

VIENNA

SOUNDING OUT
→

The Austrian capital has long been a melting pot of different cultures. Hans Kulisch explores its vibrant music scene

Vienna is regarded by many as the music capital of the world, although in a very different way to New Orleans, New York or London. This is due to the city's long and distinguished tradition of classical music. Vienna has been synonymous with music for centuries and was home to Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Johann Strauss. The city has always embraced other cultures, thanks to its rich history as the hub of the Austro-Hungarian Empire which included countries now comprising the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and parts of Poland, Romania and Italy. Add to the mix more recent waves of immigration from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia and you have a potent cosmopolitan mix – and huge potential for world music in the capital.

Contemporary Vienna is a haven for all

things Balkan and Eastern European, with pockets of Arabic, Turkish, Levantine, African and Latin music. Resident artists like Celia Mara (Brazil), Marwan Abado (Palestine), Alegre Correa (Brazil), Fatima Spar (Turkey/Serbia/Ukraine) and Prince Zeka (Congo) have been working here for quite some time and are integral to the music scene in Austria in general. Vienna is also known as the capital of downtempo music, thanks to the success of Kruder & Dorfmeister and their world-renowned *K&D Sessions* album of chill-out music. And there are plenty of exciting bands fusing electronica with global influences, notably Dzihan & Kamien, Karuan and Cay Taylan.

Although the world music scene is still small, a few years ago world music awards were inaugurated to enhance the local scene – an important step in spreading the word about folk and world sounds. Venues may not be plentiful, but if you like

all things Eastern then Ost Klub has to be your destination. Nowadays this former disco is the premier venue for anything that sounds vaguely Balkan – or for world music in general. Jazz club Porgy & Bess also programmes concerts with global artists, along with venues like Sargfabrik. For homegrown music, there's *wienerlieder* and *schrammelmusik*, a product of the Habsburg empire, when immigrants of many cultures flocked to the capital in the 19th century. Its birth was in 1878 when violinists Johann and Josef Schrammel formed a trio with Anton Strohmayr, playing a double-necked contra-guitar, in Nussdorf, a Viennese wine suburb. The music became so popular that a whole new genre – schrammelmusik – was born. It's still played today, with groups of violin, clarinet, accordion and guitar, in many of the *heuriger* (wine taverns) in the Vienna woods. It's a great experience to hear this music – romantic and often poignant.



A panoramic view of central Vienna and the Burgtheater

FESTIVALS

Africa Tage

July 24-August 2 2009

Explore the spirit of Africa on a beautiful stretch of countryside on the Donauinsel, (Danube island) beside the river. This year's artists include Marla Glen, Hans Theesinck, Iyasa and Afroco.

www.afrika-tage.at

Wean Hean

September 22-October 22 2009

This celebration of traditional Viennese song and music was started in 2000 by Vienna's Department of Culture. Each edition has a special theme and, on top of traditional acts, there are plenty of jazz and contemporary re-



Fire eating at Africa Tage festival

workings of Viennese music.

www.weanhean.at

Salam Orient Festival

October 13-November 5 2009

This autumn festival brings together an embarrassment of riches from all over the Middle East. Past performers include Arab

Orchestra of Nazareth, Trio Joubran, Femi Kuti & The Positive Force and Sevda.

www.salam-orient.at

Klezmore Festival

November 7-22 2009

An eclectic klezmer festival that mixes traditional Jewish song with jazz, blues and reggae. Artists who have played at the festival include David Orłowski Trio, Klezmatics, Kohelet 3, Klezmophobia and Glik.

www.klezmore-vienna.at

Akkordeon Festival

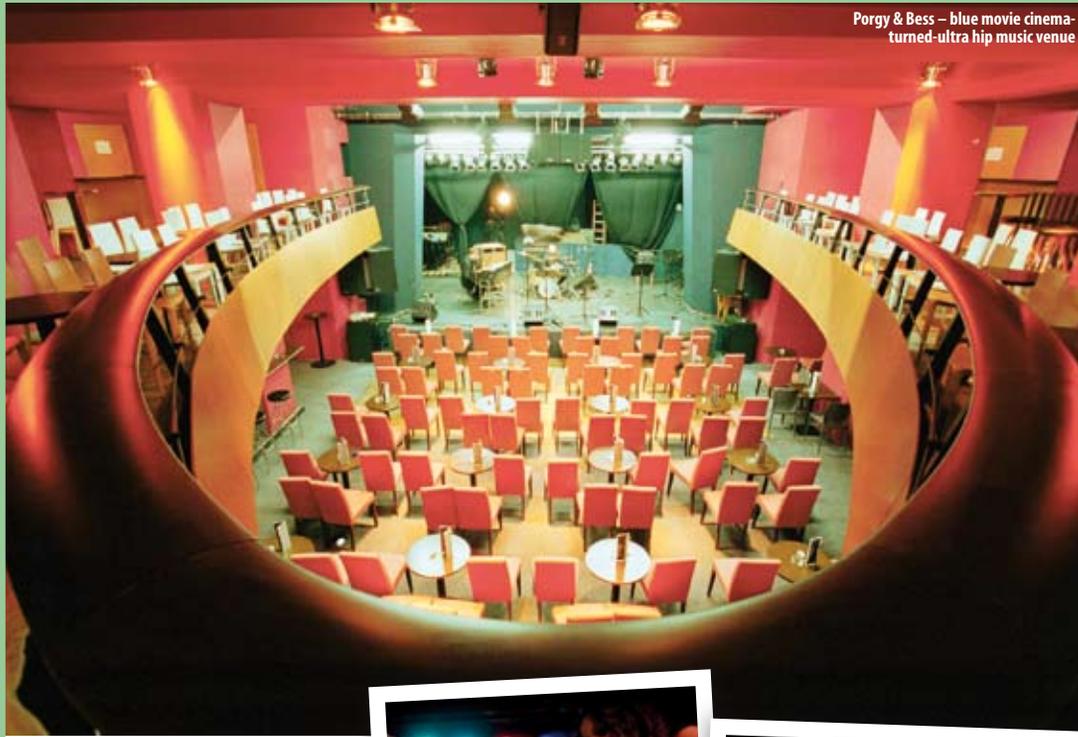
February 20-March 21 2010

Held every spring at various venues, this has

GOING TRAVELLING?

