

Press release

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International Alphorn Festival – from the 22nd to the 24th July 2011

An incredible party for its 10th anniversary

For 10 years now the International Festival has grown in reputation as well as in the development of its activities. The number of participants has quadrupled since 2002. A public of over 12'000 visitors over the weekend and twenty folklore groups entertain the different sites of this huge folklore festival. Initiation and advance level courses have also been introduced recently.

The international Festival of Nendaz is one among the biggest alphorn meetings in Switzerland. Its primary objective is to be before all a traditional folklore festival. Numerous performances take place in addition to the official competition: flag throwers, yodellers, Swiss wrestling, folk groups, bell ringers and crafts market. The procession on Saturday evening is one of the many highlights of the weekend. In fact, thanks to the collaboration of several breeders in the region, over **200 head of cattle** (sheep, goats, cows, donkeys, rams...) parade through the resort. Floats and folklore groups also take part in the grand parade.

Honour to the young musicians

There are several ways of taking part in the Alphorn Festival. The first way is to take part in the official competition. During the entire weekend, a competition (5 categories) sees over one hundred Swiss and foreign (French, Belgian and American) musicians playing against each other. New this year, the

For further information

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under 16's can also participate in the competition thanks to a 6th category created exclusively for them. They are classed in both their category as well as in the overall classification.

The 'morceau d'ensemble'

If you are not a fan of competitions, it is also possible to take part uniquely in the 'morceau d'ensemble' on Sunday afternoon that unites 200 alphorn players on the banks of the lake at Tracouet. A truly magic moment at 2200m in altitude!

Finally, the « FUN » competition, less strict than the official one, gives musicians the opportunity to express themselves, leaving the traditional lines and offering to the public a different facet of the alphorn. The contest takes place the Saturday evening at 20.00 on the festival's main site. The participants can play the instrument of their choice: alphorn, büchel, wooden or carbon, two tone or more (in groups) or in association with other instruments. All styles of music can be interpreted, with or without accompaniment. The winner of the « FUN » competition will perform on Sunday at the opening of the official final at Tracouet.

Sunday free of charge

For its 10th anniversary, the festival is offering the Sunday free of charge to all the alphorn players (registered to the contest or participating at the "morceau d'ensemble"). This birthday gift includes the inscription for the Sunday, the ride up to Tracouet by cable-car, breakfast, aperitif and lunch (drinks not included) as well as a competition medal. Inscriptions for the competitions (official and Fun) are open from the 8th of April on www.nendazcordesalpes.ch or by email at contact@nendazcordesalpes.ch

All information and regulations concerning the festival are available on www.nendazcordesalpes.ch



*Last year's winners, **Alphornquartett Surental Sempach (LU)**. From left to right: Thomas Stofer (also winner of the Solo category), Hans Halbisser, Klaus Halbisser, Markus Budhzer*

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