



Consul General  
Giambattista Mondada

## New Consul General in Chicago

**Mr. Giambattista Mondada** arrived in Chicago on August 9, 2007, to begin his term of office as Consul General of Switzerland responsible for 12 States in the Midwest. He succeeds Mr. Hermann Buff who retired from the Swiss government after over 40 years of service. Mr. Mondada joined us from Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he was the head of post at the Consulate General of Switzerland for the last five years.

Born in Küssnacht am Rigi (Canton Schwyz), Mr. Mondada grew up in Minusio, Canton Ticino. He is the first-ever Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago who hails from the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland. Mr. Mondada joined the Swiss Foreign Service in 1969. During his career, he has served in different capacities in numerous countries, such as Kuwait, Mexico, Angola, Sudan, and Bangladesh. He enjoys spending his free time in nature and, as a keen bicycle rider, goes on long bike rides.

Mr. Mondada is married to Dr. Joke Mondada who is a professor of linguistics at Louisiana State University at New Orleans.

## Swiss Musicians Perform in Chicago



Reto Reichenbach

As part of his United States/Canada tour, pianist **Reto Reichenbach** will perform at The Pianoforte Foundation in Chicago on October 12, 2007, at 12:15 pm (for information, see Calendar or visit [www.pianofortefoundation.org](http://www.pianofortefoundation.org) or [www.retoreichenbach.ch](http://www.retoreichenbach.ch)). This performance is organized as part of The Fazioli Salon Series in front of a live audience. It can also be heard as a live broadcast on 98.7 WFMT in Chicago.

Born in 1974, Reto Reichenbach grew up in Gstaad (Switzerland). After completing his studies at the

Berne Conservatory, he moved to the United States for further studies with Ann Schein at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and with Boris Berman at Yale University. Since returning to Switzerland in 2000, he has maintained a full performance schedule as soloist, chamber musician and vocal accompanist. Engagements led him to numerous countries in Europe, to Japan, Canada, and the United States. Milestones in his career have been his performances at the Menuhin Festival, at the Mozarteum Salzburg and the Orpheum Music Festival.

At The Pianoforte Foundation, Reichenbach will play works by Johann Sebastian Bach/Ferruccio Busoni, Arthur Honegger and William Bolcom. He will also perform in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, San Francisco, Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa.

Reichenbach's United States/Canada tour is made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich. His Chicago concert is also supported by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.

## Calendar

**Irène Schweizer**, Jazz piano, solo performance at Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall, 78 East Washington Street, Chicago. Monday, November 5, 2007, at 8:45 pm. Free admission. For information, see [chicagoculturalcenter.org](http://chicagoculturalcenter.org).

**Irène Schweizer**, piano, **Fred Anderson**, saxophone, **Michael Zerang**, percussion at The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Road, Chicago. Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 9:00 pm. Admission. For information, call 312-791-9050 or visit [www.velvetlounge.net](http://www.velvetlounge.net).

**Reto Reichenbach**, piano, at The Pianoforte Foundation, 410 North Michigan Ave, Suite 815, Chicago. Friday, October 12, 2007, at 12:15 pm. For information, call 312-291-0000 or 312-291-0291 or visit [www.pianofortefoundation.org](http://www.pianofortefoundation.org).

Swiss jazz pianist **Irène Schweizer** will perform at the new jazz festival **Euro Jazz Meets Chicago** at the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Badley Hall, on November 5, 2007, at 8.45 pm (see Calendar and [www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de)). On November 6, she will give a concert with her long-time musician friend Fred Anderson, saxophone, and Michael Zerang, percussion, at the famous Chicago jazz club, The Velvet Lounge (see Calendar and [www.velvetlounge.net](http://www.velvetlounge.net)).



Irène Schweizer

Irène Schweizer is described as the “Grande Dame of Free Jazz” and she has indeed been an enormous force and source of inspiration in the jazz scene in Switzerland, Europe, the United States and beyond. As practically the only female jazz instrumentalist in the 60s and 70s, she influenced the free jazz movement, has developed her own European approach to the music of her great influences Cecil Taylor and Theolonious Monk. She was also a trail blazer for women in jazz and as such founded the European Women’s Improvising Group in 1983.

Irène Schweizer was born and raised in Schaffhausen (Switzerland), where she began to play jazz, boogie woogie, blues, ragtime at an early

age. At age 14, she played with a Dixieland band before immersing herself in Modern Jazz. She learned the “Great American Songbook” from Eddie Thompson in London and was influenced by the music making of many South African colleagues. Since the late 60s, Schweizer has followed her own path. She has performed throughout the world as soloist and in various ensemble combinations. An impressive number of records showcase her solo playing as well as her ensemble performances with Pierre Favre, Louis Moholo, Andrew Cyrille, Chicago-based Fred Anderson and Hamid Drake, the London Jazz Composers Orchestra and many others. Schweizer is the recipient of many awards, such as the Art Prize of the City of Zurich and the Georg Fischer Prize in 1990. She is also a founding member of the Taktlos Festival and Intakt Records ([www.intaktrecords.com](http://www.intaktrecords.com)). In an interview with Jazz Dimensions, Schweizer described her philosophy of life as follows: “Love life and music passionately.” Each of her performances is testimony to this philosophy.

