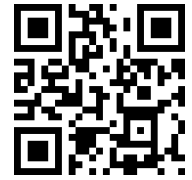


# Tritonus



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

**A Different Kind of Swiss Folk Music**

## **Tritonus (Ensemble)**

Tritonus is a Swiss folk music group founded around 1985 in eastern Switzerland. They are considered pioneers and experts in the study and performance of early folk music and its instruments in Switzerland before 1800.

The history of the ensemble goes back to the 1970s – the impetus for the later group name was the central importance of the tritone interval in old Swiss folk music. Beat Wolf and Urs Klauser, both instrument makers and musicians, were united by their interest in old folk music of varied provenance, and in their desire to research thoroughly the Swiss folk music of previous centuries. They reconstructed instruments according to historical models, and on these, they brought the melodic material that they had discovered to new life, as it would originally have sounded.

At the centre of their interest were shepherd instruments such as the Swiss bagpipe, the shawm, the fife, and the hurdy-gurdy. These were instruments that had been popular and widely spread until they were superseded in the 19th century, primarily by the accordion and clarinet.

1985 is considered the founding year of the ensemble Tritonus: Wolf and Klauser supplemented their duo with additional musicians, other old folk instruments such as cittern, fife, flutes, Jew's harp, various rhythm instruments and later also hammered dulcimer, violin, rebec and vocals.

The first Tritonus CD «Early Folk Music in Switzerland» (1991), produced in collaboration with Radio DRS I and awarded a prize, was a true milestone in research into these old traditions.

Some fifteen years after the publication of this standard work, Tritonus entered new musical territory with an expanded line-up of young jazz musicians. The result was a repertoire that unites tradition and innovation, the origins and future of Swiss folk music. On the CD «Alpan», released in 2006, Tritonus presents «Alpsegen» (dusk-time prayers sung in the mountains), «Zäuerli» (a type of yodelling from Appenzell), «Kuhreihen» and «Löckler» (cow-call tunes) beneath dance tunes, ballads and love songs. Archaic folk music mingles with new sounds – a colourful, varied, intense music!

In summer 2010, the premiere of the new Tritonus programme entitled «Vo Schwyzer, Schwede, Wyn und Wyb» took place in the Tonhalle Zurich, which, among other things, musically reworks the legend of the origin of the Swiss from Sweden. In the programme, Tritonus deals with the central questions of humanity : Where do we come from? Where are we going? and above all: What do we drink to that?

In 2015, on the occasion of the ensemble's 30th anniversary, the third CD «Urbanus» will be released, dedicated to old folk music from Swiss cities. Dances from 16th century lute tablatures, songs and ballads are brought back to new life in sophisticated arrangements enriched with new texts and melodies in the spirit of old Swiss folk music.

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tritonus\\_\(Ensemble\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tritonus_(Ensemble))