

Vienna Event Highlights

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2020

January 1, 2020: Vienna Philharmonic New Year's Concert

Tickets for the concert in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein are a scarce commodity and so an annual ticket raffle is held in spring exclusively on the www.wienerphilharmoniker.at website. There are two chances to experience the New Year's Concert live and free of charge in the open air: at the New Year's Festival on Vienna's City Hall Square and at "Opera Live on the Square" in front of the Vienna State Opera.

Highlights of the 2020 Vienna Ball Season

January 23 Vienna Philharmonic Ball (Musikverein) / January 25 Vienna Medical Doctors' Ball (Imperial Palace) / January 25 Rainbow Ball (Parkhotel Schönbrunn) / January 27 Hunters' Ball (Imperial Palace) / February 14 Vienna Coffeehouse Owners' Ball (Imperial Palace) / February 15 Johann Strauss Ball (Kursalon) / February 20 Vienna Opera Ball (Vienna State Opera) / February 21 Bonbon Ball (Konzerthaus) / February 22 Lawyers' Ball (Imperial Palace), ball preview at www.vienna.info

January 22 to March 1, 2020: Vienna Ice World

City Hall Square turns into a giant icescape with a romantic ice "dream path" that winds across the Vienna City Hall Park. Ice skates and curling equipment are available, as are culinary treats and warm tents. A smaller skating rink is open earlier (November/December 2019) as part of the Vienna Christmas World. (www.wienereistraum.com)

January 29 to February 9, 2020: Holiday on Ice – "Showtime"

The new show tells the story of the world's most popular ice show – from the casting of the first iceskater through to the world tour. (www.stadthalle.com)

March 2 to 8, 2020: Vienna Restaurant Week

For one week a variety of top Viennese restaurants offer wonderful menus at an affordable fixed price, providing the ideal opportunity to explore the best of the city's varied gastronomy. (www.restaurantwoche.wien)

March 28 to April 14, 2020: Easter market in front of Schönbrunn Palace / March 27 to April 13, 2020: Traditional Viennese Easter Market on the Freyung and the Easter market am Hof

Traditional Easter decorations and artfully decorated Easter eggs, culinary delights, and a richly varied musical program can be found at Vienna's Easter markets. (www.ostermarkt.co.at, www.altwiener-markt.at, www.ostermarkt-hof.at)

April, May, June, September 2020: Opera Live on the Square

The Vienna State Opera streams selected live performances on a video wall on Karajan Platz, in front of the opera, free for all to watch. (www.wiener-staatsoper.at)

April 19, 2020: Vienna City Marathon

Annual date on the calendar for thousands of runners from all over the world. Some of the city's most beautiful sights are located along the route, from the Giant Ferris Wheel and Schönbrunn Palace to the Imperial Palace. (www.vienna-marathon.com)

May 3, 2020: Wings for Life World Run

The starting signal for this global charity run rings out for the seventh time, simultaneously in Vienna and many other cities. (www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com)

May 8 to 10, 2020: Genussfestival

Vienna's Stadtpark is transformed into a landscape which beckons all culinary bon vivants. Visitors can enjoy regional Austrian dishes and high-quality products from local artisan producers at more than 190 booths. (www.genuss-festival.at)

May 15 to June 21, 2020: Vienna Festival

The annual theater, performance and music festival offers five weeks of top stage productions by international ensembles. (www.festwochen.at)

May 17, 2020: Austrian Women's Run

The starting gun will fire on the Prater Hauptallee: this is one of the world's leading women's runs and attracts 35,000 female participants from many countries. (www.oesterreichischer-frauenlauf.at)

May 21, 2020: Summer Night Concert given by the Vienna Philharmonic in front of Schönbrunn Palace

With Schönbrunn Palace serving as its magnificent baroque backdrop, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra presents an exquisite musical treat. Free admission. (www.sommernachtskonzert.at)

May 21 to 25, 2020: Vienna Citrus Days

A highlight for admirers of exotic fruit are the Vienna Citrus Days, set in the historical ambience of the Orangery in the gardens at Schönbrunn Palace. Some of the fragrant trees are over 180 years old. (www.zitrustage.at)

May 30 to June 1, 2020: Salon Jardin

Design and nature come together at the Salon Jardin, a Viennese interpretation of a garden show. A range of exhibitors will be presenting the latest trends for the gardening season in the park at Schloss Hetzendorf. (www.salonjardin.at)