After her performances in Chicago, Schweizer will give concerts in Montreal and New York City. Her tour is supported by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and other organizations.

## Calendar

**Leonhard Euler Tercentennial Celebration: “Leonhard Euler—Master of the Infinite”** with Dr. Eli Maor, Dept. of Mathematics, Loyola University Chicago, Water Tower Campus at Beane Hall in Lewis Tower, 13th floor. Thursday, October 11, 2007, at 6:30 pm. Reception following. Free admission. For information, call 773-508-3396.

**Adrian Schiess**, visual artist/painter, exhibition **OFF the Wall: Adrian Schiess** at Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN, from October 19, 2007, to April 27, 2008. Artist Talk with Adrian Schiess and Claire Schneider of Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, at the DeBoest Lecture Hall on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at 7:00 pm. For information, call 317-923-1331 or visit [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org).

## Short Film “Jeu” by Georges Schwizgebel at Children’s Film Festival

The short animated film “Jeu” (Play) by Swiss director **Georges Schwizgebel** will be shown at the 24th Chicago International Children’s Film Festival (CICFF) at Facets Multi-Media on October 24, 2007, at 11:45 am (see [www.kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:www.kidsfest@facets.org) or [www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org)).

“Jeu” (2006) uses color, shape and pattern in playful ways. It is a hypnotically rhythmic animation emphasizing the play in all art and life (CICFF). Last month, “Jeu” received the award for “Best Animation at the Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market. This is the 10th award for this short film since winning a prize at the 2006 Locarno International Film Festival.

CICFF is the oldest, largest and most prestigious festival of films for children in the United States and



will take place from October 18 to 28, 2007. It is referred to as the “Cannes for Kids.” Screenings take place at Facets Multi-Media Inc. at 1517 West Fullerton Ave, Chicago (see Calendar).

## Out of Darkness—Swiss Painter Christine Sefolsha in Chicago



Swiss painter **Christine Sefolsha** shows a collection of her works under the title “Out of Darkness” at Judy A Saslow Gallery at 300 West Superior Street, Chicago, from September 7 to October 13, 2007 (see Calendar and visit [www.jsaslowgallery.com](http://www.jsaslowgallery.com))

Sefolsha (1955) was born and raised in the French speaking part of Switzerland. After moving to South Africa in 1975, she first lived in Johannesburg and

then in Kensington, where she took up painting and drawing. In 1985, due to Apartheid, the Sefolsha family decided to make Switzerland their home. Soon afterwards, in 1986, Sefolsha found herself living alone with three children, as her musician husband returned to South Africa.

Sefolsha continued to paint, inspired by her years in South Africa, which she described as “an experience which won’t let you go and which made me want to give voice to everything about existence which is suspended, transitory, subject to chance”. Her works evoke images of mythology and ancient tales of humanity, at times recalling ancient cave paintings. She works with thick paper, Japanese paper, pigments, water color, dirt and tar to create her renderings of timeless images.

Sefolsha has exhibited at Judy A Saslow Gallery before. She has also variously exhibited her works in Switzerland and France. Christine Sefolsha is also the mother of Thabo Sefolsha, the first-ever NBA basketball player from Switzerland as a guard with The Chicago Bulls.

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## Calendar

**Christine Sefolsha**, painter, “Out of Darkness” at Judy A Salsow Gallery, 300 West Superior, Chicago. From September 7 to October 13, 2007. For information, call 312-943-0530 or visit [www.jsaslowgallery.com](http://www.jsaslowgallery.com).

“**Jeu**” (Play), short film by Georges Schwizgebel at the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival, Facets Multi-Media, 1517 West Fullerton Ave, Chicago. Wednesday, October 24, 2007, at 11:45 am. For information, call 773-281-9075 or visit [www.kidsfest@facets.org](http://www.kidsfest@facets.org) or [www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org).

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## “Off the Wall” by Adrian Schiess at the Indianapolis Museum of Art

**Adrian Schiess** will have his first United States solo museum exhibition at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) from October 19, 2007 until April 27, 2008 (also see Calendar of visit [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org)). He will give an artist talk with Claire Schneider, associate curator at Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY, on October 18, 2007.

Born in Zurich, Switzerland, Schiess has worked with flat surfaces for many years. In the exhibition “Off the Wall,” he will show his trademark “flat” paintings, which he has been working with since 1987. IMA describes them as “abstract panels—made of mounted digital photographs on aluminium, covered with lacquer—constructed to reflect their

contexts in their glossy, expansive surfaces.” These paintings are not wall-hung but mounted and placed site-specific. Schiess will also develop multi-media works at IMA and show them together with the flat paintings.

