myths originate? Why do people create such stories?
- 4. What reasoning helped form the story of Hans Puchsbaum? Discuss what it reveals about Austria's past and what the legend tries to explain.
- 5. What was the role of religion in Austria in the past? How has that role changed in modern times? How has the role of religion in the United States changed throughout history?
- 6. What are some of the buildings in the United States that are as important to Americans as Stephansdom is to Austrians? What makes these buildings so important?

Food

KAISERSCHMARRN

Austria is well known for its delicious meals and foods: tortes, pastries, breads, and chocolates. For instance, *Kaiserschmarrn* [ki-ser-sh-mon] is a traditional Austrian food, usually a dessert, known to all Austrian chefs—from the family kitchen cook to the exquisite restaurant chef. The legend of the dish's creation provides an understanding of traditional Austrian society and the lifestyle of the monarchs.



Starting Points

- 1. Look at pictures of different treats from the United States and other countries (i.e., doughnuts, shortbread, cherry danish, milkshakes, candy bars, trifle, tarts, nougat, bonbons, truffles, etc.). Be sure to include an example of Kaiserschmarrn. Guess what country each sweet originated in. Kaiserschmarrn originated in Austria and is one of many Austrians' favorite treats.
- 2. On an overhead projector, look at various pictures of American food, then pictures of traditional Austrian dishes, such as *Schnitzel* [shnit-zell], *Goulasch* [goo-lahsh], or *Frankfurter Wurst* [frank-furt-er vurst]. Then look at a picture of Kaiserschmarrn (see Food Visual 1). As you see each picture on the overhead projector, guess what it is. These foods are Austrian favorites—especially Kaiserschmarrn. Although they originated long ago, people still enjoy eating them.
- 3. Can you think of any legends that explain how recipes were invented or why we eat certain foods in the United States? Compile a list of ideas on the board. One of the most common treats in Austria, Kaiserschmarrn, has a legend that explains how the recipe was invented.



Information

Kaiserschmarrn, directly translated as "the emperor's pancake," is a delicious traditional food served all over Austria. Looking like an oversized pancake ripped into many pieces, Kaiserschmarrn also includes raisins, cinnamon, sugar, spices, and even a little liquor for the adults. It is traditionally served with a fresh spoonful of plum marmalade and is sprinkled with powdered sugar.

Kaiserschmarrn Legend

Behind many traditional meals throughout the world is a time-honored legend; Kaiserschmarrn is no different. Centuries ago, a new cook was hired for the emperor of Austria. For the cook's first meal, he wanted to make the emperor's favorite dish, which was similar to a large, thick pancake, almost as big as the frying pan itself. The cook was eager and excited to please the emperor, but while he was cooking, something went terribly wrong. As he went to flip the cake for the final time, the pancake

ripped in two. The emperor was known to have a quick temper and the cook worried that the unsatisfactory meal would be the cause of his death. He quickly decided to try something new. The cook tore the huge pancake into pieces. He added raisins, the emperor's favorite, and liquor, along with different spices and other ingredients. He served his new creation with plum marmalade. To his delight, the emperor loved it! He loved it so much he wanted the cook to make it again and again. Soon the story spread throughout the land and people across the country began making Kaiserschmarrn, the emperor's favorite.

Kaiserschmarrn Recipe

You will need:

Preparation

- 1. Separate egg yolks from whites.
- 2. Combine milk, salt, egg yolks, and flour in a medium bowl. Stir until smooth.
- 3. Beat egg whites in a separate bowl until the whites are stiff. Fold in sugar gradually.
- 4. Fold egg-white mixture into the batter.
- 5. Heat butter in a large frying pan. Pour batter into pan and sprinkle with raisins.
- 6. Cover the pan with a lid and cook for approximately three minutes over medium-low heat until bottom is light brown (be careful not to burn it!).
- 7. Carefully turn over the omelete and cook the second side until brown.
- 8. Tear the omelete with two forks into little pieces and divide into serving bowls. Sprinkle generously with powdered sugar.
- 9. Serve immediately with warm fruit marmalade (raspberry or blackberry pie filling can also be used).

Yield: about 6 servings

The Monarchy and Food

The Austrian monarchy lived a life of luxury and refinement in enormous palaces like Schönbrunn and *Hofburg* [hoaf-burg], and they had everything they desired at their fingertips (see Food Visuals 2 and 3). The dining table at the summer residence, Schönbrunn, stretched along the entire hall (fitting at least 100 people) and was decorated with the finest fashions, silvers, fruits, and delicacies. Despite the selection, not everyone chose to eat very much: Emperor Franz Josef ate only small portions, and his wife, Sissi, barely touched her food. If you were a guest of Franz Josef at the palace, you had to eat quickly, because as soon as the emperor was finished, everyone at the table had to stop eating. Often guests returned home still hungry.

However, this extravagant lifestyle was not typical for the majority of the empire's residents. As is the case throughout the world and history, while the monarchy and nobility ate luxuriously, the masses hungered.

Nevertheless, food has a significant impact on the traditions, lifestyle, and culture of all Austrians. Austrians are proud of their heritage and their rich, traditional cuisine. Mothers and grandmothers take great pride in passing along family recipes and ensuring that the younger generation knows how to cook time-honored dishes like *Apfelstrudel* [ap-fell-strew-dull], Schnitzel, and Kaiserschmarrn (see Food Visual 4).

Refrigerators in Europe are typically small compared to standard refrigerators in the United States: as a result, many Austrians purchase food daily from local open-air markets or shops (**see Food Visual 5**). Austrians travel to the markets every day, or every other day, to buy fresh bread, fruits, vegetables, meats, and cheeses—it is no wonder that Austrian food is so delicious!



Activities

- 1. In small groups, write out a play about how the cook created Kaiserschmarrn. Perform it for the class.
- 2. Create a legend about how your favorite food was originally created, without researching the topic. Then research how the food was actually created and share your findings with the class.
- 3. Record a journal entry for the legendary cook describing the night he accidentally created Kaiserschmarrn.
- 4. Austrians, like most Europeans, eat with the fork facing downward in their left hand and the knife in their right hand. Bring an Austrian dish (preferably Kaiserschmarrn) to share and practice eating with the fork in your left hand.
- 5. Bring in a favorite family food, then tell your classmates how you made it and what it means to your family.



Discussion Questions

- 1. What can we learn about a culture or lifestyle simply by looking at its traditional or contemporary diet?
- 2. Why or how is food a significant aspect of a nation's culture? What are some examples of food that reflect the culture of the United States? Of Austria?
- 3. Why do cultures have legends about different aspects of life? Why do people continue to tell or believe these legends?
- 4. What are some traditional foods in the United States? Do these foods have any myths about how they were created? If so, do the legends reveal anything about traditional American culture?
- 5. Do you think the myth about Kaiserschmarrn is true? Why or why not? What could be some other explanations for how it was invented?
- 6. What are some advantages to the way Austrians shop for food? What are some disadvantages? Would you like to shop that way?

CROSS-CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

AUSTRIA AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

Throughout history, Austria has been highly influential in the development of music. Many classical composers lived in Austria for most, if not all, of their lives. The music these composers wrote while in Austria was innovative, influential, and often revolutionary. Their compositions contributed to the development of music in cultures and countries worldwide. Although many of the most famous Austrian composers lived over a hundred years ago, their music is still an important part of Austrian culture today, as Austrians enjoy hearing music that reflects their rich musical heritage.



