

## Welcome

In front of you is the first edition of the Newsletter *Mosaic* (Midwest Outreach for Swiss American Innovation and Culture). As the name already indicates, this Newsletter aims at an audience in the Midwest with a strong interest in culture and news related to Switzerland. *Mosaic* is the result of an intensive and fruitful collaboration between the Switzerland America Foundation, the Swiss Benevolent Society, and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago. These three organizations are actively involved in cultural events, particularly in the Chicago area, and strive to emphasize and enhance the presence of Switzerland in the Midwest through the publication of *Mosaic*.

## Calendar

### Film: Xavier Koller Retrospective

Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, November 2002. *Journey of Hope* (Oscar 1990), *Black Tanner* (1986), *The Frozen Heart* (1980), *Gripsholm* (2000), and *Ring of Fire* (2000). Xavier Koller will be in attendance on November 18. Show dates: November 4, 11, 18, and 25. For show times, see Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone 312-864-2600.

[www.siskelfilmcenter.org](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org).

Presented/sponsored by the Gene Siskel Film Center, Pro Helvetia, Zurich, and the Consulate General of Switzerland, Chicago.

### Tribute to Dr. Rudolf Ganz

Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Dr. Rudolf Ganz and re-opening of Ganz Hall, October 26, 2002, at 7:30 pm, Auditorium Building, 430 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605. For invitations, please contact [www.president@sbschicago.org](mailto:www.president@sbschicago.org) Cost \$ 25.00.

Presented/sponsored by the Swiss Benevolent Society, Chicago, and Roosevelt University, Chicago.

*Mosaic* will be published quarterly. Its successful integration into the Midwest will of course largely depend on your interest as the reader. You can help us promote *Mosaic* and expand its readership by inviting your family and friends to sign up for *Mosaic*.

The Editorial Board has as its goal to bring you in contact with news from Switzerland, to inform you about upcoming Swiss events, with background information, in the Midwest and invite you to participate in a program whether it be music, literature, film, dance, theater, an art show, or a lecture. It goes without saying that the editors welcome your input and suggestions at any time.

I would like to thank the supporters and contributors to *Mosaic* for their work and dedication. A special thank you goes to the readers of *Mosaic* for their interest. I am sure that you will enjoy *Mosaic* and take advantage of Swiss events in the Midwest.

Hermann Buff  
Consul General of Switzerland  
in Chicago



Swiss students visiting Chicago enjoy lunch at The Cheesecake Factory, see page 4.

## A Tribute to Rudolph Ganz

Dr. Rudolph Ganz (1877–1972), a native of Zurich, educated at the Lausanne Conservatory, was one of the most eminent Swiss-Americans to have an impact on Chicago. A pianist, composer, and conductor, he served as President of the Chicago Musical College from 1934 to 1954 and taught piano at the College. He was instrumental in incorporating the Chicago Musical College into Roosevelt University in 1954. His performances often focused on contemporary works such as those by Swiss composers Ernst Bloch and Arthur Honegger, and he was the first pianist to perform Maurice Ravel's compositions in the United States. He pioneered new music all his life at venues such as the First International Webern Festival. As conductor of young people's concerts in St. Louis, New York, San Francisco, and Chicago, Dr. Ganz was responsible for introducing countless American children to classical music. Dr. Ganz left an impressive legacy in the world of music and achieved world fame as a pianist. His contribution to the Chicago Musical College during his presidency and beyond won him the highest acclaim among contemporaries, students, and music lovers.

To honor the innumerable contributions of Rudolph Ganz, Roosevelt University named its auditorium "Rudolf Ganz Recital Hall" also known as the "Ganz Hall". Originally built by Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler as a banquet hall atop their famous Auditorium Building, it features magnificent stained glass windows, ornamental iron grillwork, carved wood panels, stenciled wall and ceiling patterns, gilded lighting fixtures, and gold leaf.

Over the past three years, Ganz Hall has undergone a complete renovation, making the original work of Sullivan and Adler shine once again. The Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago (SBS) contributed to the renovation. Thanks to the SBS, the original gilded electroliers will again illuminate Ganz Hall.

To celebrate the opening of Ganz Hall and the 125th anniversary of Dr. Ganz's birth, a special celebration will be held at Roosevelt University on October 26, 2002. For more information, see the Events Calendar.

