



**Country for old men:**  
These enthusiasts meet  
weekly to listen to music,  
and once a month to jam

# THE MANAGER



I've loved country music since I was 10," says Eliza Kölbl, who manages Austrian country acts, promotes concerts and plays in her own country band, Roughroad. "Back then there were only a couple of radio shows: *Western Saloon* with Günther 'Howdy!' Schifter and *The Song Of The Prairie* with Connie 'Tex' Hat. I started dancing in rock'n'roll, rockabilly and Irish *ceilidh* styles. Then in 1984 I saw Emmylou Harris and Glen Campbell in concert, and from that moment I knew I wanted to play music myself.

"Country music is a big family with many styles: zydeco, honky tonk, hillbilly and so on. You'll find its roots in the folk music of the Irish, Scots, French, Hungarians and many others – it's music from the home country, from the land and from the heart.

"I don't think it's unusual that there's now a country scene in Vienna. The heart of country music here has always been Upper Austria, with its horses and railways. A lot of Viennese people spent their holidays there, heard country music at festivals, liked it and brought it back to the big city."

## LISTEN TO THIS

*Wichita Lineman* by GLEN CAMPBELL

Checks and decks:  
DJ Othmar Loschy plans to launch the next big country & western club



Wichita woman:  
manager Eliza Kölbl  
fell in love with country  
music as a young girl



# THE COUNTRY DJ



I started organising the annual Johnny Cash Birthday Bash more than 10 years ago, when he was still alive," says DJ, promoter and columnist Othmar Loschy. "The idea was to let different musicians – folk, blues, even jazz – interpret Johnny Cash's songs their way.

"I started to help build up the Americana and alternative country music scene, putting on bands over the years at our own club, called the Freihaus, which closed down. Now we're looking for a new one that we're hoping to open later this year.

"Last year was my busiest so far. I put on more than 100 concerts, with a total of 4,000 people attending. This year we're planning the city's first Americana festival for country singers and songwriters, with Austrian and international acts playing side by side." ►  
*This year's Johnny Cash Birthday Bash takes place on 26 February at Shelter, 8 Wallensteinplatz, +43 680 3167494, shelter.at*

## LISTEN TO THIS

*Ring Of Fire* by JOHNNY CASH