Late May 2020: Danube Canal Events

The Danube Canal promenade, between the Summer Stage and beach bar Herrmann, plays host to a colorful program of arts events, including concerts, cabaret, readings, films, sport, children's programs, and great food. Free admission. (www.donaukanaltreiben.at)

June 1 to 14, 2020: Vienna Pride / June 13, 2020: Rainbow Parade

A range of events and parties at Vienna Pride make Vienna the focus of the LGBT community. The highlight is the Rainbow Parade; for the 25th time around 100 groups will parade "the other way round", i.e. counterclockwise, along Vienna's Ringstrasse boulevard on a march for acceptance, respect, and equal rights. (www.viennapride.at, www.regenbogenparade.at)

June 6 to 8, 2020: VieVinum

The international wine festival is the venue for wine experts and enthusiasts, hosted in the splendid surroundings of Vienna's Imperial Palace. (www.vievinum.at)

June to September 2020: Summer at MQ

MQ is the newest trendy summer hangout. In addition to open-air concerts and festivals, you're invited to kick back in this relaxing space offering boules (bocce) games, restaurants with outdoor seating, minigolf, and stylish outdoor furniture. (www.mqw.at)

Late June/early September 2020: Music Film Festival at City Hall Square

In July and August there is a special treat for music film fans, with outstanding operas, ballets, classical and pop concerts. Open-air gastronomic services provide culinary delights late into the night. (www.filmfestival-rathausplatz.at)

July 9 to August 9, 2020: ImPulsTanz

The European "summit meeting" of the international dance scene offers a lavish performance festival and an extensive workshop program. (www.impulstanz.com)

July/August 2020: Wiener Lustspielhaus

Every year Adi Hirschal's temporary Wiener Lustspielhaus stages a popular play (in German), with a local Viennese folk interpretation, offering an amusing summer evening's entertainment. (www.wienerlustspielhaus.at)

July 17 to August 3, 2020: Africa Days

At the height of the summer season, enjoy African lifestyle on the Danube Island, with music, food, and arts and crafts from Cape Town to Cairo. (www.afrika-tage.at)

July 27 to August 1, 2020: Vienna Festival of Cabaret

The Festival Hall at City Hall becomes the stage for the best of Austrian cabarets this summer (in German). (www.wienerkabarettfestival.at)

August 12 to 16, 2020: The Vienna Major 2020 – Beach volleyball

Vienna has been selected as the host location for the international beach volleyball championships through to 2020. Around 100,000 visitors come to watch the free sports event each year. (www.beachmajorseries.com)

Late August 2020: Vienna Restaurant Week

For one week a variety of top Viennese restaurants offer wonderful menus at an affordable fixed price, providing the ideal opportunity to explore the best of the city's varied gastronomy. (www.restaurantwoche.wien)

September 19 to 20, 2020: Gault & Millau Gourmet Fair

Over two days Austria's best cooks will be demonstrating their skills at the Wiener Kursalon. They will be joined by Austria's top wine producers presenting their wines. (at.gaultmillau.com)

September 11 to 13, 2020: Buskers Festival

The Vienna Street Art Festival on Art Square Karlsplatz runs over several days, featuring acrobats, comedians, musicians, and street art. (www.buskers.at)

September 16 to October 11, 2020: Circus Roncalli

Bernhard Paul's famous circus comes to City Hall Square. The new program promises a firework of artistry, stunning holographs, wonderful costumes, and top-class live music. (www.roncalli.de)

Mid-September 2020: MQ Vienna Fashion Week

Austrian fashion design is the focus of this fall event bringing together Austrian fashion designers at the MuseumsQuartier Wien. (www.mqvfw.com)

Late September 2020: Vienna Wine Hiking Day

Three walking routes invite visitors to explore the autumnal beauty of Vienna's vineyards and its produce, with many opportunities to stop along the way and taste Viennese wine. (<https://stadtwienmarketing.at>)

September 24 to October 11, 2020: Wiener Wiesn-Fest

Lederhosen, dirndls, folk music, hearty Viennese fare, and local wine and brews bring a festive atmosphere to the Kaiserwiese in the Prater. (www.wienerwiesnfest.at)