Starting Points

- 1. Think of a famous historical figure. What did he or she do? In Austria, some of the most famous and respected people are music composers who lived over a hundred years ago. These composers wrote music that both entertained and influenced the people of their day. Even today, their music is still important to Austrian people.
- 2. Listen to a piece of music that is popular today. What qualities does the music have that would help it remain popular for hundreds of years? Now listen to a piece of classical music (preferably one written by an Austrian composer (see Additional Resources). Why is classical music still popular today? Since the eighteenth century, Austria has produced composers whose music remains popular today.
- 3. Who is your favorite musician? Compile a list of popular musicians on the board. Can you list any classical composers? Have you heard of Mozart? Many of the world's most famous classical composers, such as Mozart, lived in Austria.



Information

Prominent Composers in Austria

Since the eighteenth century, Austria has been an important musical center in Europe. Renowned composers such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Josef Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert, Gustav Mahler, Johannes Brahms, Johann Strauss Jr., and Arnold Schönberg each spent part, or all, of their lives in Vienna. Many of them are buried in Vienna, and their graves can be seen in Austria today (see Cross-cultural Contributions Visual 1). All of these composers also have monuments dedicated to them in cities across Austria because the music they wrote was innovative, inventive, revolutionary, and highly influential for other composers and other cultures.

Mozart's Major Works and Influence

One example of a composer whose work influenced Austria and composers worldwide is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791). One of Mozart's most famous operas is *Die Zauberflöte* [dee tzow-ber-floetah], or *The Magic Flute*. This opera is one of the most popular and renowned operas in the world. At the time of the premiere of this opera, it was unique because before *The Magic Flute*, there had been very few operas composed in the German language. Even the operas Mozart had written before *The Magic Flute* had been sung in Italian, the language of the arts. Mozart's popular composition of *The Magic Flute* helped launch the beginning of the tradition of operas performed in German. Because of Mozart's opera, German operas became popular. This paved the way for later composers such as Richard Wagner [ri-card vog-ner], who also wrote German-language operas.

Mozart's operas are still played frequently throughout Austria, Germany, and the rest of Europe. In fact, these performances are so well attended almost every major city has its own opera house. Even countries smaller than Austria, such as Slovakia and the Czech Republic, have large opera houses, which give evidence of the popularity and importance of classical music (see Cross-cultural Contributions Visuals 2–5).

Beethoven's Major Works and Influence

The works of Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) are some of the most influential compositions in the history of music. Although he was born in Germany, Beethoven spent much of his life in Vienna. There he composed music for many instruments, though most of his music was composed for the piano and for the orchestra. In total, Beethoven wrote nine symphonies, which are today some of the most famous and well-loved symphonies in the world. The most remarkable of those nine were his Third, Fifth, and Ninth symphonies, which were highly innovative and enormously influential.

Beethoven's Third Symphony, known as *Eroica*, or *Heroic*, has four movements. Before Beethoven, most composers had adhered to a certain form when writing symphonies—similar to using a pattern when writing a poem—but Beethoven made the first movement of this symphony much longer and more complex than the first movement of any previous symphony, pushing the limits of what was considered conventional.

In Beethoven's Fifth Symphony there is one idea, or motif, that is repeated over and over. This motif ties together the entire symphony and gives it unity. Previous to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, there had been no orchestral works with this type of unity. The use of one repeated motif influenced composers all over Europe and later throughout the entire world. Even today, the motif from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is commonly used in commercials and movies.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was one of the last pieces Beethoven wrote before he died, and many composers throughout Europe believed a better piece of music could never be written. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was unprecedented in several ways. First, it had five movements whereas the conventional symphony had only four. Second, in the fifth movement, Beethoven added singers to the composition; before this work, singers had never been part of a nonreligious symphonic work. Third, the fifth

movement used the text from a German poem, "An die Freude" [on dee froyda], or "Ode to Joy," by Friedrich Schiller as the text for the choral music, which was significant for not being the traditional Italian.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony inspired many future symphonic works that were written for both orchestra and chorus. Today, it is often played on special occasions or at the end of the year because it is considered by many to be a summation of music and words. One of the most memorable times that the Ninth Symphony was performed was at a ceremony celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Schubert's Major Works and Influence

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) also lived in Vienna for a large portion of his life. He wrote over 130 songs for voice and piano, commonly referred to as *lied* [leed] (song), or *lieder* [leeder] (songs). His lieder were unique because he was one of the first composers to closely link together the piano music, the vocals, and the actual text. One example of this is a song entitled "Erlkönig" [ehrl-koenig], meaning "Elf King" (see Additional Resources). The text to this song is a poem about a boy who has become sick in the middle of the night, and his father is holding him in his arms and racing to get help. The boy says that the Elf King, a character similar to the Grim Reaper, is calling for him. The different characters who speak in the song are sung by the same singer, but each time a different character "speaks," the music changes to indicate who is singing. For example, when the boy is speaking, his notes are higher, and when the father speaks, the notes go lower. The piano part uses repeated notes to form a kind of panic in listeners, representing the danger in the story. Schubert was a master at creating this kind of music and these kinds of feelings.

The works of Schubert became extremely popular in countries throughout Europe. Because Schubert wrote his songs for just voice and piano, performers were able to perform in small gatherings in their homes. Schubert's popularity also gave rise to "Schubertiades," which were small gatherings where friends sang the lieder written by Schubert. These parties occurred all over Europe during the nineteenth century, particularly in France and Austria. These types of gatherings also brought more music into middle-class homes.

Strauss's Major Works and Influence

Johann Strauss Jr. (1825–1899) is another famous Viennese composer. His music helped to popularize a particular dance called the waltz. Strauss is responsible for writing large quantities of music that were suitable for the waltz and making this a popular dance in Austria and throughout Europe (see Additional Resources).

Although the waltz was first condemned as an evil dance, it soon became so popular that it was more widely accepted. Balls began to be held across Europe at which the waltz was one of the main attractions.

Today, large dances are held every January and February in Austria where the waltz is danced as the Vienna Philharmonic performs Strauss's music. Waltzes are a popular form for formal ballroom dance. At professional international dance competitions, couples compete by dancing the waltz.

Schoenberg's Major Works and Influence

Arnold Schoenberg (1874–1951) is the last major Viennese composer who had a tremendous impact on the history of music. He was one of the first composers to write atonal music. Atonal music has no tonal center; instead, all the notes in the chronic scale are given equal importance in the music. Thus, Schoenberg's works were not written in any specific key signature. This was a colossal change from tradition. For this reason his music sounds vastly different from the music of previous composers. His music was more of a mental exercise. For Schoenberg, it was not as important to make music that people would enjoy as it was to write music that would challenge their minds. Although much of his music was not received well at first, it has permanently influenced the composition of Western music, and has impacted many American composers such as John Cage and Charles Ives.