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## News from the Sister Cities Chicago and Lucerne

2002 marked the second year of a three-year residency of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) at the Lucerne Festival. To commemorate this milestone, the Chicago Sister City Committee arranged, in collaboration with Susy Guebelin, member of the Lucerne Sister City Committee, a golf tournament on Wednesday, September 11, with foursomes that included CSO members. Following the tournament, patrons of the CSO joined the golfers for a reception and the awarding of prizes at the Golf Club House. Although the course was a challenge for Chicagoans not used to such an up and down hill course, the overall winner was Brad Opland, a member of the CSO bass section. The golfers then had dinner together at the Golf Club.

A three-hour rehearsal of the orchestra on Saturday the 14th was attended by approximately 80 music students from a variety of music institutions in the area. The students ranged in age from 15 to 25. Since it is not often that the CSO holds an open rehearsal, one can imagine how excited and spellbound these very serious young musicians were at being included at such an event. Members of the Lucerne Committee helped with bringing the students to the Hall and acting as hosts during the rehearsal.

Everyone agreed that these two events achieved their goal and plans are underway to not only have similar activities next year but to broaden the interchange as well. Besides making the patrons' visit to Lucerne even more special, all of these activities certainly helped to build a solid relationship between the two cities.

## Music for a Greenhouse

From November 7, 2002, through January 6, 2003, the Fern Room of the Lincoln Park Conservatory will be transformed by the musical talents of Swiss composer Walter Faehndrich. Although he is an accomplished violist, Mr. Faehndrich will not perform a concert in the Conservatory, but will instead present "Music for a Greenhouse", one of the sound installations from his series "Music for Spaces". Carefully crafted in response to the qualities of the space itself, electronic sounds are played back over four loudspeakers hanging in the metal framework of the Conservatory. As he states: "This is music conceived as interior design, as a conscious acoustic shaping of the room. It is very restrained, not imposed on the room by force. The objective of this musical design is to create a 'sound room' giving the impression that the music is generated by the room itself."

## Xavier Koller, Oscar Winner, at the Gene Siskel Film Center

Swiss director Xavier Koller will be featured in November at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago. Koller (b. 1944), a trained actor, made his film debut with *Fano Hill* (1969). His films *The Frozen Heart* (1980) and *Black Tanner* (1986) gained him the reputation as "connoisseur of the rugged" (*Tages-Anzeiger*). Koller's most well-known movie *Journey of Hope* earned him an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1990. The event will also feature his more recent films, *Gripsholm* (2000) and *Ring of Fire* (2000). Koller will appear in person to discuss his work on Monday evening, November 18. For more details, see the Events Calendar or visit [www.siskelfilmcenter.org](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org).



Scene from the film *Gripsholm* by Xavier Koller.

## Calendar

### Music: Zurich Boys' Choir

Daley Plaza, October 15, 2002, at 12 noon; Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, October 19, 2002, at 8 pm. Open to the public.

Presented/sponsored by the Consulate General of Switzerland and Presence Switzerland, the City of Chicago, Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, The Switzerland America Foundation, and the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago.

[www.zsk.ch](http://www.zsk.ch).

### Walther Faehndrich, "Music for a Greenhouse"

Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, Chicago, November 7, 2002, to January 6, 2003.

Presented/Sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council, Chicago Park District, Pro Helvetia, Zurich, and the Canton of Zug, Switzerland.

Mr. Faehndrich's project has been commissioned by Chicago's Experimental Sound Studio (ESS), a 16-year-old non-profit organization that focuses its attention on the sonic arts. "Music for a Greenhouse" will be a featured event in this year's Outer Ear Festival of Sound, a series of performances, exhibitions, and broadcasts sponsored by ESS throughout Chicago during November. The festival includes the works of more than twenty artists from Latin America, Europe, and the US, including the Chicago area.

An opening reception will take place Thursday, November 7, at 5 PM. The Lincoln Park Conservatory is located at 2391 N. Stockton Drive in Chicago. For more information and a complete schedule, visit the ESS website at [www.expsoundstudio.org](http://www.expsoundstudio.org) or call 773-784-0449.