Late September/Early October 2020: Vienna Design Week

Products, furniture, and industrial and experimental designs will be displayed in shops, museums, various off-locations, and public spaces right across the city. (www.viennadesignweek.at)

October 2 to 3, 2020: Hollywood in Vienna

The major gala concert of film music brings international stars to the Wiener Konzerthaus. (www.hollywoodinvienna.com)

October 22 to November 4, 2020: Viennale – Vienna International Film Festival

Showing the latest film productions and documentaries from around the world, as well as retrospectives, complemented by parties, discussions, and events. (www.viennale.at)

October 9 to 11, 2020: Blickfang Wien

The design fair for furniture, fashion, and jewelry transforms the MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts into a shopping oasis for all design aficionados. (www.blickfang.com)

Early November to December 23, 2020: Winter at MQ

Trendy winter gathering in the MQ, with ice-rinks, punch bars, concerts, DJ sounds, and cool visuals. (www.mqw.at)

Vienna Christmas Markets 2020

November 13 to December 26, 2020: Vienna Christmas World on Rathausplatz (www.wienerweihnachtstraum.at)

November 20 to December 23, 2020: Old Vienna Christmas Market on the Freyung (www.altwiener-markt.at)

November 21, 2020 to January 6, 2021: Culture and Christmas Market in front of Schönbrunn Palace (www.weihnachtsmarkt.co.at)

For other Christmas markets, please see www.events.wien.info

December 2020: Christmas in Vienna

Traditional gala concert with opera stars in the Wiener Konzerthaus. (www.christmasinvienna.at)

December 31, 2020: New Year's Eve in Vienna

Vienna's Old Town is transformed into an enormous party area. Revellers can follow the New Year's Eve Trail from City Hall Square through the narrow streets of the inner city. They are sure to find the perfect entertainment with the variety of shows offered on numerous stages. Go to www.vienna.info for all New Year's events, including concerts, theater, balls, galas, banquets, etc.

December 31, 2020: New Year's Eve Ball at the Hofburg Vienna (Imperial Palace)

Glamorous New Year's ball in the splendid state rooms in the Imperial Palace. (www.hofburgsilvesterball.com)

Musicals & Shows 2020

Cats

The cats are back! Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpiece brings the dance, magic, mysticism, and Grammy-winning music from the German-language original version of the musical to the Ronacher. (To July 2020, www.musicalvienna.at)

Musical classics in the Volksoper

The Volksoper regularly puts on its own productions of classic musicals, including "The Wizard of Oz", "My Fair Lady", and "The Man of La Mancha". See the program for a large selection. (Closed over summer in July/August, www.volksoper.at)

Flashdance – the musical

The 80's hit will be playing in the Wiener Stadthalle from February 8 to 11, 2020. The catchy and memorable tunes "Flashdance – What a Feeling", "Maniac", and "Gloria" are naturally all included in the stage adaptation of the film. (February 8 to 11, 2020, www.stadthalle.com)

Elisabeth in front of Schönbrunn Palace

The world hit musical "Elisabeth" is returning once again in 2020 as a concert highlight, performed in the open air and set against the historical backdrop of Schönbrunn Palace, in its grand forecourt. There is no better setting for this dramatic and moving story of the life, impact and tribulations of Empress Elisabeth. (June 25 to 27, 2020, www.musicalvienna.at)

Miss Saigon

This world-famous hit musical comes to Vienna for the first time: The stirring love story in its Asian setting is being performed at the newly renovated Raimund Theater. (Premiere: September 2020, www.musicalvienna.at)