The Effects of Austrian Music on Other Cultures

The fact that the works of these Austrian composers are still studied worldwide is proof that Austrian composers have made a substantial cross-cultural contribution. Even though many of their works were written centuries ago, the compositional techniques they used are still considered brilliant and enormously creative. Composers who lived at the same time as Beethoven studied Austrian compositions to understand the innovative devices and forms used. Current composers still look to the music written by Austrian composers to gain new ideas for the music they write today.

Not only is their music still studied, but it is still performed regularly not only in Austria and Europe, but in the United States as well. The music of many of these composers is part of American culture, and it is often used in movies, television shows, and commercials. Much of the music that was written by these Austrian composers is still performed and studied regularly by world-class orchestras across the globe. Orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, as well as many others around the world play the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss, and Schoenberg regularly. The fact that the best orchestras in the world still devote much of their time to learning and performing these works indicates that these composers' music is highly influential in our culture and in cultures around the world.



Activities

- 1. Listen to a recording of a waltz by Johann Strauss. What kind of dance do you envision when you hear the music? See if you can learn the dance steps to the waltz (see Additional Resources).
- 2. Listen to a recording of a piece of music by Beethoven and then to a piece of music by a later Austrian composer such as Anton Webern (see Additional Resources). What are the differences between the two pieces? Which piece to you like better? Why?
- 3. Listen to several pieces of music written by different Austrian composers. What do you think of when you hear each piece of music? Do you recognize any of the pieces? Where from?
- 4. Draw a picture of an opera house or something you might find in an opera house (e.g., an instrument, a costume, etc.). Perhaps even make the item out of paper or cardboard.
- 5. Read a book about an Austrian composer. How was his life different from yours? How was it similar?



Discussion Questions

- 1. If you had lived at the time of Beethoven, do you think you would have liked his music? Why or why not?
- 2. Do you think people will ever stop listening to classical music? Why or why not?
- 3. Do you think American composers have influenced music as much as Austrian composers have influenced music? Why or why not?
- 4. Name two composers who lived in Austria. What do these two composers have in common? What are their differences?
- 5. What music styles have originated in the United States? Have they influenced the music of other countries?
- 6. Do you think composers such as Beethoven knew the effect they would have on music in countries around the world? Explain.

FACTS ABOUT AUSTRIA

Official Name: Republic of Austria

(Republik Österreich)

Capital: Vienna (Wien)

Government Type: federal republic

Area: 83,870 sq km

Land Boundaries: Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein,

Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland

Climate: temperate: cold winters,

moderate summers

Lowest Point: Neusiedler See 115 m

Highest Point: Grossglockner 3,798 m

Natural Resources: oil, coal, lignite, timber, iron ore, zinc, antimony, magnesite, tungsten, graphite, salt, hydropower

Natural Hazards: landslides, avalanches, earthquakes

Population: 8,192,880 (July 2006 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Austrians 91.1%, former Yugoslavs 4% (includes Croatians, Slovenes, Serbs, and Bosniaks), Turks 1.6%, Germans 0.9%, other 2.4% (2001 census)

Religions: Roman Catholic 73.6%, Protestant 4.7%, Muslim 4.2%, other 3.5%, unspecified 2%, none 12% (2001 census)

Languages: German (official nationwide), Slovene (official in Carinthia), Croatian (official in Burgenland), Hungarian (official in Burgenland)

GDP: \$279.5 billion (2006 est.)

GDP Per Capita: \$34,100 (2006 est.)

GDP Composition By Sector: agriculture: 1.8%; industry: 30.4%; services:

67.8% (2005 est.)

Labor Force: 3.52 million (2006 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 4.9% (2005 est.)

Industries: construction, machinery, vehicles and parts, food, metals, chemicals, lumber and wood processing, paper and paperboard, communications equipment, tourism

Agricultural Products: grains, potatoes, sugar beets, wine, fruit, dairy products, cattle, pigs, poultry, lumber

Exports: \$144.4 billion f.o.b. (2005 est.) machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, paper and paperboard, metal goods, chemicals, iron and steel, textiles, foodstuffs

Imports: \$138.6 billion f.o.b. (2006 est.) machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, metal goods, oil and oil products, foodstuffs

Trade Partners: Germany, Italy, U.S., Switzerland, France (2005)

Currency: euro (EUR)

Exchange Rate: 0.80 euros per one U.S. dollar (2006)

HISTORY AND HOLIDAYS

TIME LINE

- **15 B.C.E.** Romans invade the area inhabited by Illyrian and Celtic people; Austria becomes part of the empire; formerly a Celtic settlement, known as Vindobona, Vienna becomes one of first Roman military posts
- **788** C.E. Charlemagne establishes outposts, or military districts, including *Ostmark* (Eastern March) which later becomes *Ost Reich* (Eastern Country) or *Österreich* (Austria)
 - 812 Charlemagne renounces his claim on several territories, including the area which is now Austria, in exchange for political recognition from the Byzantine Empire
 - 955 The defeat of an invading Hungarian army marks the emergence of Austria as a political entity, under the rule of Otto I of Germany, the first Holy Roman Emperor
 - 1135 Construction on St. Stephen's Cathedral begins
 - 1273 Rudolf I of Habsburg becomes Holy Roman Emperor, beginning the Habsburg family's great political influence, which continues for the next 550 years
 - 1365 University of Vienna established
- 1521–22 Division of the Habsburg dynasty into Spanish and Austrian branches; the Reformation also begins to gain force in the Holy Roman Empire
 - 1555 Peace of Augsburg brings limited religious tolerance for Lutherans and Catholics (based on the idea that each individual ruler within the Holy Roman Empire can determine the religion of his subjects)
 - 1618 Rebellion of Protestant nobles in Bohemia marks the beginning of the Thirty Years' War
 - 1713 Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI decrees the Pragmatic Sanction, allowing females to inherit the throne
 - 1740 Charles VI dies without any sons; Maria Theresa, who rules for forty years and has sixteen children (among them Marie Antoinette), ascends to the throne—an event that ultimately leads to the War of Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War
 - 1756 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is born in Salzburg
 - 1797 Treaty of Campo Formio: Austria relinquishes present-day Belgium to Napoleon Bonaparte in order to preserve control of the remainder of the country
 - **1800** Open hostilities resume with France
 - **1806** The Holy Roman Empire is dissolved; Francis II declares himself Emperor of Austria

- 1848 Francis Joseph I ascends to the throne at age eighteen (he later marries Elizabeth (Sissi) of Bavaria, an adored heroine of the Austrian people)
- 1867 The Dual Monarchy known as the Austria-Hungary Empire is created; each, however, has its own constitution, government, parliament, and language
- **28 Jun 1914** Heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Francis Ferdinand, and his wife are assassinated, triggering the start of World War I
- **Summer 1918** Austro-Hungarian forces are defeated—strikes, protests, and demonstrations occur at home
 - **12 Nov 1918** The monarchy relinquishes its power and Austria and Hungary declare themselves republics
- **15 Mar 1938** Anschluss (unification) with Germany occurs—Hitler's troops enter Austria and the country is annexed to Germany
 - **Apr 1945** Eastern part of Austria is liberated by Soviet troops; the Allied forces separate Vienna and Austria into four sectors, just as they did to Berlin and Germany
 - 1951 After starvation, industrial failure, disrupted production, and economic devastation, the United States and United Nations help industrial production break its prewar peaks
- 15 May 1955 Occupying powers and the Austrian government sign the Austrian State treaty, restoring Austrian sovereignty and prohibiting another Anschluss; Austria announces permanent neutrality
 - **1955** Austria becomes a member of the United Nations
 - **1 Jan 1995** Austria becomes a member of the European Union
 - Jan 2002 Euro coins and bills replace the old Austrian schilling
 - **Apr 2004** Heinz Fischer elected president

