



# Amhrán na Wien



## Hello and welcome to the May 2010 edition of Amhrán na WIEN!

After a long and dreary winter, it is finally time to ditch the scarf and slip on the flip flops. The AnWienTeam have researched the many activities on offer in Vienna for those sunny days.

If the rain should persist, remember that wellies were designed for summer festivals and the World Cup matches are more exciting with fans huddled closely around outdoor umbrellas clutching cold beers and praying for that penalty. And if the soggy toes become too uncomfortable, try out our tips for waltzing with guests, architecture for beginners and improve your Monopoly skills.

Our new May 2010 edition, and all past editions can be found at <http://www.gaavienna.at/anw.html>

Once again, a big thank you to all those who acknowledged our previous editions and who became our fans on Facebook.

If you have any ideas or recommendations, please do not hesitate to email us at [irishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:irishnewsletter@gmail.com). We are always thrilled to get any feedback!

The AnWienTeam

### Selection of Upcoming Gigs

Brian Jonestown		
Massacre	5 May	Flex
Jeans Team	8 May	Fluc Wanne
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club		
Club	17 May	Arena
KISS	20 May	Stadthalle
Ash	23 May	Flex
Foals	25 May	Flex
Gogol Bordello	27 May	Gasometer
Jamie Cullum	30 May	Austria Center
Thievery Corporation	2 June	Gasometer
Eric Clapton & Steve Winwood	7 June	Stadthalle
Moneybrother	16 June	WUK
Rod Stewart	27 June	Stadthalle

### Recommendations

Il Sestante – Piaristengasse 50, 1080

[www.sestante.at](http://www.sestante.at)

Located in the quaint 8th district, with a lovely shady terrace (wait another few weeks and you'll appreciate that!) in front of the Maria Treu Church, this is the place to go for a relaxed yet delicious after-work or weekend pizza - the pizza Giovanni and the pizza Bolognese are personal favourites!

Gasthaus "Häuserl am Stoan" - Höhenstraße, 1190

[www.amstoan.com](http://www.amstoan.com)

This little restaurant is a real insider tip, hidden away in the Wienerwald, it has somewhat of a "Hansel and Gretel" feel to it. Enjoy typical Austrian cuisine, more typical than you will get anywhere in the city on picnic tables that boast a wonderful view over Vienna. On a rainy day sit inside in one of the nooks and crannies but don't be turned off by the witches - you'll see what we mean! This delightful treat is really only accessible by car but you could also dust off those hiking boots and really earn your Schnitzel - it's well worth it.

Brot und Spiel - Laudongasse 22, 1080

[www.brot-spiele.co.at](http://www.brot-spiele.co.at)

If the spring rain falls and your competitive edge needs a break from outdoor activities, head to Brot und Spiel. This cool bar has a huge array of board games for customers to play, also available in English. Even the strongest of friendships can be tested to the limit over a game of Monopoly and the heartiest of appetites satisfied by one of their speciality baguettes!

For the interested reader, this is the 10th edition of AnWien. It seems only fair to promote this fact by mentioning:

1)The 10 Festival for fashion & photography takes place in Vienna on 7 to 17 June. This festival celebrates contemporary fashion design and the various venues across Vienna are a must for those on the fashion trail. [www.10festival.at](http://www.10festival.at)

2)The Haus der Musik opened 10 years ago and they are celebrating with an anniversary music programme from 1 to 10 June. Note the free admission for all events including the children's tour for little musical ears!



## Vienna Festivals

Summertime is festival time but don't pack the tent and the wellies just yet! Vienna itself has such a great array of festivals meaning you can trot off home when that final beer becomes too much.

This year's Wiener Festwochen (Vienna Festival) takes place from 14 May – 20 June. This festival was set up after World War II to give the people of Vienna a well-deserved distraction after years of hardship. The 6-week festival, is packed with drama and music performances from all over the world (yes, for those of you who are worried about the German not being up to scratch, some productions are in English, such as Robert LePage's new 8-hour long production "Lipsynch") - even Charlie Chaplin's grandson is producing one of the plays on the programme (Raoul). The (free!) opening ceremony will take place on Rathausplatz on Friday 14 May with a Viennese Young Musician 'Eurovision' Contest. Now some of you might be thinking "so much for the original goal of appealing to the people of Vienna"... Well the Wiener Festwochen will prove you wrong. Their recent initiative "Into The City" fulfills exactly that goal, reaching out to the people in those areas where people tend to not go to the theatre and offering them an access to culture - on 8 May, Ottakring will be invaded by "Balkan Beats and Oriental Ska" - featuring Vlada Divljan, the cult Yugoslav singer from the 80s. [www.festwochen.at](http://www.festwochen.at)