Exhibitions 2020

Highlights

- Caravaggio & Bernini (Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, October 15, 2019 to January 19, 2020, www.khm.at)
- The Ephrussi. Travel in Time (Jewish Museum, November 6, 2019 to March 8, 2020, www.jmw.at)
- Bentwood and Beyond. Thonet and Modern Furniture Design/200-year anniversary of Thonet (MAK, December 18, 2019 to April 13, 2020, www.mak.at)
- The Cindy Sherman Effect, Identity and Transformation in Contemporary Art (Bank Austria Kunstforum, January 29 to June 21, 2020, www.kunstforumwien.at)
- Into the Night, Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art (Lower Belvedere, February 14 to June 1, 2020, www.belvedere.at)
- Hundertwasser – Schiele (Leopold Museum, February 21 to August 31, 2020, www.leopoldmuseum.org)
- The Beginning. Art in Vienna from 1945 to 1980 – opening of the Albertina modern (Albertina modern, from March 13, 2020, www.albertina.at)
- Andy Warhol, WARHOL EXHIBITS (mumok, May 1 to September 6, 2020, www.mumok.at)
- Reopening of the Sigmund Freud Museum (May 2020, www.freud-museum.at)
- Aztecs (World Museum Vienna – World Museum Vienna, June 25, 2020 to January 6, 2021, www.weltmuseumwien.at)
- Internationale Kunstschau Wien 1909 (Orangery, Lower Belvedere, June 25 to October 4, 2020, www.belvedere.at)
- Modigliani – Picasso. The Primitivist Revolution (Albertina, September 18, 2020 to January 10, 2021, www.albertina.at)
- Gerhard Richter. Landscape (Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien, October 1, 2020 to January 24, 2021, www.kunstforumwien.at)
- Northern Europe's First Renaissance. Holbein, Burgkmair and Art in the Early 16th Century (Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, October 20, 2020 to January 17, 2021, www.khm.at)
- Dalí – Freud (Orangery, Lower Belvedere, October 23, 2020 to March 7, 2021, www.belvedere.at)

Fairs and events

- Art Austria: major art fair held in Vienna's MuseumsQuartier with a focus on Austrian art, also with international exhibitors (June 26 to 28, 2020)
- viennacontemporary: the meeting place for art collectors, curators, gallery owners, art experts, and all those with an interest in art from all over the world (September 24 to 27, 2020, www.viennacontemporary.at)
- Long Night of Museums: More than 110 museums in Vienna open their doors for culture-loving night owls – from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (October 2020, <http://langenacht.orf.at>)
- Art & Antique: art, antique, and design fair in the Imperial Palace (November 7 to 15, 2020, www.artantique-hofburg.at)
- Vienna Art Week: a glimpse behind the scenes of Vienna's art world: exhibitions, discussions, guided tours, studio visits, and parties all over the city (November 2020, www.viennaartweek.at)

Music Festivals 2020

Resonanzen

The Early Music Festival in the Wiener Konzerthaus presents top-class ensembles performing rare and exciting works by medieval and baroque composers. (January 18 to 26, 2020, www.konzerthaus.at)

International Accordion Festival Vienna

Accordion virtuosos from many countries fascinate audiences with this versatile instrument at different locations. (February 22 to March 22, 2020, www.akkordeonfestival.at)

Vienna Blues Spring

International legends meet local musicians in Vienna. (March 20 to April 30, 2020, www.viennabluesspring.org)

Electric Spring

Austria's electronic music scene on show in the MuseumsQuartier. (April 2020, www.electricspring.at)

Musikverein Festival 2020

The Musikverein is celebrating a major anniversary in 2020: The building will be 150 years old. The Musikverein Festival concert program features 68 top-class events. (May 8 to June 13, 2020, www.musikverein.at)

Danube Island Festival

The three-day Danube Island Festival, with roughly three million visitors, is the world's largest open-air music festival. Free admission. (June 26 to 28, 2020, www.donauinsselfest.at)

Vienna Jazz Festival

In the summer, the city's most beautiful venues are transformed into jazz stages: from the Vienna State Opera to City Hall, with open-air shows in the City Hall's atmospheric colonnaded courtyard. (June 25 to July 11, 2020, www.jazzfest.wien)

Popfest Wien

Karlsplatz will be filled with the sounds of innovative pop music from Austrian musicians and bands. Free admission. (July 23 to 26, 2020, www.popfest.at)

Gürtel Nightwalk

Listen to live music where the traffic normally rolls: Once a year in August, Vienna's Gürtel becomes the longest musical mile in the city. (August 29, 2020, www.guertelnightwalk.at)

Waves Vienna Music Festival and Conference

The showcase and club festival features three days of international and local acts on a variety of stages. (September 10 to 12, 2020, www.wavesvienna.com)

Wien Modern

This festival of contemporary music offers a special sound experience at a variety of locations. (October 29 to November 30, 2020, www.wienmodern.at)

Vienna Jazz Floor

Vienna jazz clubs put on a month-long top-notch program for jazz lovers. (November 1 to 31, 2020, www.viennajazzfloor.at)

KlezMore Festival Vienna

Jewish world music in traditional and contemporary interpretations, performed in clubs, churches, and theaters. (November 2020, www.klezmore-vienna.at)

Voice Mania

The most versatile instrument is the human voice, as demonstrated by international vocalists at the popular a cappella festival. (November/December 2020, www.voicemania.at)

Beethoven Year 2020

During Beethoven year 2020, which marks 250th anniversary of the composer's birth, music lovers can experience the composer up close, right across Vienna, in concerts, opera performances and exhibitions, at the major Beethoven Museum, in preserved apartments, at the sites of many of his triumphs and doubts, at monuments and at the Beethoven Frieze by Klimt.