HOLIDAYS

- **1 Jan** Neujahrstag (New Year's Day)—Traditional Vienna Philharmonic concert celebration: Neujahrskonzert
 - **Feb** Fasching (Carnival)—the moment the new wine becomes old; many balls and parties; tasting of the new wine (this holiday occurs forty days before Easter)
- Mar/Apr Good Friday—a serious day of fasting that occurs in either March or April; Palm Sunday—priests bless adorned pussy willow branches (symbolizing rebirth) that are subsequently situated in special corners in the home
- Mar/Apr Ostern (Easter)—observed on Sunday and Monday; traditional music is played in churches and many attend Mass
 - **1 May** Tag der Arbeit (Labor Day)—traditionally known as May Day, there are parades, dances, and festivals; today there are more protests and demonstrations
 - May Christi Himmelfahrt (Ascension)—always occurring on a Thursday in May, it is a celebration of Christ's ascension; many gather with friends and relatives for the day

- **15 Aug** Maria Himmelfahrt (Assumption Day)—commemorates the Virgin Mary's ascension into Heaven; as on Christi Himmelfahrt, friends and family usually meet for the day and have dinner
- 26 Oct Nationalfeiertag (Austrian National Day)—commemorates the day in 1955 when the last foreign troops, a continuous presence since World War II, left Austria; many take long walks or hikes on this day
- 6 Dec Nikolaustag (St. Nikolas Day)—the white-robed St. Nikolas and his devious, evil-spirited companion, Krampus, roam the streets, rewarding or punishing children for behavior during the previous year
- 24 Dec Heiliger Abend or Heiligabend (Christmas Eve)—marked with a festive meal, a candle-lit tree, and the distribution of presents; many attend midnight Mass, at the end of which "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night") is sung
- **25 Dec** Christtag (Christmas Day)—the holy day of resting, going to church, and visiting family; many gather with relatives and friends to eat a roast goose together
- 31 Dec Silvesterabend (New Year's Eve)—people celebrate by throwing streamers and confetti, drinking special drinks, and exchanging kisses; they go to a special Midnight Mass and watch firework shows

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY TO THE UNITED STATES

3524 International Court N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008

Phone: (202) 895-6700, Fax: (202) 895-6747 E-mail: austrianembassy@washington.nu Web site: http://www.austria.org/embassy.shtml

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL-NEW YORK

31 East 69th Street

New York, Ny 10021-4976 Phone: (212) 737-6400 Fax: (212) 585-1992

E-mail: info@Austria-ny.org

AUSTRIA NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

Margarentenstrasse 1

A-1040 Vienna

Phone: (43) 01-58-866-0 Fax: (43) 01-58-866-20 E-mail: travel@austria.info

Web site: http://www.Austria-tourism.at

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

Boltzmanngasse 16

A-1090, Vienna

Phone: (43-1) 31339-0 Fax: (43-1) 310 06 82

United States Ambassador: His excellency Lyons Browns Jr.

E-mail: embassy@usembassy.at

Web site: http://vienna.usembassy.gov/en/

HONORARKONSULAT (DIGNINTARY CONSULATE)

240 Edison Street

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Tel: (801) 364-1045 Fax: (801) 364-1601

Honorakonsul: Franz Kolb

E-mail: ausconsutah@kolb1.com

BOOKS

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Beer, Gretel. Austrian Cooking and Baking, Dover Publications, Inc., 1999.

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FILM

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INTERNET SITES

American Folklore

http://www.americanfolklore.net/

Austrian Composers:

http://www.aboutvienna.org/composers/musiker.htm

Austrian Desserts: Recipes:

http://www.recipezaar.com/r/149/87

Austria: Froliche Weihnachten:

http://www.californiamall.com/holidaytraditions/traditions-austria.htm

Austrian Museum of Folklore (in German):

http://www.volkskundemuseum.at

Austrian Specialties:

http://www.geocities.com/giovanni_aureel/recip.html

Catholic Church in Austria:

http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/at.html

CIA World Factbook:

http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

Ethnic Quisine of Austria:

http://www.sallys-place.com/food/ethnic_cusine/austria.htm

Karlskirche:

http://www.GreatBuildings.com/buildings/Karlskirche.html

Language in Austria:

http://bbc.co.uk/languages/european languages/countries/austria.shtml

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_language

Major Austrian Cities:

http://www.travelnotes.org/Europe/Austria/austrian_cities.htm

The Vienna Philharmonic:

http://www.wienerphilharmoniker.at/index.php?cccpage=Home&set_language=en

Vienna's Web Service:

http://www.wien.gv.at/english

Waltz Steps:

http://www.centralhome.com/BALLROOMCOUNTRY/waltz_steps-1.htm

Wiener Christkindlmarkt:

http://www.christkindlmarkt.at/2002/geschichte_en.html

Viennese Culture: Music:

http://www.actilingua.com/AboutVienna/composers/musiker.php

Viennese Culture: Festivals and Balls:

http://www.aboutvienna.org/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen5.htm

MUSIC

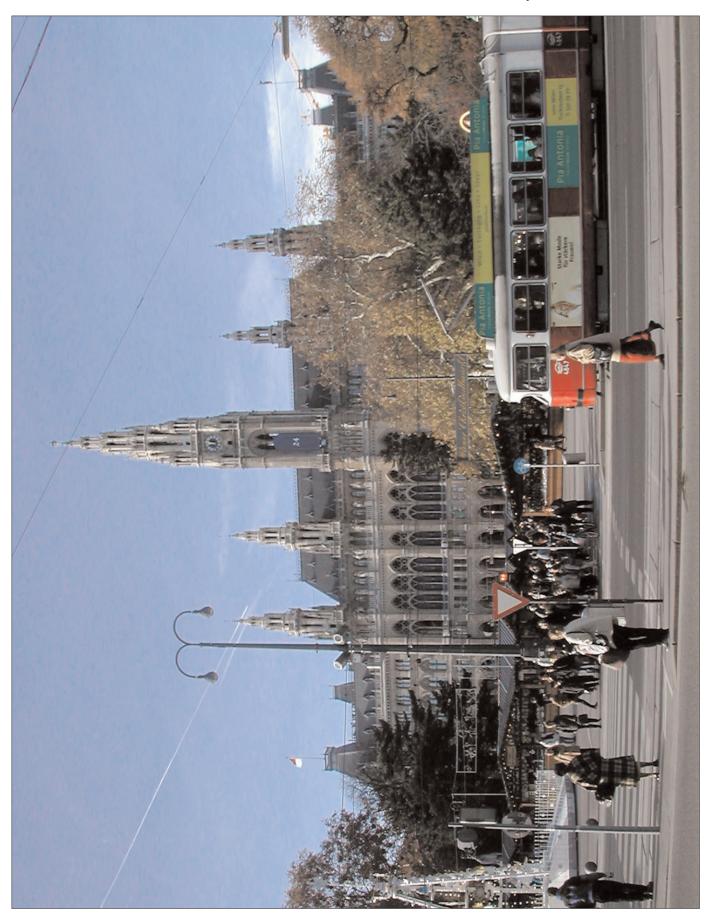
9 Symphonien, Deutsche Grammophon #429036, 13 February 1990.

