



# Amhrán na Wien



Hello and welcome to the Spring edition of **Amhrán na WIEN!**

After the excitement of St. Patrick's Day and the darkness of Winter, now is the time to enjoy Vienna in the sun. The romantic atmosphere of wintry streets and colourful lights makes way for the outdoor cafés and sports in the sun. Vienna has just been voted as the city with the best quality of life in the world (in Mercer's annual survey) and the AnWienTeam think that Spring is the best time to discover our gem of a city. For this edition we have continued to summarise upcoming events, often with an Irish flavour, and to recommend some of the eateries and bars that we so often frequent. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this edition and we appeal to the rest of you to send us an email at [irishnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:irishnewsletter@gmail.com) with your suggestions for the Summer edition!

Thank you for reading Amhrán na Wien and we look forward to hearing from you,

Slán go foill,  
The AnWienTeam

## Selection of Upcoming Events

|                       |         |                    |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------|
| The Ting Tings        | 2 May   | Flex               |
| Lionel Ritchie        | 6 May   | Stadthalle         |
| Ben Kweller           | 7 May   | Flex               |
| Metallica             | 14 May  | Stadthalle         |
| Simply Red            | 21 May  | Stadthalle         |
| Robin Gibb & Band     | 22 May  | Stadthalle         |
| Chris de Burgh & Band | 26 May  | Stadthalle         |
| Snow Patrol           | 26 May  | Gasometer          |
| Mogwai                | 1 June  | Arena              |
| Peter Bjorn & John    | 4 June  | Arena              |
| The Chemical Brothers | 6 June  | Arsenal            |
| Eagles                | 10 June | Stadthalle         |
| Cumann Céilí Vín      | 12 June | Keplerplatz 5, 10. |
| Lenny Kravitz         | 13 June | Stadthalle         |
| Yeah Yeah Yeahs       | 30 June | Arena              |

Vienna's English Theatre – Josefs-gasse 12, 1080  
Out of Order (Ray Cooney) - 25 May – 03 July

Vienna's International Theatre – Porzellangasse 8, 1090  
Driving Miss Daisy (Alfred Uhry) - May 26 – June 27

Fuel to help you get that 'Spring' in your step!

Elefant and Castle, Neubaugasse 45 , 7.  
[www.elefantcastle.com](http://www.elefantcastle.com)

During a recent rant about missing proper sandwiches, one AnWienTeam member got pointed in the direction of this little café located on the bustling Neubaugasse. The young British owner satisfies hungry customers with her wonderful variety of sandwiches ranging from "Coronation Chicken" to "St. Trinians" or "A Fish called Wanda"! She also prepares fresh soups and curries, bakes a selection of muffins and other sweet treats, and serves freshly made smoothies perfect for Spring days – all this to eat in or take away.

Schweizerhaus, Prater 116, 2.  
[www.schweizerhaus.at](http://www.schweizerhaus.at)

Whether you're thirsty after a hard day's sunbathing or starving because your lunch revisited you after one too many rollercoaster rides, the Schweizerhaus in the Prater is the perfect place to wind down on a summer's evening. Order the famous "Stelze" and wash it down with a "Krügel" of beer, and enjoy the atmosphere of one of Vienna's biggest and most legendary beer gardens.

LIMES - Hoher Markt 10, 1.  
[www.restaurant-limes.at](http://www.restaurant-limes.at)

Limes, a funky inner city café/restaurant caters for all needs providing a breakfast, lunch and evening menu. Our favourite time at Limes is lunchtime – it's the place for the young business folk of the first district to be seen! The cocktails, even the alcohol free ones (if you need to be on the ball for that very important meeting in the afternoon) are definitely worth a taste. In the summer months, enjoy a glass of the best Austrian wine on the terrace while admiring the famous Anker clock and soaking up the hustle and bustle of the Hoher Markt.

