



# simply Munich

## Destination Information



### The Sound of Munich

Stars, trends and cult sites of the Munich music scene from the 1970s to the present day

(Feb 26, 2018) Munich has always been a starting point for many musical careers. Donna Summer, the Sportfreunde Stiller and Queen front singer Freddie Mercury have lived here and stormed the charts with their songs produced in Munich. Be it rock and pop, techno, indie or Alpine rock, musical trends have been created in Munich in the past four decades. A concert in the Munich Olympic Hall is a must for superstars such as AC/DC, Coldplay, Robbie Williams and Bon Jovi. But the city also offers musical newcomers numerous performance opportunities on their way to a breakthrough.

#### The 1970s in Munich: Disco, Disco! Party! Party!

In the 70s the music world looks toward Munich. What happens here is no less than the birth of the disco genre. The proud parents: Giorgio Moroder and Donna Summer. Moroder comes to Munich as a young man and founds his studio "Musicland" at Arabellapark where electronic sounds and synthesizer experiments are turned into the typical bass and drum beat of disco music. In 1976 Moroder and Donna Summer publish the song "Love to Love You, Baby" which immediately ranks second in the US charts and gets the disco wave rolling. Moroder's reputation as producer attracts internationally successful artists and bands to Munich, such as Queen front man Freddie Mercury, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.

### **The 1980s: Wild Nights and the Evergreen Song “Scandal about Rosi”**

The cooperation between Moroder and Mercury is so fruitful that Mercury makes Munich one of his places of residence in the first half of the 80s. An impression of the wild character of the parties that Freddie Mercury regularly attended in Munich is provided by the music video to the song “Living on my own”. Additional songs, such as “Another one bites the dust” and “Crazy little thing called love” – a total of three Queen albums and Mercury’s solo album “Mr. Bad Guy” are created in Munich. The New German Wave of the 1980s does not leave Munich untouched. Here the bands are called “Spider Murphy Gang” and “Münchner Freiheit”. At the Oktoberfest, tried and tested Wiesn hits such as “Skandal im Sperrbezirk” and the successful title by “Münchner Freiheit” of 1986 “Ohne dich (schlaf ich heut' Nacht nicht ein)” have not disappeared up to the present day.

### **From Wave to Rave: Untiringly into the 1990s**

In the 90s Munich is captured by the techno wave. While the first love parades establish themselves in Berlin, a techno club scene develops in Munich. The pioneers are DJ Hell and Michael Reinboth. DJ Hell (real name: Helmut Josef Geier) organizes the first techno parties in the Munich dance club “Größenwahn”. Shortly thereafter, Michael Reinboth initiates the first parties with internationally renowned DJs at the techno club “Babalu”. The year 1992 is decisive for the Munich techno scene. The halls of the retired Munich-Riem airport open their gates for techno and Peter Wacha, the owner of the label “Disko B”, founds the “Ultraschall” here. From then on the so-called “Ultraworld Parties” take place in these halls. Their style has defined Munich nightlife up to the present day.

### **A Techno Temple Called Harry Klein**

The Munich techno scene is as alive as ever. According to the renowned magazine “DJ Mac”, the Munich club **Harry Klein** ([www.harrykleinclub.de](http://www.harrykleinclub.de)) which was opened in 2010 ranks among the top techno clubs in Germany. The discotheque, which got its name from Derrick’s helper and carhop, is located in the heart of town amid

apartments and food stores. Its acoustic concept enjoys worldwide fame: An inner room standing on eleven hydraulic springs has been installed inside an outer room. Thus the bass frequencies are inaudibly guided into the foundation. Inside the music can blare at 100 decibels while the surrounding residents remain completely undisturbed by the volume of the music. Internationally renowned DJs spin their platters here. One of the regulars who deejays here is no less than the television moderator Markus Kavka. But at “Harry Klein’s” not only music is important. In addition to DJs there are VJs, who design video projections that match the music. A visit to “Harry Klein’s” is meant to become an audio-visual experience.

