

ODISEJA – The Perfect Viennese Melange

Press text, written by Raffaella Gmeiner – Vienna, August 2026

Baba Yaga releases the album “Odiseja” on 16 October 2026 – a musical journey between Klezmer, Balkan, Gypsy Jazz and contemporary world music

Vienna is a city of encounters. For centuries, cultures, languages and musical traditions from East and West, North and South have come together here. Classical concert halls stand alongside jazz clubs, Eastern European music meets electronic sounds, Latin American rhythms meet African festivals, and oriental sounds meet the Viennese song tradition. This cultural diversity makes Vienna a unique breeding ground for artistic exchange – and it is precisely here that Baba Yaga’s music has its starting point.

The five musicians of the Viennese band come from different cultural and religious backgrounds and combine their personal musical experiences into a distinctive sound. Klezmer, Balkan music and Gypsy Jazz form the foundation, but Baba Yaga takes these traditions further: open, danceable and firmly rooted in the musical present. Their new album “Odiseja” is a musical journey through different eras, regions, languages and moods – and at the same time a snapshot of Vienna as a cultural melting pot.



Artwork by Tracy Dawn Tobisch, Victoria Maria Santibañez & Katharina Scholz

A Musical Odyssey

The title “Odiseja”, the Slavic term for “Odyssey”, says it all. Like the mythical journey of Odysseus, the album is shaped by movement, encounters, longing, danger, friendship and seduction. Baba Yaga embarks on its own Odiseja: a musical and personal voyage of discovery in which different people, languages and cultures come together.

The journey does not only travel geographically through different musical landscapes. It also moves between past and present, between tradition and new beginnings, between melancholy and joie de vivre. The album combines original compositions with selected traditional songs and brings seven languages together: Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, Yiddish, Romani, Greek, French, Italian and Spanish.

The result is a world-music crossover that sees borders not as dividing lines, but as transitions.

Tradition Meets the Present

Klezmer has its roots in 15th-century Europe, while Gypsy Jazz emerged around a hundred years ago. Baba Yaga approaches these musical traditions with respect, but without inhibitions. The five young musicians preserve the characteristic elements of the genres while simultaneously translating them into a contemporary sonic language.

Modern rhythms from reggaeton and Afro House find their place alongside virtuosic string lines, driving percussion, accordion, mandolin, double bass and guitar. The combination never feels contrived, but entirely natural: the musicians grew up with the musical currents of the 21st century and allow these influences to flow organically into their own music.

“Odiseja” therefore sounds fresh, vibrant and open to the world. Above all, however, the album is danceable. There are tracks that immediately set the body in motion, as well as moments that leave room for calm, melancholy and concentrated listening.

Lightness meets depth, cheerfulness meets longing, virtuosity meets the sheer joy of playing.

A Sound That Creates Images

Baba Yaga’s music is not merely audible – it creates images. Many of the album’s tracks develop an almost cinematic quality: they are driving and epic, sometimes dramatic, sometimes playful. The energy changes from track to track, while always remaining intense and emotional.

This vividness continues in the accompanying music videos. Together with video artists Liliya Timirzyanova, Jonathan Meiri and Jay Choma, Baba Yaga translates the album’s musical fantasies into visual stories.

Filming took place in Slovenia, Italy and Austria, among other locations – by the sea, in palm gardens and in Mediterranean cities. The videos thus pick up on one of the album’s central themes: the journey. Places change, landscapes pass by, cultures encounter one another – and music becomes the connecting element.

Five Musicians, Many Worlds

The distinctive character of Baba Yaga emerges from the interplay of five personalities and their different musical approaches.

Jasmin Meiri combines percussion and vocals, Raffaella Gmeiner violin and vocals. Florian Gunacker plays double bass and mandolin, Anela Čindrak brings the accordion, and David Mandlbürger the guitar. Together, they create a sound inspired by Eastern European traditions, while reaching far beyond their boundaries. The ensemble has been working together since 2023, *ODISEJA* is the second album.

The cultural and linguistic diversity of the band members is not merely a concept, but part of Baba Yaga's musical DNA. Musicians come from three different nations and talk multiple languages. Different perspectives meet, intertwine and develop a shared language – the language of music.

Twelve Tracks, Seven Languages

The album “*Odiseja*” comprises twelve tracks and tells its story through different musical colours. The title track “*Odiseja*” opens the journey in Greek. “*Festina Lente*” leads into the Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian linguistic sphere, while “*Tchavolo Swing*”, as an instrumental piece, gives space to Gypsy Jazz.

With “*Yéraki*”, oriental and Mediterranean colours emerge. Yiddish songs such as “*Oyfn veg shteyt a boym*”, “*Oy mame, bin ikh farlibt*” and “*Mir lebn eybik*” meet Romani in “*Shukar Jakha*”, Italian in “*Vieni da me*” and Spanish in “*Alona*”. The two parts of “*Les deux oiseaux*” expand the musical spectrum with French and instrumental passages.

The tracks do not stand isolated from one another. They form stations along a shared journey that repeatedly takes new directions while maintaining its own musical course.

Vienna as the Starting Point

Baba Yaga is representative of a young Viennese music scene in which cultural diversity has long been a musical reality. Vienna is more than simply the place where the band lives and works. The city is both a source of inspiration and a space of resonance.

In a city where very different musical worlds coexist every day and increasingly merge with one another, an environment emerges in which traditions do not have to be preserved as museum pieces, but can continue to evolve. This is precisely where Baba Yaga begins.

“*Odiseja*” is a Viennese Melange in the best sense of the word: different ingredients, diverse origins, surprising combinations – and in the end, a distinctive flavour all of its own.

Baba Yaga's music tells of a world in which cultural boundaries are permeable. It connects people across languages and backgrounds and shows that tradition and the present do not have to be opposites. On the contrary: it is precisely their connection that creates something new.

With “*Odiseja*”, Baba Yaga invites listeners to embark on this journey – to dance, listen, dream and keep travelling.

ODISEJA – The Album

Baba Yaga – ODISEJA

Release: 16 October 2026, digital and physical

Album launch: 15 October 2026, WUK Vienna

Pre-release singles:

- “Oy mame, bin ikh farlibt” – 20 March 2026
- “Vieni da me” – 29 May 2026
- “Shukar Jakha” – 10 July 2026
- “Yéraki” – 14 August 2026
- “Alona” – 18 September 2026

Line-up:

- Jasmin Meiri – percussion & vocals
- Raffaella Gmeiner – violin & vocals
- Florian Gunacker – double bass & mandolin
- Anela Čindrak – accordion
- David Mandlbürger – guitar

Guest musicians:

- Jeremy Michael Allison – darbuka (“Yéraki”)
- Florian Koch – drums (“Yéraki”)

Production: Baba Yaga GesbR

Recording & Mixing: Florian Koch

Studio: Tonherd, Vienna

Mastering: Martin Scheer

Photography: Katharina Scholz

Artwork & Design: Tracy Dawn-Tobisch & Victoria Maria Santibañez

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LINKS

Website: www.baba-yaga.at

Mail: info@baba-yaga.at

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@babayagavienna5017>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/babayagavienna/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/baba.yaga.online>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/intl-de/artist/4392nbMnP9Dp1z75wPHRj8?si=DRmY14XFQUSg39hu88GTmw>

Wikipedia: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baba_Yaga_\(Band\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baba_Yaga_(Band))



Photo by Katharina Scholz, Piran (2026)