## Embassy of Ireland

Rotenturmstrasse 16-18, 5th Floor, 1010 Vienna  
Tel: +43 1 7154246

Monday to Friday, 09.30-11.30 and 13.30-16.30  
Telephone hours: Monday-Friday 9.00 to 17.00



## Linz – European Capital of Culture 2009

This year Austria's third largest city has been bestowed the title of 2009 European Capital of Culture. This is the second time for Austria, with Graz having been elected in 2003. The title, in existence since 1985, is awarded by the EU and aims to give cities a chance to showcase their cultural life and cultural development.

Linz has a year of festivities planned in celebration of their success and the AnWienTeam recommend at least a day trip to this beautiful city in order to experience the finest in European culture. The easiest way to get there is to take the train from Westbahnhof (approx. 2 hours) and when there we recommend the 'Linz09' card. This card entitles the holder to admission to all museums in Linz, a 25% discount on the train journey from your home town, access to all public transport in Linz, and many other perks - all for the modest price of €15 for one day, or €25 for three days.

For a full list of activities and information on the Linz 09 card visit [www.linz09.at](http://www.linz09.at)

### Ulysses in Wien

The chestnuts and lilacs are blooming and spring is turning to early summer, which for fans of James Joyce means that Bloomsday is not far off. Celebrating the extraordinary feat of the writer, who captured a single day in the life of Dublin – 16 June 1904 – in his masterpiece Ulysses, Joyceans worldwide, including those of us in Vienna, get together to read excerpts, enjoy the music associated with Joyce, and sample the notorious Leopold Bloom breakfast - which as it includes "the inner organs of beasts and fowls", is not for the faint of heart. This year's Bloomsday will be marked by events at the University of Vienna's English department and other venues throughout the city. Watch this space!

### Irish artists in Vienna

Aside from the Snow Patrol concert on May 26, there will be a host of other Irish artists appearing in Vienna over the next two months. JAPE is a particular highlight for the AnWienTeam who will be heading back to Vorstadt ([www.vorstadt.at](http://www.vorstadt.at)) on May 20 for his performance. On June 2 Robotnik (last seen climbing the tables of the St. Patrick's Day tent during one of the best performances of the weekend) will play in Chelsea ([www.chelsea.co.at](http://www.chelsea.co.at)). Finally, Liam O'Maonlai from the Hothouse Flowers will be accompanying Marketa Irglova, Oscar-winning star of the Irish movie 'Once' and one half of the Swell Season, for a gig in Haus der Musik on June 6 ([www.hdm.at](http://www.hdm.at)).

### Wiener Festwochen: 8 May – 14 June 2009

Established in 1951, the Wiener Festwochen (Vienna art festival) in the many theatres, museums, galleries and music halls across Vienna. The AnWienTeam were enthralled by the website's ambiguous promise that the art may "trigger a productive scandal"! Always eager for a scandal we intend to investigate Vienna's infatuation with art during this festival. Interested? All information can be found at [www.festwochen.at](http://www.festwochen.at)

Note that the Opening Ceremony is free of charge, and takes place at Rathausplatz (City Hall Square) on Friday, 8 May, at 9.20pm and features many celebrated musicians.

### MUSEUMSQUARTIER

Vienna is certainly a city where art seeps from every corner, none more so than the impressive MuseumsQuartier on the Ring. Instead of reviewing the Museums (which we should be thanked for...) we wanted to highlight the MQ courtyard as the best outdoor terrace in the city. This year the MQ chairs, or "Enzi" as they are known, were voted to be a Spring-like yellow (not vomit-yellow as overheard recently) and certainly recommend chilling out here for a day in the sun and an evening with outdoor music and possibly the best atmosphere in Vienna. Wifi is available for those of you who have work to do on your laptops. Otherwise, people often bring their own wine bottles in order to best soak up the festival atmosphere.

