

# Luxemburger Wort

## Competition closed - Win tickets to the Patton Concerts

### Bringing Patton 'home' to Luxembourg



Photo: Guy Jallay

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Published on Friday, 21 November, 2014 at 17:40

(CS) The story of General George S Patton, Jr. is inextricably linked to the history of Luxembourg, with a new chapter about to be written, as not-for-profit Patton Luxembourg launches with a concert commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Patton's granddaughter, Helen Patton, has been instrumental in bringing the foundation to Luxembourg, which, she said to wort.lu/en, has always understood the work the organisation is trying to achieve.

Patton Luxembourg asbl will be the third branch of an association, that also includes the **Patton Foundation** (<http://www.thepattonfoundation.org/>) in the US and the **Patton Stiftung** (<http://patton-trust.org/pages/de/start.php>) in Germany, but which operates well beyond the borders of these countries, with people from countries as far apart as Bosnia and Sweden benefitting from its activities.

For Helen Patton, her work is about “building bridges” between the past and the present, between former enemies, in order to leave the horrors of the war behind and together look towards building a better future.

## New ways of commemoration

While working with veterans and remembrance is one aspect of the Patton foundation's work, Helen explained that the association is also involved in fostering thought leadership, especially among young people, promoting the arts and cross-cultural understanding, integration and inclusion.

All this through such as events as the Patton Concerts, which were held in Normandy earlier this year and are now coming to Luxembourg, with sounds from rock and 1940s three-part harmonies to gospel with a touch of country merging for a special evening to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Luxembourg and the Battle of the Bulge.



*Photo from a previous Patton concert*

*Photo: Patrick Brion*

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Finding new ways to commemorate such occasions, the concert on December 15 is held at the Atelier – a far cry from the sombre ceremonies that usually mark such anniversaries.

A group of Battle of the Bulge veterans will travel to Luxembourg as part of the anniversary celebrations. Joining not only the concert they will attend a number of events in their honour,

including a meeting with Grand Duke Henri and a ceremony at the Hamm military cemetery.

Organised together with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, the US Embassy, the City of Luxembourg and the LCTO, the concert emphasises the collaborative nature of Patton Luxembourg asbl, which Helen hopes will bring together the different associations keeping the memory of her grandfather and WWII alive in Luxembourg.

“So much of the focus has been on Luxembourg and most of the support has come from Luxembourg,” Helen explained. “Luxembourg gets what I'm trying to do – providing context for shared experiences to open people up to dialogue.”

## The Patton legacy

With its General Patton Museum, Boulevard General George S Patton and a number of streets named after the commander of the Third Army, the presence of the family history is very much felt in the Grand Duchy.

Never having met her grandfather in person, her work has allowed Helen to discover the iconic, though not uncontroversial figure. Carrying the Patton name's legacy forward, however, Helen has long stepped out the General's shadow, carving out a successful career of her own, as an actor, singer, producer, director and not least philanthropist.

Saying that she is not proud of her grandfather's documented anti-Semitic comments, or her father's involvement in the Vietnam war, Helen said that she “does not carry the sins of my fathers,” adding that the family history is part of its “graduation process.”

Every generation can do better than it forbears, Helen argued, and part of Patton Luxembourg's mission will be to send that message to today's youth.

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*This competition is now closed.*

Courtesy of Patton Luxembourg, we have 2x2 tickets up for grabs for the Patton Concert on December 15 at 8.30pm at Den Atelier. For a chance to win one pair of tickets, email [wort-en@wort.lu](mailto:wort-en@wort.lu) (<mailto:wort-en@wort.lu>) with your name and a contact telephone number, mentioning “Patton Concert” in the subject line. The competition closes on December 8 at noon and winners will be notified on the day. For more details on the concert visit [atelier.lu](http://www.atelier.lu) (<http://www.atelier.lu/Upcoming-Shows/THE-PATTON-CONCERTS-2014-Thomas-Blug-Allstars-with-Thijs-van-Leer>)