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Schubert: Goethe-Lieder, Deutsche Grammophon #457747, 15 June 1999. New Year's Concert 2003: The Vienna Philharmonic, Universal #474250, 28 January 2003 (CD).

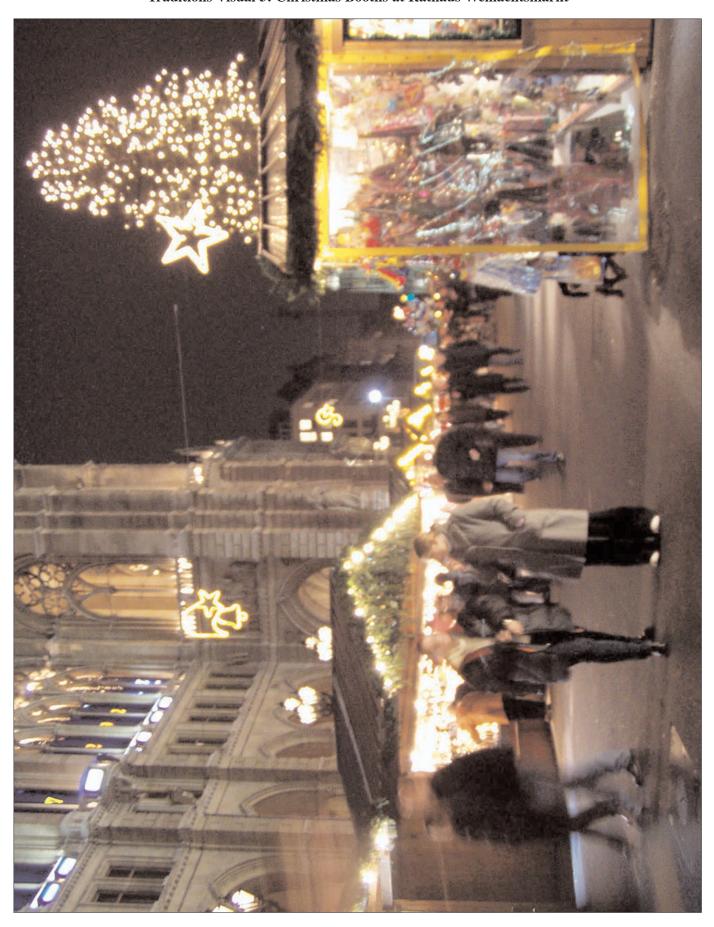
Traditions Visual 1: Vienna Rathaus Weinachtsmarkt in Daytime



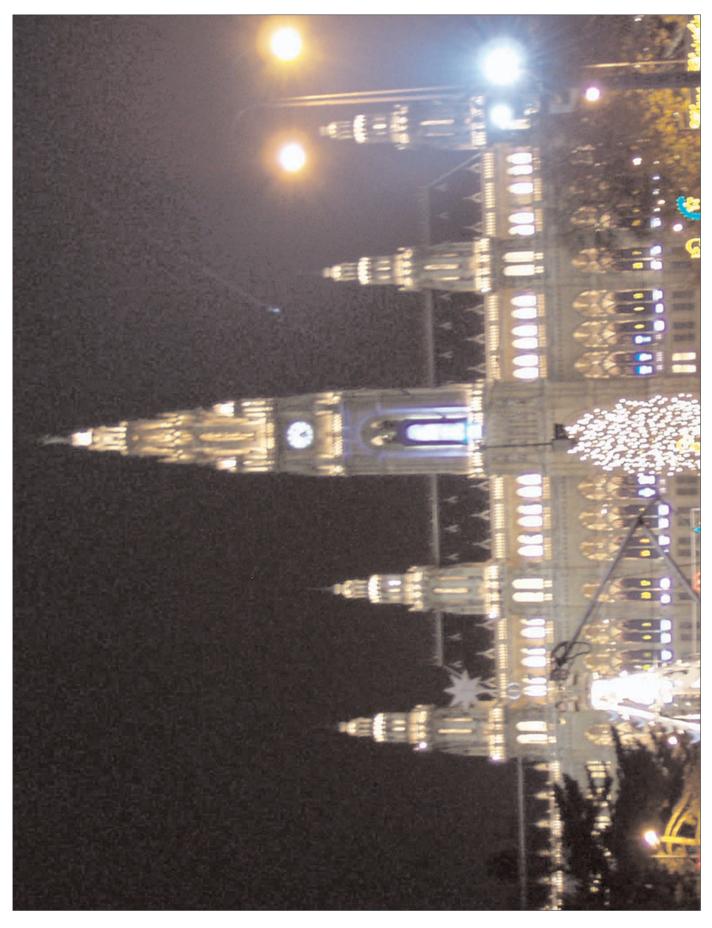
Traditions Visual 2: Schönbrunn Weinachtsmarkt

