



ACF London A Celebration of Friends

Austrian Cultural Forum 70th Anniversary Programme

In 2026, the ACF London celebrates its 70th anniversary. Rather than celebrating the ACF itself, we want this to be an **ACF – A Celebration of Friends**, of anniversaries and birthdays of artists and scientists who make *28 Rutland Gate* a vibrant hub for cultural and scientific exchange between Austria and the United Kingdom. Thank you, dear guests of the ACF London for being our friends!

Saturday 18 April: 90 Years of Christine Nöstlinger – ACF Junior: Theatre Workshops.

In cooperation with the Association of German Saturday Schools UK and the German Saturday School Ealing, the ACF London holds two theatre workshops for bilingual children inspired by Austrian children's book author Christine Nöstlinger who would have celebrated her 90th birthday this year. With Austrian actress Lena Liedl.

Thursday 7 May: Ingeborg Bachmann at 100 – Her biographer Peter Filkins and her brother Heinz Bachmann in conversation

We mark the centenary of Ingeborg Bachmann's birth with an exclusive preview of the first English-language biography of Bachmann by Peter Filkins and a discussion with her brother Heinz Bachmann about his recent memoir *Ingeborg Bachmann. Meine Schwester. Erinnerungen und Bilder*. The event is chaired by Andrea Capovilla, Director of the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre for Austrian Literature and Culture.

Friday 15 May: 70th Eurovision Song Contest Pre-Voting Party

We celebrate the 70th edition of the Eurovision finals, taking place in Vienna for the third time, with a pre-voting party feat. Luke Andrews Band and Friends. Our pre-voting will determine which artist Austrians and friends of Austria in the UK would give *douze points*! In cooperation with the Austrian Club London.

Wednesday 20 May: Three 100th Birthdays – Horovitz, Burt and Cerha

We present an evening concert dedicated to the lives of three important 20th century composers who would all have turned 100 in 2026 – Joseph Horovitz (born in Vienna, died 2022 in London), Francis Burt (born in London, died 2012 in Hartberg, Austria) and Friedrich Cerha (born in Vienna, died 2023 in Vienna). The three composers, who all became professors at music universities, represent three very distinct forms of Austrian identities. With Austrian Duo Schablas & Polyzoides.

Thursday 21 May: Celebrating 20 years Vienna Design Week at Clerkenwell Design Week London

The Vienna Design Week celebrates its 20th anniversary and its Director Gabriel Roland will give an anniversary talk on the theme of *Planning to Stay Different* at Clerkenwell Design Week alongside a curated showcase of leading Austrian design brands and emerging talent organised by Advantage Austria, Austria's official trade promotion agency.

Wednesday 1 June: 10th edition of JazzExchange

Austrian-based HAEZZ trio and UK-based Testaments will come together at The Vortex Club for the 10th edition of our JazzExchange concert series, which aims to spotlight cutting-edge Austrian and British jazz ensembles, curated by Guido Spannocchi.



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Thursday 17 September: 20 Years Exilarte – Center for Banned Music (upon invitation)

We mark the 20th anniversary of Exilarte with a gala chamber music concert presented by members of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. With works by exiled composers such as Hans Gál, Joseph Horowitz and Erich Wolfgang Korngold and key-note speeches by Ulrike Sych, Chancellor of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and others. The concert is held during the Triennial Conference of the Research Centre for German & Austrian Exile Studies (EXILE) at Senate House, School of Advanced Studies, University of London.

Tuesday 22 September: 70 years ACF & 20 Years Baker Architects (upon invitation)

In 1956, the ACF London opened its doors on 28 Rutland Gate. Baker Architects completed their first major London project almost 20 years ago renovating our building that has been a hub and home to so many artists, scientists and friends of Austrian culture. We take our two anniversaries as an opportunity to celebrate this outstanding Austrian/UK architecture practice with a special exhibition showcase.

Thursday 1 October: Exhibition Opening *Meins ist Deins*

Celebrating a decade of curatorial collaboration with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and Central Saint Martin's London. Graduates from the Culture, Criticism and Curation Master travel to Vienna and select graduates from the Academy to present alongside UK artists at an exhibition in London. This project has brought dozens of UK and Austrian-based artists together with UK curators and we look forward to a special artistic response to the ACF's 70th anniversary.

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 October: Alma and Arnold Rosé Memorial Concerts

Our two concerts at the Austrian Embassy and the National Gallery honour the artistic achievements and lives of Alma Rosé and her father Arnold, who shaped Vienna's musical life for many decades and found refuge from the Nazis in the UK. Several significant anniversaries coincide in 2026: the 70th anniversary of Arnold Rosé's death (25 August), the 120th anniversary of Alma Rosé's birth (3 November), and the 100th anniversary of her debut concert at the Musikverein Wien (16 December). With the renowned violinist Benjamin Schmid and the Korngold Ensemble.

Friday 16 October: 250 years Albertina (upon invitation)

During Frieze London and Frieze Masters 2026, Albertina's director Ralph Gleis comes to London for a 250th anniversary celebration of Vienna's renowned art museum that hosts one of the world's largest collections of graphic arts. In December, the ACF will present an info-exhibition about the Albertina.

Wednesday 2 December: 100th Anniversary of Rainer Maria Rilke's Death

In cooperation with the British-German Association, we present an evening dedicated to Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) and his timeless poetry. Presented by Professor Charlie Louth, Fellow of Queen's College Oxford, and Andrea Capovilla, Director of the Ingeborg Bachmann Centre for Austrian Literature and Culture.

Our 70th Anniversary programme is an ongoing project so please check our website

www.acflondon.org for updates, follow us on Instagram & Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter to find out about new and upcoming events! **All events are free but booking is essential.**

Venue: Austrian Cultural Forum London, 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PQ

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