

Literary events catering for all tastes and held at special locations - on top of a mountain, at the thermal baths or in your own home: Swiss film, music and dance in France, Germany, Poland and Japan, the opening of the world's first Rhaeto-Romanic festival hall and the history of traditional costumes - the cultural projects supported by Pro Helvetia cover a broad spectrum.

And we also do our bit to promote artistic creation through the annual commissioning of new work from creative artists in the field of music, literature and the visual arts.

You can find out about all this and more in this newsletter. Here's wishing you a pleasurable read.

Pro Helvetia Communications

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## LATEST NEWS

### Platform for Swiss dance in Lille

Swiss dancers are heading for Lille. From 17 to 25 June, the "Latitudes Contemporaines" dance festival is placing Swiss dance in the spotlight for the very first time. On five consecutive evenings, Gilles Jobin, Marco Berrettini, Simone Aughterlony and Alexandra Bachzetsis will present their latest works. Their audience will include organisers on the lookout for important contemporary dance pieces. For more on this festival: [www.latitudescontemporaines.org](http://www.latitudescontemporaines.org)



### First Rhaeto-Romanic festival hall: Burg Riom

The world premiere of the opera "Benjamin" by Gion Antoni Derungs, a prize-winning artist from Graubunden, in the Burg Riom castle on 30 June, will mark the opening of the world's first Rhaeto-Romanic theatre. The plot of the opera is based on the oldest Rhaeto-Romanic work written for the stage by Gian Travers in 1534. Giovanni Netzer provided the libretto, in four languages. Musically, the lyric opera takes its cue from Gregorian chant and traditional Romansch songs. Pro Helvetia is also supporting this project, which is breaking new ground in terms of event organisation. Information and tickets at [www.origen.ch](http://www.origen.ch)



### Film at the Centre culturel suisse in Paris

As part of its "Aller/Retour 2" programme, the Centre culturel suisse in Paris is organising four evenings featuring the cinematic works of Jean-Luc Godard and Fischli/Weiss (22 June, 29 June, 6 July and 13 July) at which the dialogue between different generations of artists is the key theme. One of the featured films is Godard's "Two or Three Things I Know About Her" [F/original: "Deux ou trois choses que je sais d'elle"] (1967), which will be interpreted by young film critic John Hulseley after the screening. Three films by Fischli/Weiss from the 1980s are also on the programme, including "Der geringste Widerstand" ["The least resistance"]. For more details, please go to [www.ccsparis.com](http://www.ccsparis.com)



### Wellness and literature at Leukerbad

From 30 June to 2 July, the International Literature Festival in Leukerbad will tempt bookworms and keen bathers to the mountains. Readings at midnight on the Gemmi pass, a literary stroll through the Dala gorge and a morning session at the Roman-Irish baths are just some of the highlights of this festival with a difference. Pro Helvetia will make its mark by giving its backing to a public-insight workshop at which translators from Eastern Europe will discuss their craft with author Peter Weber. Tickets and details at [www.literaturfestival.ch](http://www.literaturfestival.ch)

### Focus on traditional dress

Traditional costume - love it or hate it? Is it simply an attractive style of dress or a highly symbolic object of cultural value? Two complementary exhibitions at the Lötschental Museum (until 31 October 2006) and the Appenzell Museum (until 14 January 2007) delve into the origins and history of Swiss traditional costumes, showing how much they have been influenced by tastes in fashion and ideals of beauty. "Tracht tragen. Appenzell Lötschental überall", a pilot project that will pave the way for greater collaboration between local and regional museums, is being supported by Pro Helvetia. Further details at [www.loetschentalemuseum.ch/Aktuell.html](http://www.loetschentalemuseum.ch/Aktuell.html)



### Swiss jazz music in Warsaw

The Warsaw Summer Jazz Days 2006 (24 June to 1 August) will provide a platform for Swiss music over two days, offering a mixed programme of mainstream and avant-garde jazz plus new, young talent. "erb-gut" and "Brink Man Ship" are giving a club concert on 28 July. Acoustic jazz follows on 29 July from "Tré" and "Nik Bärtschs Ronin". The Pro Helvetia liaison office in Warsaw is inviting organisers from Central and Eastern Europe to the festival in the hope of making new contacts that will lead to future performances.