The 2010 Donauinselfest is a must for the Irish in Vienna as this year's line up features The Dubliners! Don festival wellies and green hats and head down to the island to give this legendary folk band a great big bualadh bos! The festival takes place from 25 - 27 June and entry is free. [www.2010.donauinselfest.at](http://www.2010.donauinselfest.at)

With live music shows, dance performances and children's puppet shows in various locations all over the city, this year's Stadtfest Wien, organised by the ÖVP (Austrian People's Party) is set to be a fun-filled weekend for the whole family. Stadtfest Wien 2010 takes place from 28 – 30 May [www.stadtfest-wien.at](http://www.stadtfest-wien.at)

Presented by FM4, Popfest is a new edition to Vienna's festival scene. From 6 – 9 May, over 30 bands will rock Karlsplatz, including favourites such as Tanz Baby, A Life, A Song, A Cigarette and Paper Bird. [www.popfest.at](http://www.popfest.at)

## Architekturtage

For many of us, great architecture means the imposing imperialistic buildings dotted around central Vienna. But we can fight our ignorance with a trip to the Architecture Days held in locations throughout Austria on 28 and 29 May. The extensive programme includes visits to architects' offices, tours of exciting buildings, visits to construction sites, lectures, discussions and films. The full programme, including children's activities and events in Bratislava, can be found at [www.architekturtage.at](http://www.architekturtage.at)



## Salzgrotte

Fast becoming the new it-treatment in alternative medicines, the Salt Room is worth considering for those of you who suffer from breathing or skin problems. One AnWienTeam member tested Vienna's Salzgrotte. It is quite literally like walking into a salty cave. Sterile salt covers the walls and floors and, once you settle into your lounge, more salt is pumped into the air in the room allowing you to soak up the negative ions which purify the lungs and skin. (The author thanks Wikipedia for that science bit). The room was indeed relaxing and I had a lovely snooze after being told to shut up by some woman who was clearly full of negative ions. In general, I was merely delighted that I experienced this salty delight for only €16 when the same experience costs upwards of \$100 in New York. Full info at [www.salzgrotte.at](http://www.salzgrotte.at)



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## World Cup 2010

Ok...so nothing is ever going to make up for the disappointment felt by the Irish in the aftermath of that scandalous November night in Paris, but, with a cold beer in your hand and the sun beating down on your face, we can guarantee that the atmosphere at these outdoor venues will soon have you cheering on your favourite nations!

Here are our top 5 World Cup venues:

### Altes AKH

Undoubtedly one of the best outdoor venues to watch the world cup, the Altes AKH university campus, located close to Schottentor, boasts 3 or 4 large screens and ample space for you and your friends to lounge around chanting your favourite football songs.



### WUK

This venue has the added advantage of having a huge screen indoors in case of rain – and those of you who remember the storms from EURO 2008 will know that this is a very real possibility!! WUK is a lot smaller than Altes AKH, but what it lacks in size it makes up for in atmosphere. Check out [www.wuk.at](http://www.wuk.at)

### Flex

One of Vienna's most famous nightclubs, Flex ([www.flex.at](http://www.flex.at)) is also a great place to catch all the World Cup action, and the fun doesn't stop after the final whistle is blown!

### Chelsea



Located on the Guertel along the U6 line close to Thaliastrasse, this is another great club showing all the matches on four big screens both inside and outside (another

good venue for a rainy day...). Also a great place to party afterwards. For more info, go to [www.chelsea.co.at](http://www.chelsea.co.at)

### Any Irish Pub!!!

To round up the top 5, and in case of EXTREME rain, head to any of Vienna's Irish pubs where you will receive a warm welcome and feel like you're back on the Island watching all the drama with your nearest and dearest! Just don't expect to hear anyone chanting "Allez les bleus..."

## Frauenlauf (Women's Run) and Just for Men

With an incredible 21,100 participants running either 5km, 10km, or Nordic walking, this year's Frauenlauf on 30 May is set to be one of the largest women's runs in continental Europe. Unfortunately registration is now closed, but come along with your friends and family to show your support and enjoy the "After Run Party" which continues late into the afternoon.