This year's opening ceremony takes place on May 7th and is free of charge. A full programme can be found at [www.mqw.at](http://www.mqw.at) but we especially like the appearance of Tyrone at 6pm (assurances that it is actually a Graz-based funk band do not dispel our hope for something slightly Irish...). Children are also encouraged to participate and the Kinder Museum will be running a series of activities for the little darlings. Check out [www.kindermuseum.at](http://www.kindermuseum.at)





## Vienna Gaels GAA Club

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



The Vienna Gaels have not only successfully survived both the March festivities and the start of the new season but have even grown as a result of new American, Austrian, British, German, Irish and Swedish members having joined the club! Indeed, March started off with the St Patrick's Day Festival at which the Gaels proudly took part in the parade and occupied a stand in the tent, giving us our first occasion to wear the new 2009 club jerseys, sponsored by Flanagan's Irish Pub, who spoilt us with the delightful smell of fish and chips throughout the weekend!

Our first training of the season took place on March 18th and, despite the date and related sore heads, we welcomed a large group of motivated old and new members, ready to kick the season off to a good start.

Paddy's Day Madness was followed by the Irish Charity Ball, which the club supported by donating a jersey for the raffle and reserving a table for the evening. Neither the jerseys nor our social red tops were worn at that occasion, but this did not stop a few of our members from being amongst the last to be spotted by the ANW team in the early (or later) hours of the morning in Flanagan's...

### Running off the March excesses...

Ladies, Spring time is a time to dust off the sports clothes and get fit for bikini season so join the AnWienTeam who are running the Frauenlauf on June 7 ([www.oesterreichischerdmfrauenlauf.at](http://www.oesterreichischerdmfrauenlauf.at)). You can choose between 5kms or 10kms to run/walk/skip/crawl and remember that it is a fun way to spend time with friends in the beautiful Prater in what promises to be a great atmosphere. The deadline for registering is May 13th.

### On yer bikes!!

Cycle around Vienna for next to nothing with city bikes! There are an incredible 58 bike stations all across Vienna full of beautiful (and surprisingly bum-friendly) blue and yellow bikes just waiting to be cycled, and the beauty of the system is you can pick up your bike at one end of the city but drop it off at any of the stations. You can register over the internet or directly at any one of the bike stations with an Austrian bank card or a credit card. The first hour on your city bike is free, and you pay a euro per hour after that. For more information, including a map which shows you where to find your nearest city bike station, check out [www.citybikewien.at](http://www.citybikewien.at).

Since then, training has been taking place every Wednesday from 8 to 9.30pm in Atzgersdorf (see [www.gaavienna.at](http://www.gaavienna.at) for more information), welcoming new players every week, and hoping to continue doing so!

Initial efforts first paid off on April 19th at the Vienna City Marathon where a team named "Vienna Gaelettes" took part in the Relay Marathon category – a big congratulations to Sinéad Harvey, Claire Jessel and Niamh Scally for their fantastic performance!

The actual football skills got their first chance to shine at the regional GAA tournament on April 25th which Vienna hosts every year – attended by men's and ladies teams from Budapest as well as two Vienna men's teams and one Vienna ladies teams. The results weren't quite as we had hoped for, but the atmosphere was just as good as the weather, the players looked their best in the new kits and the post-tournament party was up to the usual standards! We will work on getting the points and goals up to scratch for our next tournament in Budapest on May 9th. To be continued.....

### Wombats "The Lounge" hostel

[www.wombats-hostels.com](http://www.wombats-hostels.com)

The AnWienTeam recently discovered a great place to recommend to any visitors coming to Vienna on a budget. The Wombats Hostel chain now has two locations in Vienna and "The Lounge" on Mariahilferstrasse 137 was recent host to some of our friends. Wombats borders on the hotel with private rooms available and is, according to reports, laid-back, clean, stylish, friendly and ideal as a base to explore Vienna. One AnWienTeam member fondly remembers the free welcome drink she received with her friends and the yummy cocktails that followed. And followed.



Austro Irish Society  
[www.austro-irish.at](http://www.austro-irish.at)

The Society's next event is a Pub Crawl on 5 May, meeting at the Crown and Sword Irish Pub, 1020 Obere Augartenstraße 72 (U Bahn Station Taborstraße) and going on from there (weather permitting). On 16 June the Society's Abschlußheurige takes place at Hengl-Haselbrunner, 1190, Iglaseegasse 10. All are welcome to join.