Find out more about Pro Helvetia in Warsaw at [www.pro-helvetia.pl](http://www.pro-helvetia.pl)

For more on the festival, please go to [www.adamiakjazz.pl](http://www.adamiakjazz.pl)

### World New Music festival in Stuttgart

Each year, the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) stages a festival in one of its 50 member countries, focusing on the latest developments in contemporary music. Stuttgart is the venue for this year's festival from 14 to 29 July, at which questions of cultural identity and curiosity towards the unfamiliar will be explored under the heading "without borders". Switzerland will be represented by Klaus Huber (15 July) and Thomas Kessler (23 July) as well as by the Ensemble Antipodes, who will be premiering two new compositions commissioned by Pro Helvetia (19 July). The opening of the Killesberg sound park on 17 July will feature a sound installation by Andres Brosshard. For more details, please go to [www.wnmf2006.de](http://www.wnmf2006.de)



### swixx at the Pod'Ring festival in Biel/Bienne

For almost thirty years now, Pod'Ring has been hosting a feast of cultural events in the old town of Biel/Bienne. From 11 to 15 July, concerts, readings, comedy, film and round-table debates are being staged. Swiss artists from a number of different cultural backgrounds will be presenting their work on the cultural circuit. Pro Helvetia is supporting the project under the auspices of swixx.

For information on the festival: [www.podring.ch](http://www.podring.ch)

For more on swixx: [www.prohelvetia.ch](http://www.prohelvetia.ch)

### Swiss films at the "Hiroshima 2006" cartoon festival

This year, the programme of the world-famous Hiroshima International Animation Festival, which takes place from 24 to 28 August, includes a wide-ranging focus on Switzerland, organised in conjunction with Swiss Films, the agency promoting filmmaking in this country. Retrospectives of Claude Luyet, Georges Schwizgebel, Nag Ansoerge und Isabelle Favez will be screened alongside a programme of over 40 Swiss cartoon films dating from 1970 to 2006 and movies by students at the Lucerne College of Art and Design. Three Swiss films are entered in the official competition, including Georges Schwizgebel's "Jeu". Details at [www.urban.ne.jp/home/hiroanim](http://www.urban.ne.jp/home/hiroanim)



## PUBLICATIONS

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### New Swiss folksong

One hundred children from all of Switzerland's language regions and other cultural backgrounds sing a new Swiss folksong on CD - "D'Schwiz La Suisse La Svizzera La Svizra". This catchy tune was written and composed by Com&Com and Marius Tschirky as part of

the Pro Helvetia "swixx" programme. You can hear a live performance on 24 August at the Culture and Congress Centre in Lucerne during a Lucerne Festival Children's Corner event. The CD also features two remixes of songs by rapper "MasterMind & the dawn" as well as the traditional music group "Appenzeller Echo". It is available for download from [www.dschwiz.ch](http://www.dschwiz.ch)  
For more on swixx: [www.prohelvetia.ch](http://www.prohelvetia.ch)



## THE ARTS COUNCIL

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### Roberto Induni joins Pro Helvetia

On 1 June 2006, Roberto Induni became Head of the Programme Division at the Swiss Arts Council. The political scientist and sociologist is responsible for the theme programmes through which Pro Helvetia addresses key cultural issues. He is also in charge of country programmes, which enable Swiss artists to cultivate exchange with other countries and regions around the globe. **Find out more...**

### Time for creation

Each year, Pro Helvetia commissions new creations from numerous artists, giving them the opportunity of working intensively for a period of time. This year, 24 writers will receive a total of 750,000 Franks to help with their work. A further 210,000 Franks will go to classical, new folk and pop musicians for 16 new compositions. And eight new monographs will be produced by artists receiving a total of 200,000 Franks. **Find out more...**

## TIPS

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### Telling tales in the mountains

What used to take days is now a matter of a couple of hours: travelling over the Gotthard Pass, for example. However, the mountain still inspires storytellers, as is shown by the "via litterale" part of the Pro Helvetia programme in connection with the building of the NEAT tunnel. Linard Bardill, Zsuzsanna Gahse, Giovanni Orelli, Anna Ruchat and Peter Weber have written stories that you can listen in to from 10 June until 31 October at five listening stations in the Gotthard area - including hiking tips! Details at [www.prohelvetia.ch/vialitterale](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/vialitterale)



### Delivery service for stories

From 14 June to 2 July, you can have a freshly baked story delivered along with your pizza. Story couriers will be on the road in five Swiss regions (Aargau, Basel, Burgdorf/Solothurn, Wil/St. Gallen, Central Switzerland), performing texts live. These will include the stories on literature and mobility written by Swiss authors as part of the Pro Helvetia "via litterale" programme. You can find details and telephone numbers at [www.prohelvetia.ch/vialitterale](http://www.prohelvetia.ch/vialitterale)



## COLOPHON

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### Pro Helvetia

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Pro Helvetia supports and promotes Swiss culture in Switzerland and throughout the world.

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