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Porgy & Bess – blue movie cinema-turned-ultra hip music venue



A typical Viennese heuriger

WIEN TOURISMUS/CLAUDIO ALESSANDRI

VENUES AND CLUBS

Ost Klub

The premier venue for Balkan music in Vienna, with a concert hall, disco and bar.

Schwarzenbergplatz 10, +43 (0)1 505 62 28, www.ost-klub.at

Sargfabrik

A nice place that hosts quite a few world music concerts and even boasts an indoor swimming pool.

Goldschlagstrasse 169, +43 (0)1 988 98 119, www.sargfabrik.at

Porgy & Bess

This former blue movie cinema has been rebuilt into a grandiose jazz ballroom with a balcony that has a



Balkan mash-up at Ost Klub

theatre-like atmosphere. Besides jazz, there are always regular world music concerts.

Riemergasse 11, +43 (0)1 512 88 11, www.porgy.at

Vienna Konzerthaus

One of the most famous venues in



Vienna Konzerthaus

the city. Now almost solely dedicated to classical music and new music, it was a famous hall for rock concerts in the 70s when you could hear the likes of Led Zeppelin and Frank Zappa. The Konzerthaus also programmes a diverse roster of world music talent and past performers have included Omara Portuondo, Abdullah Ibrahim, Giora Feidman and Soyka Stirner. **Lothringerstrasse 20, +43 (0)1 242 002, <http://konzerthaus.at>**

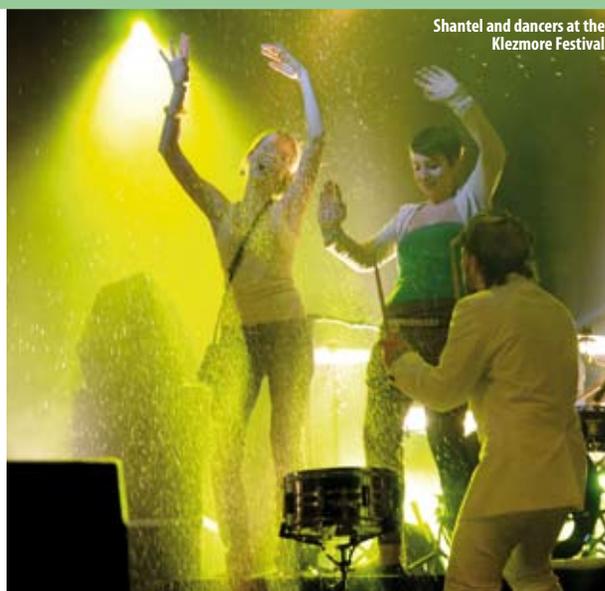
to be the best festival about this instrument in the world. Organiser Friedl Preisl (also the man behind Klezmore and Wean Hean) programmes with passion and creativity. Previous artists include Motion Trio, Klezmer Reloaded and Martin Lubenov. **www.akkordeonfestival.at**

Balkan Fever Festival

April 23-May 9 2010

The Balkan party comes to town for this annual springtime festival held at various venues. Previous artists include Theodosii Spassov, Eszma Redžepova, Karandila, Ljubinka Jokic & Yok, Stelios Mpikakis and Toni Kitanovski & Cherkezi.

www.balkanfever.at



Shantel and dancers at the Klezmore Festival

HEURIGER

A traditional wine tavern with an outdoor garden where the latest wine harvest is sold to the public (see above). Grüner Veltliner, the local white wine, is excellent and you can get tasty food. There are often busking musicians or a resident band who will serenade drinkers and diners with wienlieder or schrammelmusik. Most heuriger are in the hills on the outskirts of town where the cultivation of wine is possible – Vienna is one of the only capitals where vines grow within the city limits. They are open all year, but summer or autumn are the best times to visit. Grinzing is popular, but some places are quite touristy. Mauer is perhaps better. It's always fun to do a heuriger crawl to find the best location and best music. Check out the following:

Zahel, Hauptplatz 9, +43 (0)1 889 13 18, www.zahel.at

Steinklammer, Jesuitensteig 28, +43 (0)1 888 22 29, www.steinklammer.at

Beranek, Ketzergasse 429, +43 (0)1 888 72 63, www.weinbau-beranek.at

RECORD STORES

Rave Up

The best independent store left in Vienna with a broad selection – including Afro-funk, reggae and electronic fusion music. Lots of vinyl too.

Hofmühlgasse 1, +46 (0)1 596 96 50, www.rave-up.at

RADIO STATIONS

Radio Orange Free Radio (FM 94.0)

This station has many global shows, featuring everything from African music to Balkan and beyond.

<http://o94.at>

Radio OE 1

The best official radio station featuring quality music and with a soft spot for global music, jazz and avant-garde.

<http://oe1.orf.at>