

## ABOUT

***“Tradition is not worshipping the ashes, but passing on the fire”*** (Gustav Mahler)

Christian Bakanic, an Austrian accordionist and composer, studied folk music at the Johann Joseph Fux conservatory in Graz, classical accordion at Graz University of Arts and has already made his mark as a jazz musician in Austria. His musical approaches and experiences blend subtly in his compositions and combine the complex spontaneity of jazz, the temperamental passion of Tango Nuevo, and the disciplined momentum of European classicism with multifaceted traditions of European folk music.

The essence of Christian Bakanic’s work is the steady motion, the continuous exchange, and not least the exciting search for new potentials. Curiosity and passion fuel his creative engine, whilst he convinces an audience with authenticity and virtuosity.

“The accordion owes the radical improvement of its image over the last years not least to virtuosos like Christian Bakanic. The musician, who, besides the accordion, plays bandoneón, Steirische Harmonika, piano, and percussions, is known from the highly acclaimed formations *Beefólk* and *Folksmilch*, as well as his excellent *Trio Infernal*, which can be classified as modern jazz. The fact that the star pianist Markus Schirmer hired Bakanic for his project *Scurdia* is yet further evidence of his mastery and reputation.”

(Eva Schulz, Kleine Zeitung, 11. 11. 2011)

## Curriculum vitae

- born 1980 in southern Burgenland
- first music lessons at the age of seven
- 1994 – 1999 secondary school of music in Graz
- studies at Johann-Joseph-Fux conservatory (diploma as a teacher of folk music instruments)
- accordion studies at Graz University of Arts (under professors Janne Rättyä, James Crabb, and Geir Draugsvoll)
- numerous highest awards at accordion contests (Steirische Harmonika contest at Grazer Messe, “Tag der Harmonika”)
- first prize winner of the state contest *Prima la Musica* for classical accordion (1997 and 1999)
- numerous solo and ensemble concerts in Europe, Japan, Argentina, Iceland, and Hong Kong (*Folksmilch* [www.folksmilch.at](http://www.folksmilch.at), *Beefólk* [www.beefolk.com](http://www.beefolk.com), *Christian Bakanic’s Trio Infernal*, *Mala Junta*, *Scurdia*, *Bordunikum*, *Kahiba*, *Marina Zettl & Band*, *Temmel & Bakanic*, and others)
- cooperation with a variety of musicians from different genres (Wolfgang Muthspiel, Heinrich von Kalnein, Klaus Johns, Miguel Herz-Kestranek, Josef Pichler, Alex Deutsch, Markus Schirmer, and many others)
- various commissioned compositions (compositon for “Grabenfest der ÖBV 2006”, theatre music commissions: “Bully me”, “Ein Schaf fürs Leben”, “Mein Hundemund”, “Max und Moitz – Das Musical”, and others)
- jazz, folk, and contemporary classical music compositions