# The 10th Annual Irish GOAL Charity Ball

The 10th GOAL Irish Charity Ball welcomed 330 of Vienna's Irish and international community on 28th March 2009 for a night that proved to be as successful for charity as it was at proving Vienna has some true partying style! The Hotel InterContinental was transformed into a miniature Emerald Isle for a few hours, from the green, white and gold lighting, the Irish folk music and céilí dancing to the pints of Guinness and shots of Jameson - there was plenty of craic to be had!

Sigrid Massenbauer set the ambiance during the Sekt reception with her enchanting Irish harp music. The Irish Fire dance group gave Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance a run for its' money with their breathtaking performance and provided the very enthusiastic non-Irish amongst us the opportunity to learn their "aon, do, tris"! Keeping up the high standard, the main act of the night were The Rapparees, a band flown in especially from Belfast who were certainly not for the faint hearted. These dashing lads stormed the stage with a mix of traditional Irish folk music and energetic musicianship that appealed to every cailín (but particularly the cailíní!) and buachaill in the place. Their most entertaining and lively performance will echo the rooms of the InterContinental for many months - for more information on this up and coming band [www.therapparees.com](http://www.therapparees.com) A hard act to follow, but DJ Ste-J had no problem keeping the guests hopping well into the very early hours.

Aside from all the music and dance, spirits were high during a fun filled auction, where many a Baller battled it out for a weeks holiday in a villa on the west coast of Ireland or for an Irish rugby jersey signed by the recent Grand Slam Winners. Those who didn't succeed under the hammer focussed on the raffle, which boasted a broad range of prizes ranging from food hampers of Irish delights to a weekend in the InterContinental in Berlin.



The Ball proved an astounding success for charity. In these times of economic crisis the Committee, with the support of many sponsors and all those in attendance, still managed to raise an astounding EUR 14.000, which was donated to GOAL and SOS Kinderdorf. The money donated to GOAL will be used in the implementation of a variety of humanitarian programmes in 10 countries around the world ([www.goal.ie](http://www.goal.ie)). The money donated to SOS Kinderdorf will be used for the new SOS Children's Village Lumbini that is currently being built in Nepal and will give a loving home to 150 orphaned or abandoned children ([www.sos-kinderdorf.at](http://www.sos-kinderdorf.at) or specifically for Lumbini on <http://tinyurl.com/dxztnx>)

Comhghairdeas le gach duine acu!  
(Congratulations to everyone!)

## What the committee did over the past months

- competed in the first Irish Easter Egg Roll in Vienna
- celebrated the first Irish Grand Slam Win in 61 years
- ate pick n mix at the Walls recent gig in Vorstadt
- perfected our French at the Festival du Film Francophone (though remained quite confused)
- finished off AnW over a croissant at Vienna Airport

## Irish Music Workshop

A weekend of Irish Traditional Music will take place from 19 - 21 June in the "Fiddlers Green" folk club in Steinfeld 9, 2565 Alland, approx. 30 minutes west of Vienna.

Participants can choose from a variety of classes held by experienced music tutors:

- Irish piping and tin whistle will be taught by Mickey Dunne.
- The organiser, Antonia Dusa Wernig will be teaching beginners piping and trad repertoire classes suited for all melody instruments.
- Guitar and mandolin classes will be held by Christian Troger.

A special treat is in store for those who have an interest in the Irish Language and song. The singer and poet Batt O Connor will familiarise the participants with some basic conversation skills as Gaeilge, the ancient ogham - writing and with the rare art form of singing in the old style (Seanós).

The €120 fee covers all classes, the Green Days festival folk concerts on Saturday and Sunday nights, catering and on site camping.

Beidh ceol, caint agus Craic againn!

For more information and registration please contact: [wernigantonia@gmx.at](mailto:wernigantonia@gmx.at) (+43 699 11662262)  
[www.myspace.com/irishmusicworkshop](http://www.myspace.com/irishmusicworkshop)