All information about Beethoven 2020 in Vienna is available at musik2020.wien.info and <https://www.wien.info/en/music-stage-shows/beethoven-2020>.

A few highlights are listed below:

Concerts

- Vienna Philharmonic performs the Beethoven cycle in the Gustav Mahler Hall at the Vienna State Opera (January 11 and 18, March 28, April 18, May 9, and June 13, 2020)
- Wiener Symphoniker:
 - Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the turn of the year, Wiener Konzerthaus (January 1 and December 31, 2020)
 - Reconstruction of the "Grand Beethoven Academy" of 1808, Wiener Konzerthaus (January 11, 2020)
 - Beethoven program with pianist Nicholas Angelich, Wiener Konzerthaus (January 12 and 21, 2020)
 - Simultaneous concert with the Beethoven Orchester Bonn: an open-air event with public viewing (May 15, 2020)

- o Two Beethoven concerts with pianist Igor Levit, Wiener Konzerthaus (June 5 and 7, 2020)
- Musikverein: In 2020 the building celebrates its 150th anniversary. Around 80 Beethoven concerts will be played by June 2020.
- All the Beethoven symphonies, played by the orchestra musicAeterna of Perm Opera, conducted by Teodor Currentzis, Wiener Konzerthaus (March 23 to 30, 2020)
- "All Together – A Global Ode to Joy": Beethoven's "Ninth", ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna (October 16, 2020)
- "Resound Beethoven": The original sound orchestra, the Wiener Akademie, continues its series of concerts at the sites of premieres performed in Vienna. (February 14 and 15, 2020, Palais Niederösterreich, March 10 and May 12, 2020, Musikverein)

Opera: Beethoven's only opera "Fidelio" in all its variations:

- Fidelio (original version): Vienna State Opera (February 1, 5, 8 and 11, 2020)
- Fidelio (2nd version): Theater an der Wien (site of the original premiere; director: Christoph Waltz, March 18, 20, 23, 25 and 27, 2020)
- Fidelio (3rd version): Vienna State Opera (April 22, 25 and 28, and May 2, 2020)

Exhibitions (permanent)

- Beethoven Museum: the major Viennese Beethoven center. Original Beethoven residence, with modern interactive exhibition installation. A must for all Beethoven fans. Beethoven Festival, June 16 to 28, 2020 (also at the Pasqualati House, see below), Beethoven's ear trumpet on show (spring 2020), Happy Birthday event (December 2020)
- Pasqualati House: original apartment and memorial site
- House of Music: permanent Beethoven room (range of special projects scheduled for 2020, see below)
- Collection of Historic Musical Instruments: two Beethoven portraits, a bust, original historical instruments
- Gustav Klimt's Beethoven Frieze at the Secession – 2020 with musical accompaniment (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony)

Special exhibitions, projects

- Austrian National Library, State Hall: "Beethoven. World of the Man and Spark of the Gods" (December 19, 2019 to April 19, 2020).
- Mozarthaus Vienna: "The Triad of the First Viennese School: Haydn – Mozart – Beethoven" (February 13, 2020 to January 27, 2021)
- Vienna Library Music Collection: "Beethoven and his Publishers" (February 28 to October 30, 2020)
- Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna: "Beethoven Moves", an exhibition of paintings, drawings, and sculptures, together with film, video, and performance. A visual bridge to the current day. (March 25 to July 5, 2020)
- House of Music: sound installation "Inside Beethoven" (visitors become part of a musical ensemble, June 10 to August 10, 2020); sculptures made from historical pianos (May 25 to September 20, 2020); special exhibition "Bernstein's Beethoven" (October 3, 2020 to January 10, 2021); special tours; "Beethoven path"

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