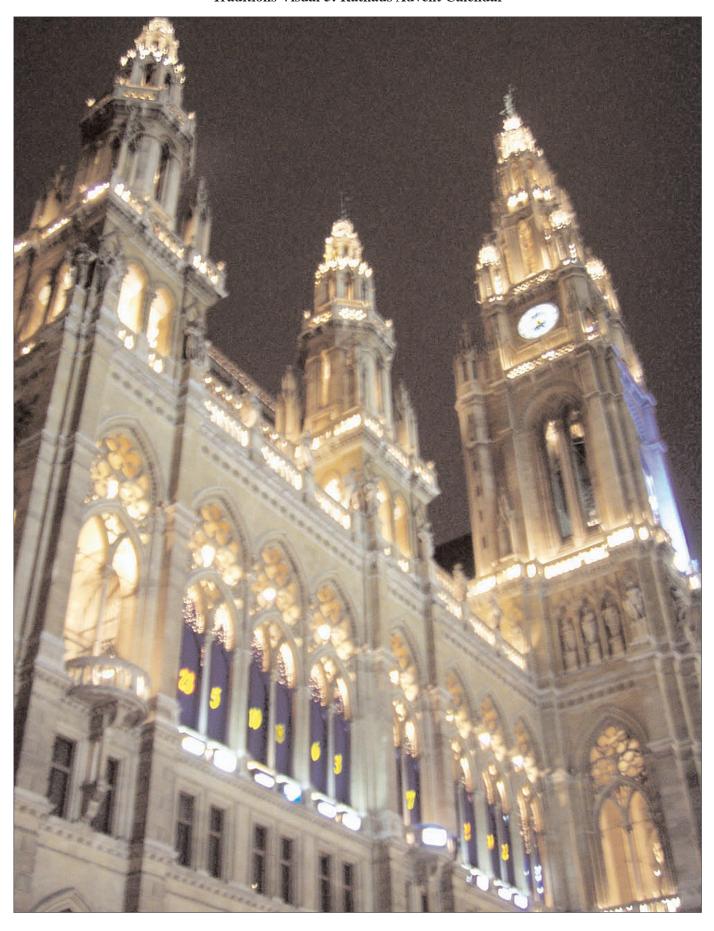


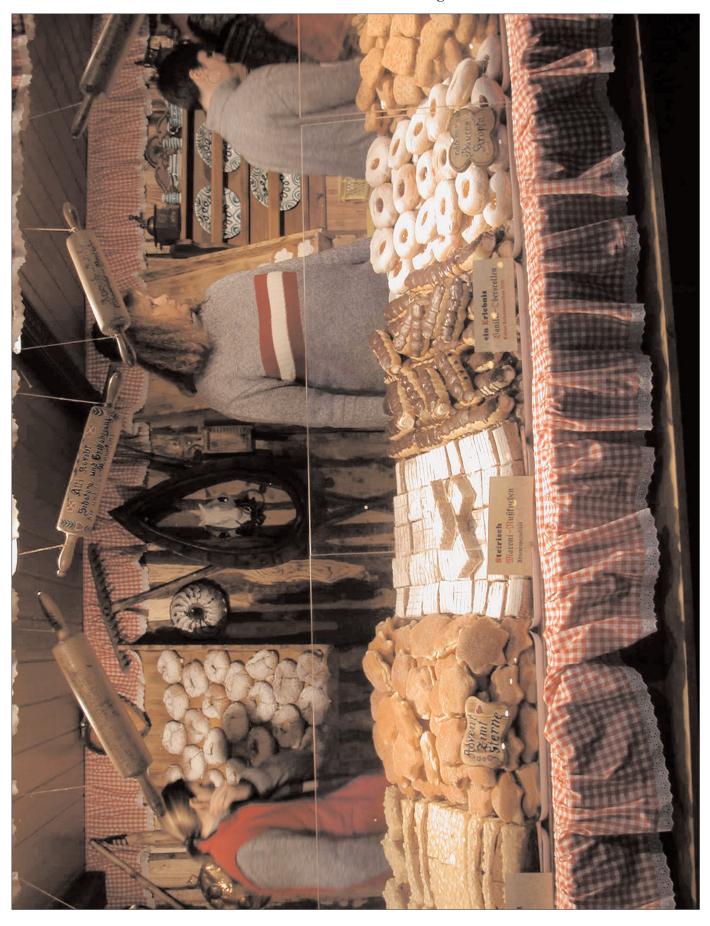
Traditions Visual 3: Christmas Booths at Rathaus Weinachtsmarkt



Traditions Visual 4: Christmas Tree at Rathaus Weinachtsmarkt

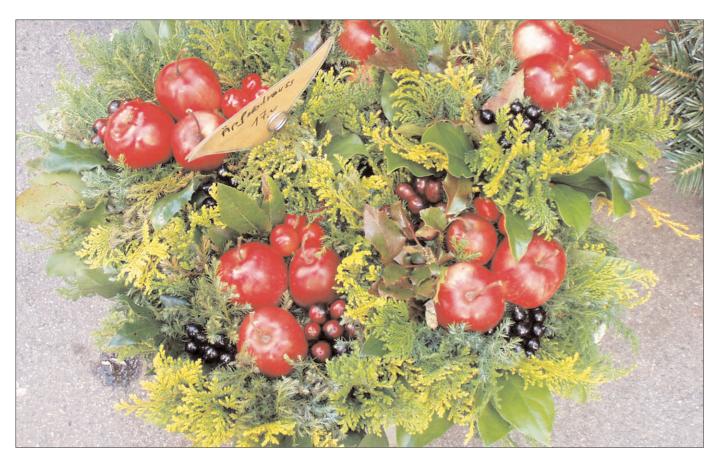






Traditions Visual 7: Four Christmas Wreaths



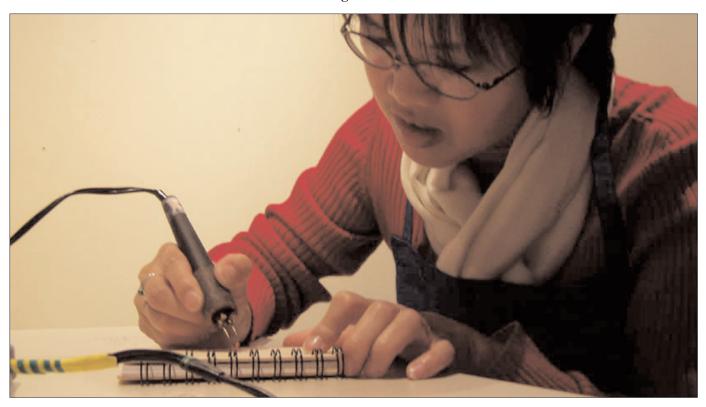


Traditions Visual 8: Child Cutting Sugar Cookies





Traditions Visual 9: Making a Gift at the Weinachtsmarkt





Name:

Weihnachtsmärkte Word Search

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BOOTHS

BRATWURST

CANDLES

CHESTNUTS

FAMILY

FRIENDS

LIGHTS

ORNAMENTS

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RATHAUS

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Name: _____

Weihnachtsmärkte Word Search

BOOTHS

BRATWURST

CANDLES

CHESTNUTS

FAMILY

FRIENDS

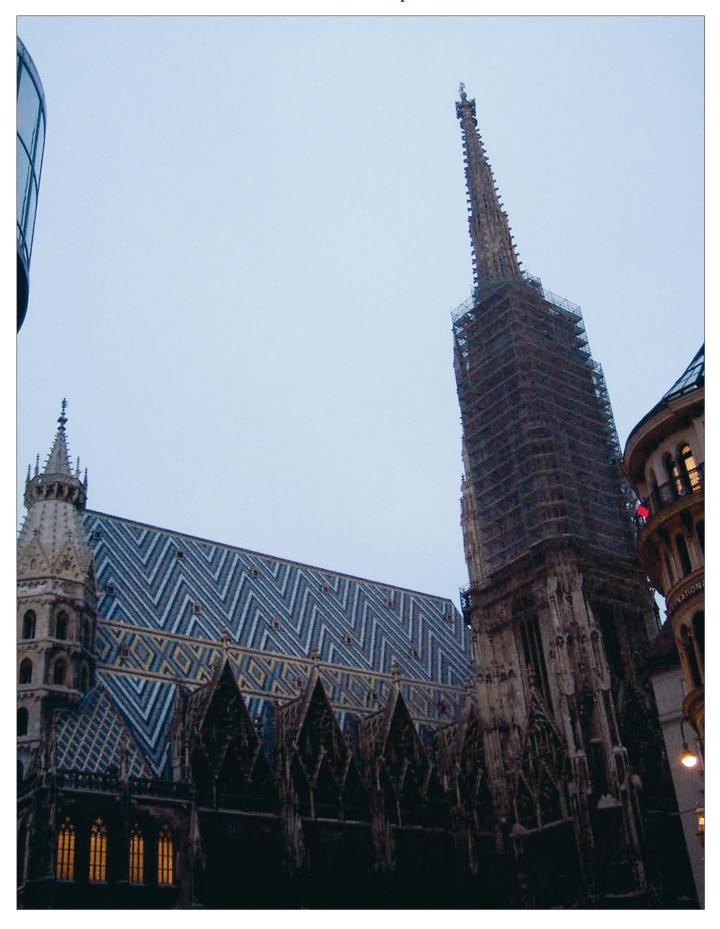
LIGHTS

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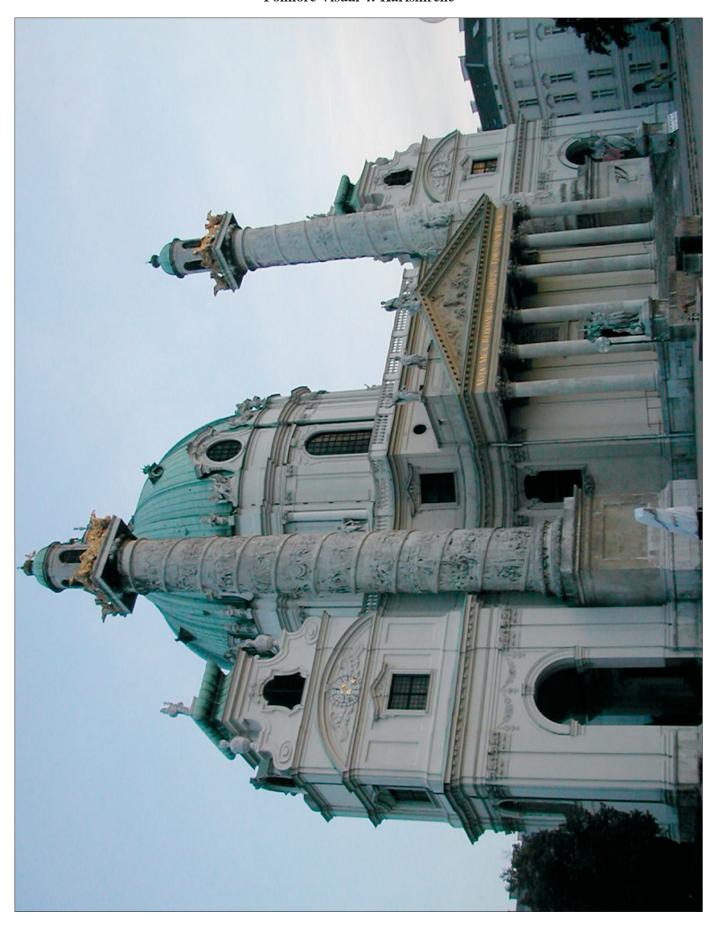


Folklore 3: Miniature Model of Stephansdom Church



40

Folklore Visual 4: Karlskirche



Folklore Visual 5: Fresco on Ceiling of Karlskirche by J. M. Rottmayr of Saint Charles Borromeo Pleading with God to End the Plague





Folklore Visual 7: Another Viennese Church

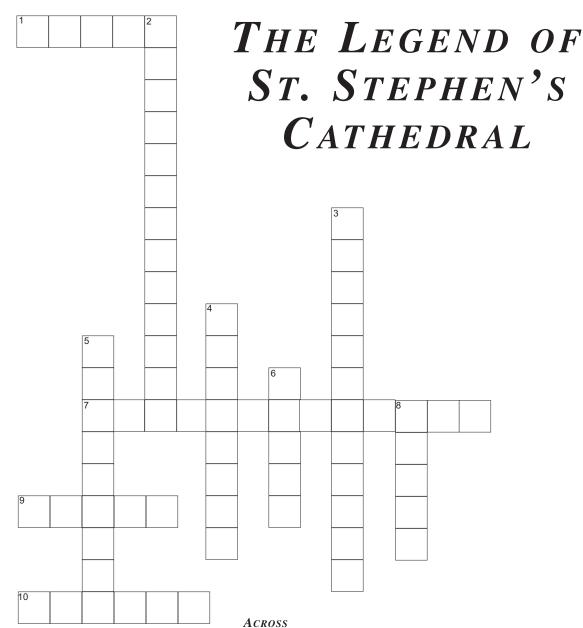




Folklore Visual 9: Church outside Salzburg



Name: __



1. Tower that was never completed

- 7. The predominant religion in Austria
- 9. Who offered to build the half-finished tower
- 10. One of the most widely-observed Christian holidays

Down

- 2. The man who attempted to build the second tower
- 3. The church service most Austrians attend in December
- 4. Location of Stephansdom in Vienna
- 5. The holiday the Midnight Mass celebrates
- 6. The name the man called out before he fell to his death
- 8. The original language of the Catholic mass

Name:

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10 E	A	S	Т	Е	R												

Across

- 1. Tower that was never completed **NORTH**
- 7. The predominant religion in Austria **ROMAN CATHOLIC**
- 9. Who offered to build the half-finished tower SATAN
- 10. One of the most widely-observed Christian holidays **EASTER**

Down

- 2. The man who attempted to build the second tower **HANS PUCHSBAUM**
- 3. The church service most Austrians attend in December MIDNIGHT MASS
- 4. Location of Stephansdom in Vienna **DOWNTOWN**
- 5. The holiday the Midnight Mass celebrates CHRISTMAS
- 6. The name the man called out before he fell to his death MARIA
- 8. The original language of the Catholic mass LATIN





Food Visual 3: Frankfurter Wurst

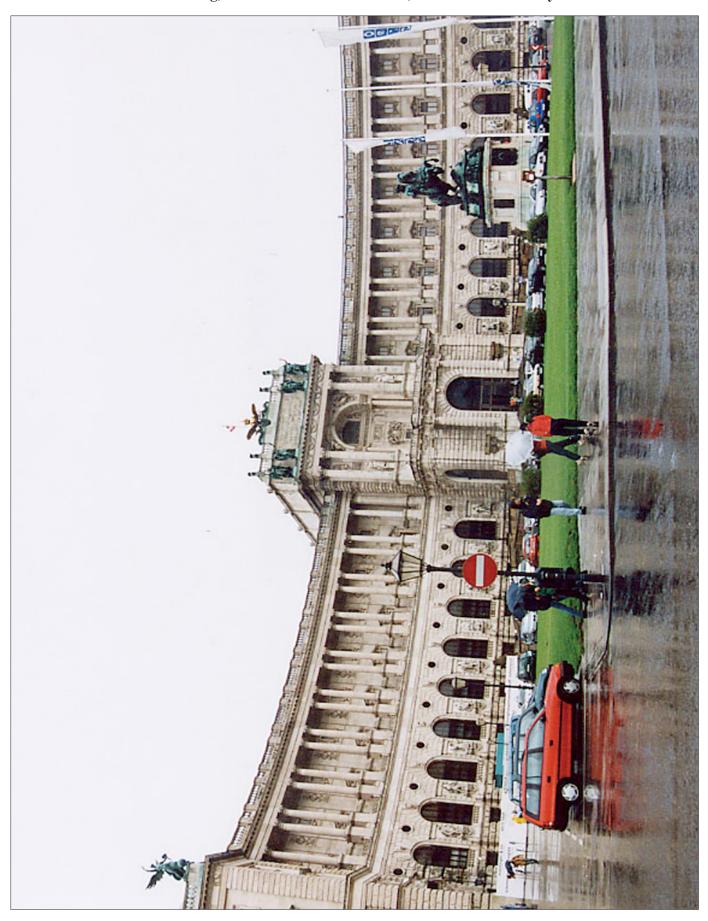




Food Visual 3: Schönbrunn, Monarch's Summer Residence



Food Visual 4: Hofburg, Monarch's Winter Residence, Now National Library and Museum