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## Arnold Odermatt at the Art Institute of Chicago

Arnold Odermatt (b. 1925) has been making beautiful, haunting, and eccentric photographs for more than sixty years. His works, however, have only recently been presented as art and will debut in the United States as a Focus Presentation at the Art Institute of Chicago. Odermatt used his camera to document traffic accidents and record the activities of his fellow policeman during his years of service in the Swiss canton of Nidwalden from 1939–1993. He created the majority of his deadpan, documentary images as personal corollaries to those which accompanied police and accident reports in his picturesque Alpine region, most notably in the village of Oberdorf where he was born. Although not formally trained as a photographer, Odermatt made images that evidence a studied appreciation of romantic landscape scenes at the same time they purport to offer clinical detail of an accident or police procedure. The results are a wholly original and surprising compendium of both ordinary and subtly extraordinary moments in the everyday.

In *Buochs* (1965), a badly dented Volkswagen Beetle lies abandoned in the shallows of a mountain lake. This peaceful scene captures the elegant reflection of the mangled vehicle long after the tale of the event has faded. The accident has passed, but a sense of timeless melancholy lingers in its wake.

Odermatt's lifelong project can most certainly be understood in an art historical context. His work calls to mind such diverse sources as Weegee's "scene of the crime" pictures of the 1930s and 1940s; Swiss photojournalist Werner Bischof's thematically linked series of the 1940s and early 1950s, Andy Warhol's interest in the banal spectacle of disaster and accident in the 1960s, or even Gabriel Orozco's serial investigations of the poetics of chance in the urban environment in the 1990s.

Odermatt's photographs were recently on display at the 49th Venice Biennale.

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## Calendar

### Exhibition: Arnold Odermatt, Photographer

The Art Institute of Chicago, October 22, 2002, to January 5, 2003. For opening hours, please check at the Art Institute, 111 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60603. Phone 312-443-3600. [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu).

Presented/sponsored by the Art Institute of Chicago and Pro Helvetia, Zurich.

### Exhibition: Shirana Shahbazi.

Photographer and Winner of the Citigroup Private Bank Prize 2002. Museum of Contemporary Photography, January 17 to March 29, 2003. For exhibition hours, please check with the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605. Phone 312-663-1996. [www.mocp.org](http://www.mocp.org).

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## Singing Switzerland: Building Bridges between Cultures

### The Zurich Boys' Choir in Chicago

From October 14 to 20, 2002, the Zurich Boys' Choir will come to Chicago with a new program and with a lot of enthusiasm. They will perform at

the Daley Center and the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. With their music, they want to delight the people of Chicago and build bridges between the different cultures. The Choir's repertoire is rich and varied. It ranges from works of practically all periods in musical history and includes traditional folk songs from Switzerland. See Events Calendar.



# News Items

## **Mayor Klaus Baumgartner, Berne, Switzerland**

On his way to the sesquicentennial celebrations of Berne, Indiana, Mayor Baumgartner of Berne, the capital of Switzerland, visited Chicago on Tuesday, July 23, 2002. Dr. Klaus Baumgartner was accompanied by Ms. Ursula Begert, Deputy Mayor and Director of Health and Social Services. After a brief visit with Mayor Daley, Dr. Baumgartner and Ms. Begert explored Chicago by way of an architectural boat tour, a guided tour to the Art Institute, and lunch on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building.

## **Gabrielle Alioth, Swiss Writer**

Before beginning the Max Kade Seminar at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Gabrielle Alioth gave a lecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago on September 13, 2002. She also presented her work at the Goethe Institut, Chicago, and talked about her experience as a Swiss writer living in Ireland. She gave another presentation at the New Glarus Hotel, New Glarus, Wisconsin, on September 14, 2002. For more information on Ms. Alioth, please log on to [www.gabriellealioth.com](http://www.gabriellealioth.com).

## **Lucerne Artist's Studio**

Illustrator Melk Thalmann, the third occupant of the Lucerne Artist's Studio in Chicago since its opening in September 2001, has just left Chicago. Fellow Lucerner Fredy Studer, drummer, will succeed him in October.

Information about Switzerland and/or Swiss organizations in the U.S., visit:

[www.swissinfo.org](http://www.swissinfo.org)  
[www.switzerland-in-sight.ch](http://www.switzerland-in-sight.ch)  
[www.swissemb.org](http://www.swissemb.org)  
[www.safoundation.org](http://www.safoundation.org)  
[www.sbschicago.org](http://www.sbschicago.org)

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## **Lucerne Students at Walter Payton High School**

From September 21 to 29, 2002, a class from the Kantonsschule Lucerne visited Walter Payton High School. They were hosted by families of Walter Payton students, participated in classes at Walter Payton, explored American food at the Cheesecake Factory, watched American Football live, and explored the City of Chicago. They were accompanied by two of their teachers.