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## The Deutschmeister Band from Vienna, Austria

In 1741, Empress Maria Theresia ordered that each regiment should have its own band to lead the troops on parade. And it was in that same year, on the occasion of the birth of Josef II, that the first parade including the Deutschmeister Band took place in Milan.

In 1781, Josef II stationed the Deutschmeister in Vienna, and it was then that they started creating their own unique and incomparable Viennese sound. A few years later the Deutschmeister Band has grown the favorite band of the Emperor as well as the citizens of Vienna, playing not only at military parades, but also performing at concert halls and ballrooms, finally getting the embodiment of the Austrian musical splendour. Being very popular the whole regiment was nicknamed the "Wiener Edelknaben".

At that time you could hear the Deutschmeister Band play almost everyday, performing in numerous places like Prater restaurants, cafés or ballrooms and in various instrumentations like wind band, string orchestra, dance band or even as "Schrammeln".

A main feature of the Deutschmeister Band is the maintenance of the military pitch, which was in use for a long time and has been established in 1891 for all Austrian military bands. Nowadays the band is still playing one semitone higher, using special instruments and in this way maintaining its sound of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A lot of famous composers and musicians served at the Deutschmeister Band, for example "Teufelsgeiger" Josef Helmesberger or the composers Josef Bayer and Robert Stolz. Famous bandmasters include Philipp Fahrbach sen., Carl Michael Ziehrer, who performed at Chicago's World's Fair of 1893, and Wilhelm Wacek, conducting numerous concerts in Southamerica in 1910.

After the end of WW I Julius Herrmann founded the traditional "Hoch- und Deutschmeister Band". Herrmann stayed conductor for more than 50 years. After his death singer and clarinetist Horst Winter took over, followed by Ottokar Drapal. Since December 1999 Reinhold Nowotny is conducting the "Deutschmeister Band".