Schiess represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale in 1990. He was also chosen for Documenta XI in Kassel, Germany in 1992. Schiess has exhibited his work in galleries and museums in many European countries, both as solo shows and in combination with other artists. Several books have been written about his art. Schiess makes his home at Mouans-Sartoux, France.

This exhibition is supported in part by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council.

# Leonhard Euler—Master of the Infinite



Leonhard Euler, 1707–1783

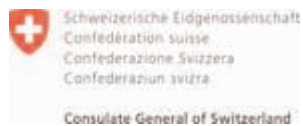
On the occasion of the 300th birth year of the immensely influential Swiss mathematician **Leonhard Euler** (1707–1783), **Dr. Eli Maor**, Professor of Mathematics at Loyola University Chicago, will present the lecture **Leonhard Euler—Master of the Infinite** at Loyola University Water Tower Campus on October 11, 2007 (for details, see Calendar or call 773-508-3396). Dr. Maor will discuss some of Euler's amazing discoveries in mathematics, physics and astronomy. His talk will be at a popular level and does not require knowledge of advanced mathematics.

Born in Basel, Switzerland on April 16, 1707, as the first child of a pastor and his wife, Euler was instructed in mathematics by his father early in his life. At age 13, he enrolled in the University of Basel where he studied under the famous mathematician Johann Bernoulli. Upon the invitation of Catherine I, widow of Peter the Great, Euler joined the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, on September 18 1783. Euler never returned to Switzerland but interrupted his stay in Russia for nearly 25 years, during which he lived in Berlin following a call by Frederick the Great of Prussia.

Euler married twice, and of his 13 children only five survived. In spite of the loss of his eyesight in his later years, he worked until his death at St. Petersburg on September 1783.

Euler's work influenced every field of mathematics—calculus, geometry, number theory and the vast realm of applied mathematics. William Dunham, editor of *The Genius of Euler*, described Euler as a universalist when that was still possible. Indeed mathematical analysis, ship building, machine construction, accurate lunar tables and even Sudoku are just a few areas upon which Euler had a huge influence.

*Leonhard Euler—Master of the Infinite* is an event organized between Loyola University Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago. It is also part of "ThinkSwiss—Brainstorm the Future" (see [www.thinkswiss.org](http://www.thinkswiss.org)). ThinkSwiss is a US-wide program on education, research and innovation for 2007 under the auspices of Swiss government agencies and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



## News from Lucerne

The Lucerne Artist studio has a new resident. Illustrator and animator, **Rahel Ilona Eisenring** (1978) arrived from Switzerland a few days ago. She will explore Chicago and the Chicago art scene for the next four months. After receiving her teacher's certificate, Eisenring enrolled in the Lucerne School of Art and Design and graduated with an Illustrator/Designer Degree in 2006. A busy freelance illustrator, she has had commissions for text book illustrations and has worked with insurance companies and the tourism industry. She earned a special award for "Sophie," an illustrated children's book in 2000. Her graduate work "Pauline im Juli" (filmed illustration) has variously been screened at festivals and cinemas in Switzerland.

Eisenring followed dancer and choreographer **Irina**

**Lorez** who recently concluded her stay at the Lucerne Artist Studio. Lorez has made many connections in Chicago. During her stay in Chicago, she performed at Gallery Heaven with Chicago musician Paul Giallorenzo, piano and synthesizer.

As part of the school exchange program of the **Chicago-Lucerne** Sister City partnership, a class of students of the *Lucerne Alpenquai Gymnasium* visited Chicago the last week of September 2007. Host school in Chicago was Walter Payton College Preparatory High School. *The Lucerne Committee* of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program in cooperation with the *Consulate General of Switzerland* in Chicago invited the Lucerne students together with their counterparts from Walter Payton to an architectural boat tour and a visit to Sears Tower, Chicago's tallest building. A visit to Lucerne by Walter Payton students is planned for next year.

## News from Lucerne

**Philip Burton**, Professor in Graphic Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) was selected as this year's Commencement Speaker at the Lucerne School of Art and Design on July 13. This honor was bestowed upon him not least for his dedication to education and student exchanges. Burton, also a Member of the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, has for many years made it possible for design students and young designers from Lucerne to come to Chicago to experience to local world of design, while UIC design students went to Lucerne. Burton has a strong affinity to Switzerland. Not only did he study at the Basel Academy of Arts and Design under Armin Hofmann, but he also conducted design workshops in Brissago (Ticino) for twenty-two years.

**Stephan Wicki**, resident of the Lucerne Artist Studio in the summer 2006, worked on many film and video projects while in Chicago. His short animated film "City Wasp" received the award for Best Swiss Short Film at the 7th Neuchatel International Fantastic Film Festival in July 2007. Chicago-based **Steven Tod** co-directed "City Wasp."

**Christian Gasser** presented his pop music book "My First Sanyo" in Chicago in January 2005, when he was the resident of the Lucerne Artist Studio. He has just published his latest comics book "Blam! Blam! Und du bist tot!" For information, see [www.tomprodukt.de](http://www.tomprodukt.de).

**mosaic**

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