

22.06.2023
PRESS RELEASE

A whole week-end of Alphorns and traditional folklore in Nendaz

The 22nd edition of the International Alphorn Festival of Nendaz will cast spectators into a world of tradition from the 21st to the 23rd of July 2023. It promises high-flying performances in the official competition, a festive end to the day with a concert by Nicolas Senn, an evening of folklore and lively dances, and plenty of emotion during the ensemble pieces that bring together around a hundred players in the heart of the Valais Alps.

A guest from the French speaking part of Switzerland : the Canton of Vaud

Each year, the International Alphorn Festival of Nendaz (FICA) chooses a guest region ; and in 2023, Vaud is the elected one. The Académie Suisse de cor des Alpes of Montreux is performing on stage on the Friday evening and the Jodlerklub Alpenrösli of Lausanne, the folk group Lè Vegnolan of la Tour-de-Peilz and Les Sonneurs de cloches des Ormonts (bell ringers) are performing on several occasions throughout the weekend as well as taking part in the grand parade. On Sunday, the Councilor of State Frédéric Borloz is handling the official proceedings.

An official competition judged on a blind audition basis

The official competition brings together the best Alphorn players from Switzerland and beyond. The process is unique, with jurors scoring blindly without seeing or even knowing the identity of the participants. Alongside the official competition, an OFF competition is also organized. With its rules offering more freedom to players and composers, it allows the more experienced among them to stray from the beaten track and opens the door to contemporary pieces in several keys. It is also an opportunity for the public to discover this ancestral instrument in a more modern light.

A moment beyond time

For the spectators, another rendezvous of the weekend which mustn't be missed is without a doubt, the 'morceaux d'ensemble' performed on Sunday at Tracouet. During the grand finale, the Alphorn is brought back to its natural surroundings, the mountains. It's in this perfect Alpine setting at 2'200 metres above altitude that around 100 musicians unite the sound of their instruments. Emotions and goosebumps guaranteed !

Concert by Nicolas Senn and Elias Bernet

More than just a gathering of alphorn enthusiasts, the FICA is a vast celebration of Swiss traditions. Numerous folklore performances, such as dancers, yodelers, bell ringers, flag throwers and Schwyz accordion players are going to set the pace for these three days of festivities. The Grand Parade with floats and cattle is also always very much enjoyed. Nicolas Senn, hackbrett virtuoso (a percussion stringed instrument typical of the Appenzell region) and Elias Bernet, boogie-woogie pianist, will set the tent alight on Friday evening. With a witty rivalry, they bring their two styles together in a surprisingly harmonious way.

Media Resources

- Full programme : Find out more on the second page below
- Internet Site :
- www.nendaz.ch/en/P76465/international-alphorn-festival
- www.nendazcordesalpes.ch/en/the-international-alphorn-festival-of-nendaz
- Photos :
To be downloaded before on www.swisstransfer.com/d/921a1cc3-aea3-4f80-8c65-8bb4dabba332
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Programme*

FRIDAY 1st of July 2023 - NENDAZ RESORT - FREE

- 16h30 : Performance by the advanced course musicians on the plaine des Ecluses
- 17h00 : Opening of the Festival tent
- 18h30 : Performance by Nendaz's very own Alphorn group
- 19h15 : Performance by Nendaz's very own Alphorn quartet
- 20h00 : Concert by Nicolas Senn and Elias Bernet "Hackbrett meets Boogie-Woogie"
- 21h00 : Concert by the Techno O.U.M.P.H. brass band
- 22h30 : Dance evening with Magic Men

SATURDAY 22nd of July 2023 - NENDAZ RESORT - FREE

- 09h45-11h30 : Official Alphorn competition judged on a blind audition basis.
- 11h00-18h30 : Entertainment provided by various folk groups and crafts market - guest Canton of Vaud
- 11h30-13h30 : Alphorn 'OFF' competition judged on a blind audition basis.
- 13h30-18h30 : The official Alphorn competition continues.
- 17h30 : Mass given in the church of Haute-Nendaz
- 18h45 : Grand Parade with floats and cattle
- 20h00 : Performance by the Académie Suisse de Cor des Alpes based in Montreux
- 20h30 : Grand folklore evening
- 22h30 : Dance evening with the Bandits folkloriques

SUNDAY 23rd OF JULY 2023 – TRACOUET – 16.- FOR THE GONDOLA ROUND TRIP

- 08h30-17h00 : A full day of traditions
 - Musical entertainment, crafts market
 - Alphorn making workshop
 - Demonstration by the Swiss wrestlers from Bramois and flag throwers
- 10h30 : Morceaux d'ensemble
 - Official speeches by M. Frédéric Borloz, Councilor of State
- 11h30 : Grand final of the Alphorn competition
- 14h00 : Performance by the winners of the « Jeune » and OFF categories
- 14h30 : Morceaux d'ensemble
 - Results and prize giving ceremony,
 - Official speech by M. Jacques-Roland Coudray,
 - co-president of the organizing committee

** Programme can be subject to change*

Media contact

Beat Eggel, co-President of the OC : 079 277 59 12 - beat.eggel@gmail.com