Food Visual 5: Making Schnitzel



Food Visual 6: Small Open-Air Market in Vienna

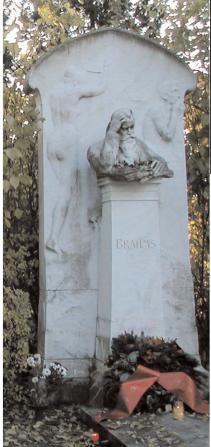




HAYDN



STRAUSS



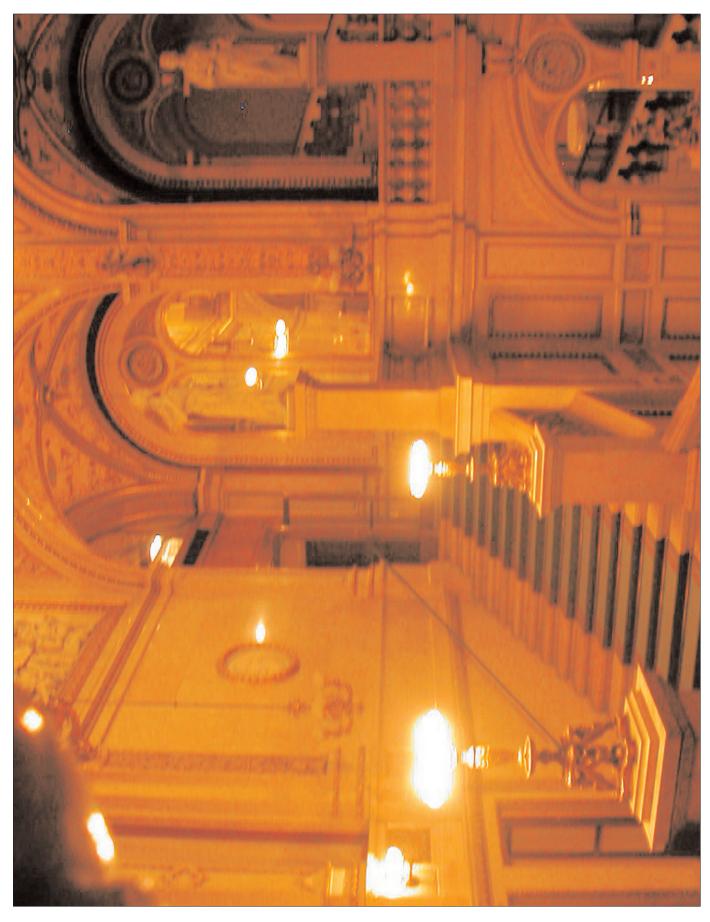
BRAHMS



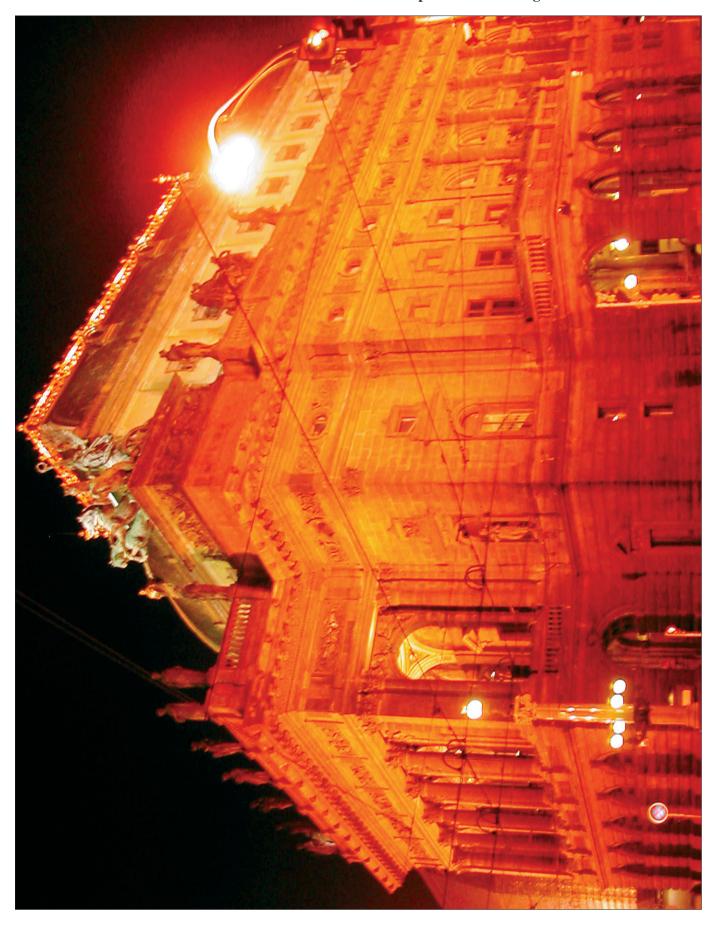
BEETHOVEN

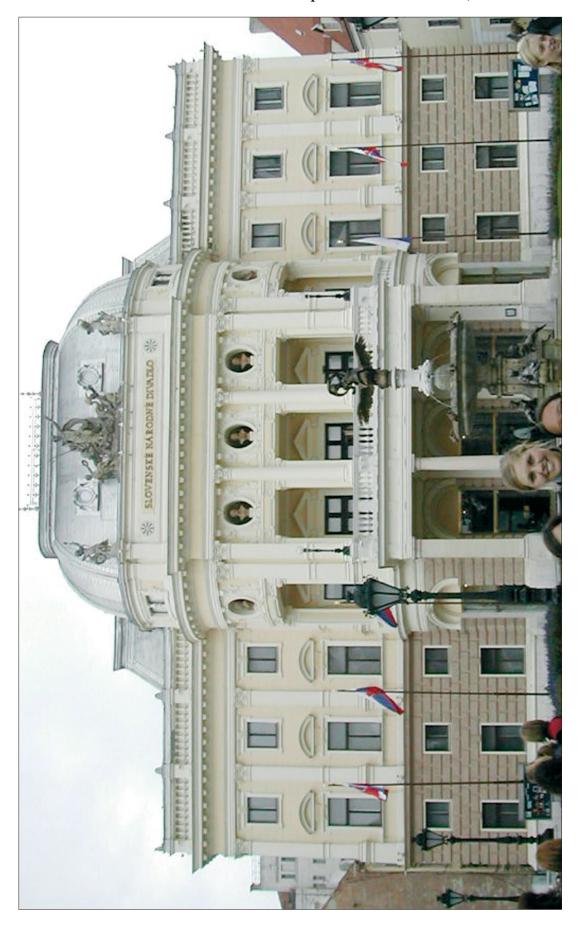


Cross-cultural Contributions Visual 3: Interior of Vienna State Opera House



Cross-cultural Contributions Visual 4: Opera House in Prague







AUSTRIAN FLAG

The Austrian flag has three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and red.

