

Thank You Letter from President Peter Schälle

I am writing today to express my sincere gratitude to all the participants and volunteers of the 27th Sangerfest. Your contributions to this event are appreciated more than you will ever know. The event was most enjoyable and provided a great opportunity for personal interaction between the many attendees. It truly was a pleasure to host this event.

On behalf of the Swiss Society of Vancouver, I would like to personally thank all of you for your generous contribution to the 27th Sangerfest. This event could not have been a success without the help of the many volunteers and sponsors who donated their time and money and a special thanks to Elisabeth Rechsteiner & Rory Fader for their role as MC's.

We would also like to thank the Swiss Choir Members who have been helping behind the scenes. We are very grateful and thankful to the singers who have been assisting, helping and supporting us.

Thank you also to the Consul General of Switzerland Urs Strausak and his staff for their collaboration, assistance and support in this occasion.

And at last we give a special thank you to Rolf Brulhart, president of the 27th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festival for his enthusiasm and dedication to see this remarkable event through to its end.

Your interest and good spirits made organizing this event an enjoyable experience! Thank you for coming to Vancouver and we look forward to seeing you all in Tacoma in 2014!

Peter Schalle

The sound of music hitting a peak

TRI-ANNUAL EVENT: Experience the sonorous and soaring tones of 13 international yodelling choirs

BY DANA GEE
THE PROVINCE

Special Event

Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodelling Festival

Where: UBC SUB Building and the Chan Centre

When: Today to Saturday

Tickets: \$55 at ticketmaster.com; more info at saengerfest2011.info

"High on a hill lived a lonely goatherd. Lay-ee ode lay-ee ode lay-hee hoo."

For most of us that *Sound of Music* song and the alp horn-punctuated Riccola lozenge TV ads are about the only exposure we've had to yodelling.

But that can all change this weekend as 13 international choirs, including a Korean one, will be bringing their unique vocal styling to the UBC campus for the 27th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodelling Festival.

On today through Sunday the festival, which is held every three years, is hosted by the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast, an organization that has been

history, but not by any means exclusively, something Brulhart hopes will help draw non-yodellers to the weekend's events.

"I would tell the public it has nothing to do with Switzerland. All mountain areas in the whole world do this," said Brulhart who came to Canada from the Lucerne area in 1976. "It's a great thing to share common things. Yodelling doesn't belong to Switzerland at all. The kind of music is not owned by a certain race or ethnic group, it's owned by all of us. We, the Swiss, just had the marketing."

True natural yodelling has no text.

"That's the greatest thing about yodelling you must listen to each other. It brings you together," said Brulhart who added in Switzerland most commonly there are five differ-

ent styles of yodelling, each coming from a different geographic locale.

"We are a very noisy group indeed," said Brulhart who had no problem bursting into yodel as he stood among a crowd at the arrivals area of Vancouver airport. "People will just stand up and sing."

Part of the weekend's festivities is Saturday's yodelling workshop, an event Brulhart recommends and requires no previous experience.

Brulhart himself began yodelling when he was a Swiss mountain guide and member of the Swiss army.

"I was a lot in the mountains," said Brulhart. "When I was about 18 my friend taught me to yodel. I have been yodelling ever since."

And what makes a good yodeler?

"A happy person that just likes to sing a loud, 'yahoo,'" said Brulhart.

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People who yodel are happy. For proof of that go to theprovince.com and check out DGTV which was at the Vancouver airport with members of the Vancouver Swiss Choir as they waited to welcome fellow yodelers arriving from Korea for the Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodelling Festival.

"You are probably one, but still just undercover."

Maybe a little liquid courage can help release an inner Slim Whitman?

"The Swiss drink wine, so it is great," said Brulhart who works at UBC Hospital. "You go higher. You yodel higher it's good. That's when you become a soprano."

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Rolf Brulhart (right) serenades people arriving at the Vancouver airport with yodelling before hitting the stage this weekend at the Chan Centre in a yodel gathering. JENELLE