[www.oesterreichischerdmfrauenlauf.at](http://www.oesterreichischerdmfrauenlauf.at)



For any men feeling left out, why not join the "Just for Men" run (also 5 or 10km) which takes place on 20 June at 11:30 in Prater. [www.justmenrun.at](http://www.justmenrun.at)

## Vienna Gaels

The sun is out and the Gaelic Football season has started back - with lots of new members, new energy, and perhaps even new skills!

After only a few training sessions, the Vienna Gaels hosted their yearly Regional Tournament on 24 April 2010 in Atzgersdorf, attended by mens and ladies teams from Budapest, Prague and Warsaw., and a troupe of cheerleaders! The after-party in Flanagans was an equal success and set the 2010 football season off to a good start!

Next tournament is on 15 May in Budapest - watch this space! In the meantime, we are always glad to see new faces at training - every Wednesday from 19.30 to 21.00 in Atzgersdorf. See [www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at) for more information.



## Blitz Dance Lessons at the Rueff Dance School

Wondering what to do with those summer visitors who want to see the traditional Vienna? What better than taking them to waltzing lessons in an old Vienna Tanzschule? The Rueff Dance School opens its door every day at 4pm to teach random strays the art of waltzing! It's designed for tourists and rhythmically challenged natives and you can guarantee that your visitors will leave with more than a boring photograph as a reminder of Vienna. No reservations needed and at only €22 it is a fun alternative tourist activity. (For AnWien's own dance lesson see our February 2009 edition here - [http://www.gaavienna.at/docs/anw/AnW\\_feb09.pdf](http://www.gaavienna.at/docs/anw/AnW_feb09.pdf))



The lovely people at the Austro-Irish Society have recently relaunched their website under the same address ([www.austro-irish.at](http://www.austro-irish.at)). For news of all their upcoming events and more, check out the new site. They will also be holding their "Abschluss Heuriger" evening on 22 June. Full details online.

## Celtic summer night in Metropol

Hernalser Hauptstraße 55, 1170 Wien

On 24 June the Metropol in Vienna will be hosting their Celtic Summer Night. The featured artist will be acclaimed Scottish folk singer, Emily Smith, described by Q Magazine as deserving to become 'to Scottish folk what Joni Mitchell is to its Californian cousin'.

[www.wiener-metropol.at](http://www.wiener-metropol.at)

## Folk Music Workshop

From 25-27 June 2010, if you're looking for Irish Music between the Celtic Summer Night and the Dubliners gig at DonaulnselFest, don't miss the Folk Music Workshop in Lockenhaus (Burgenland), covering disciplines ranging from Uilleann Pipes, Irish Fiddle and Tin Whistle to Styrian Fiddle, Jodeln and Balkan Tunes. Contact [wernigantonia@gmx.at](mailto:wernigantonia@gmx.at) for details.

## Learn English Through Action

LETA (Learn English Through Action) is a great forum for both English native speakers and those who are interested in improving their English. LETA organises various workshops and events for kids, including art and drama summer camps, as well as lessons for both adults and children and English language playgroups for young children and babies. For more information about LETA and what's on offer, go to [www.leta.co.at](http://www.leta.co.at)

## GOAL Irish Ball Vienna 2010

On 10 April 2010, the most prestigious event for the Irish community in Vienna took place in the lush ballroom of the InterContinental Hotel. The 11th GOAL Irish Charity Ball was a huge success, with over 400 guests enjoying fine food, plentiful drinks and top Irish culture.



Once again, the champagne reception was accompanied by the beautiful harp music of Sigríd Massenbauer. The Irish Fire Dance Group wowed guests with a specially choreographed dance routine – even incorporating a pint of Guinness! Live music from Belfast-based band "The Rapparees" had even the shyest dancer up on their feet. The evening was brought to a close (at a rather late hour..!) with classic tunes from DJ Ste-J. All this dancing required frequent rehydration breaks – and the free Jameson, Stiegl and Guinness proved very welcome!

But there was a serious cause behind all this fun. With the help of generous sponsors and our charitable guests, the GOAL Irish Charity Ball raised a huge €20,000. This money will go to GOAL, an Irish charity helping the poorest of the poor all over the world, and SOS Kinderdorf, an Austria-based charity focused on the needs of children without parental care and children of families in difficult circumstances. In her speech, Lisa O'Shea, the Head of Fundraising with GOAL, eluded to the continued generosity that the people of Vienna showed to those less well off than ourselves year after year. The fact that so many people attended the event showed how much they care about the less fortunate in our world and for this GOAL is deeply grateful.



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