



### Artist Biography – Helen Maier

With captivating sounds and a strong stage presence, Swiss musician and violinist **Helen Maier** enchants audiences across genres. Music has been part of her life from the very beginning: she grew up in a family environment where rhythm and sound were ever-present, shaped by the melodies of Klezmer and Gypsy music. At the age of eight, she discovered her passion for the violin – an instrument that has remained at the heart of her artistic expression ever since.

Her path to music was not straightforward. After training as a chef, Maier decided to follow her musical calling and began studying jazz with a focus on folk music at the **Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU)**. During her Bachelor's studies, she deepened her violin practice with a special focus on folk and traditional music, receiving guidance and inspiration from renowned instructors such as Tobias Preisig, Andreas Gabriel, Simon Heggendorf, Nathanael Su, and Ina Dimitrova.

Maier gained early and diverse stage experience and expanded her musical horizons through folk workshops in France, Ireland, Germany, and the United States. She has performed at numerous festivals and concerts in Switzerland and abroad, collaborating with acclaimed artists and ensembles including **KUNZ**, **BLIGG**, **Philipp Fankhauser**, **Áed**, **Feather & Stone**, **À la Django**, and more. Today, she leads her own band, **Helen Maier & The Folks**, a high-energy fusion power folk band that blends traditional music with modern influences to create a distinctive, vibrant sound.

Helen Maier's artistic achievements have been recognized with multiple awards. She received the **Goldene Lilie** for her Bachelor's graduation concert with *Helen Maier & The Folks* and various grants from the **Aargauer Kuratorium**, including a three-month artist residency in London. As a member of **KUNZ**, she was also awarded the **Swiss Music Award 2022** for Best Album.

A career highlight is the project "**Tavolata**", created in collaboration with Swiss rapper **BLIGG**. Together with *Helen Maier & The Folks*, well-known BLIGG songs were reimagined in a fresh, folk-inspired sound. The project led to multiple appearances on **Swiss television (SRF)** and celebrated live performances, including two sold-out shows at the **KKL Lucerne** during the *Pilatus Night*, where Maier performed as a soloist with the **21st Century Orchestra**.

In addition to her performance career, Helen Maier is a dedicated violin teacher. She passionately offers violin lessons and folk music courses, aiming to share her musical knowledge, inspire others, and keep the diversity of traditional and contemporary music alive.

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### **Short Artist Bio – Helen Maier**

Helen Maier is a Swiss violinist and musician who captivates audiences with her infectious energy and stylistic openness. Raised on Klezmer and Gypsy music, she discovered her passion for the violin at an early age. After initially training as a chef, she went on to study jazz with a focus on folk music at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, where she immersed herself deeply in folk traditions, with a particular emphasis on Nordic and Celtic folk as well as Swiss traditional music.

She has performed on numerous stages in Switzerland and abroad and has collaborated with renowned artists such as KUNZ, BLIGG and Philipp Fankhauser, as well as with her own bands, including *Æed*. As the bandleader of **Helen Maier & The Folks**, she blends traditional music with modern influences to create a distinctive sound — a high-energy fusion power folk band.

Awards such as the *Goldene Lilie*, funding support from the Aargauer Kuratorium, and the *Swiss Music Award 2022* (with KUNZ) highlight her artistic work. Particular attention was drawn to the project *Tavolata* with BLIGG, which led to television appearances on SRF and sold-out concerts at the KKL Lucerne, where she performed as a soloist. Alongside her concert career, Helen Maier is also an inspiring violin teacher, dedicated to passing on musical diversity and the joy of making music.

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Diskographie:

Áed: Beyond (2025)

BLIGG & Helen Maier & The Folks: Tavolata (2024)

Helen Maier & The Folks: MOTION (2024)

Antonia Gasser: Schattenbruch (2023)

Áed: Leaf (2023)

KUNZ: Weisch no - Live Unplugged (2023)

KUNZ: Mai (2021)

Helen Maier & The Folks: Intuition (2020)

Áed: Moved (2020)

Alpinis: 2019 (2019)

À La Django: et voilà (2020)

Feather & Stone: (2017)

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