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PRESS RELEASE

## **A perfect festival at Nendaz that centred on the Alphorn**

**The Valais Drink Pure Festival of the Alphorn was held at Haute-Nendaz from 22 to 24 July 2022, and spectators were treated to mountains of festive fun and passion. It was also the setting for a hotly-contested Alphorn competition that was won by a duo from Annecy.**

### **A truly delightful event**

“A 21st iteration that people really enjoyed”: such was the description of the festival by Beat Eggel, the head of the organisation committee. What with uncertain weather and the pandemic, it has actually been several years since all the ingredients of the perfect event came together! And they certainly did in 2022 thanks to a packed programme, lots of people, and the radiant sunshine.

The festival got off to a great start on the Friday evening with a concert from Oesch’s die Dritten: “They are a real flagship group in the world of Swiss folklore. They should have been here last year to celebrate the festival’s 20th birthday, but covid-19 meant that their show had to be postponed by a year. Over 2000 people came along to see them, and the atmosphere was incredible.” The organisation committee estimated that around 8000 spectators came along across the festival’s three days.

### **Competition: victory for Savoyard players**

The official competition took place all day Saturday, with around eighty people taking part aged between 10 and 84. Players performed solo, in pairs, in threes or in formation in front of a panel that judged them blind. The top ten competed once again on the Sunday in the final at Tracouet, at an altitude of 2200 metres.

First place went to the Duo of Vallon, made up of Myriam Petit and Robert Scotton. They won the trophy together for the first time, though the two members of the formation ‘Les Sonneurs de Savoye’ are frequent players at the Nendaz festival, together with their associates. They have been loyal to the festival right from the start, and are not unfamiliar with its podium either having already clocked up two wins as part of a trio, one as a group, and – for Myriam Petit – one as a solo act. “I am very moved. I feel so emotional, because last year I was not on form and I made a mess of my part. For us, the competition really was our goal for this year,” commented the Savoyard.

Second and third place in the final went to the Fribourg group Echo du Tunnel, and to Yui Beck, a Japanese woman living in Zurich. The panel’s leader Peter Baumann noted the outstanding musical ability that is improving all the time.

### **A great popular festival**

There was plenty of passion during the competition from players, but the real highlight for the spectators simply had to be the pieces played at Tracouet on Sunday - 150 Alphorns rang out across the mountains, their natural environment! On top of that there was the great procession, dance groups, yodellers, bell-ringers, Swiss lute players, and flag-bearers, all of whom transported spectators on a three-day journey into the magical world of folklore.

Information at [www.nendazcordesalpes.ch](http://www.nendazcordesalpes.ch)

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