### **From Folk Music to Volxmusik**

Experimenting with traditional Bavarian sounds is fully in tune with the trend of the Munich music scene. Many bands are taking music inspired by Bavarian tunes (also called “Volxmusik”) to the stages of the city. In this context the question of genre is no longer relevant. The sound of the Bavarian language and the instruments that are typical for the region are boldly mashed up with pop, rock, reggae, indie, ska and funk elements as well as Balkan beats by Volxmusik DJs such as “Schlachthofbronx” and “Blumentopf”, rappers such as “Doppel D” and widely known bands such as “La Brass Banda” and “Kofelgschroa”. Volxmusik can be experienced during the **Volksmusikstage (Days of Folk Music) im Fraunhofer** ([www.fraunhofertheater.de](http://www.fraunhofertheater.de)) in January. Since 1991 the festival has taken place in the Fraunhofer pub. About 40 groups from various corners of Bavaria flock to this venue. Of course, there is also a top-class line-up with cult bands such as the “Well Brüder” and “Unterbiberger Hofmusik”.

The **Hofbräuhaus** ([www.hofbraeuhaus.de](http://www.hofbraeuhaus.de)), which is probably the best known tourist hot spot after the Oktoberfest, has preserved its authenticity by cultivating the tradition of the regular get-together of musicians. True to the motto: “In Munich jams a Hofbräuhaus”, bands and musicians gather every first Monday of the month to improvise to their heart’s content.

#### Tomorrow's Stars – Newcomer Stages and Festivals

The cabaret theater **Heppel&Ettlich** ([www.heppel-ettlich.de](http://www.heppel-ettlich.de)) has existed for more than 30 years now; it is cult. Its goal: Things must keep moving in Schwabing. The two men of action, Wolfgang Ettlich and Henny Heppel, succeed in reaching this goal with events such as the firmly established singer-songwriter evening that takes place every first and third Monday of the month. The motto of these evenings: Everybody who wants, can, may and even must appear on stage and before the footlights to be seen by the world.

The Sportfreunde Stiller band's story is closely linked to the **Atomic Café** ([www.atomic.de](http://www.atomic.de)). Since 1997 this venue has been an integral part of Munich nightlife. Prior to the beginning of their career together, all three band members worked the bar and played their first concerts before a major audience here. At the club near Hofbräuhaus, primarily indie and Brit pop are played, either live by newcomer bands or by a DJ. The reputation of the "Atomic Café" for select new sounds is so excellent that even well-known stars sometimes try to pass as newcomers. The best example is the "Toten Hosen" with singer Campino, who registered under the nickname "Rheinpiraten" and thoroughly enjoyed making an appearance there. To the great regret of artists and audience, the "Atomic Café" has been closed in December 2014. A similarly alternative newcomer stage is presented by the club **Milla** ([www.milla-club.de](http://www.milla-club.de)) in the Glockenbachviertel quarter. The program also features jazz and readings. Legendary is the "Milla Song Slam". The host picks a title, which is then interpreted by various performers: For example, eight versions of "Final Countdown" – really worth listening to.

One Munich newcomer festival even made it into the Guinness Book of Records in 2002: the **Theatron Music Festival** ([www.theatron.de](http://www.theatron.de)) as "longest running uninterrupted music open-air festival in the world". This event has existed since the early 1970s. Every year it attracts about 100,000 visitors to the Olympic Park. The idea: to get together music lovers of any taste with a program that covers the whole range from classic and jazz to hip hop and dialect, pop and rock. Throughout almost the entire month of August, newcomers share the stage at Lake Olympiasee with

famous musicians. Thanks to public funding the festival does not charge any admission fees and excels by its beer garden atmosphere: Here all those who enjoy music meet in the great outdoors.

A festival that is organized every year by the team of the club “Feierwerk” and Süddeutsche Zeitung magazine testifies to the sense of departure in the young Munich music scene. Be it rock, pop, indie, ska-reggae or singer-songwriter – wanted are the Munich bands of the future at the **Sound of Munich now** ([www.feierwerk.de/](http://www.feierwerk.de/)).

## Background

München Tourismus is the city’s central tourist organisation and is part of the City of Munich’s Department of Labour and Economic Development. München Tourismus works with its business partners in the private sector and the tourist organisation München TIM e.V. to develop marketing and PR campaigns and tourism products in a bid to establish Munich as a destination on the international travel market. The strategy for achieving this aim is defined by the Tourismskommission München, a joint undertaking between the city council and the local tourist industry. The objective of the partners involved in this collaboration is to promote quality tourism in Munich. This safeguards the quality of a stay and the quality of life in the city, and ensures acceptance of tourism among the population. München Tourismus acts as a centre of expertise, knowledge and innovation within Munich’s tourism industry; as a link to regional and supra-regional tourist organisations (TOM, BayTM, DZT, MC and many more); and as a professional, neutral advisor to the tourist industry.

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