

Tritonus

Alpan

An Archaic World of Timeless Sound

Fifteen years after their standard work «Alte Volksmusik in der Schweiz» (Early Swiss Folk Music) was produced, Tritonus is breaking new ground with their fresh but respectful rendering of early Swiss folk music.

It's an exciting musical journey where the familiar can suddenly sound very different!



Tritonus - Folk Music with a Difference

For many years Tritonus has been researching Swiss folk music and instruments in use up to 1800. They are constantly on the look out for original and alternative material as a counterbalance to mainstream Swiss folk music.

Their 1991 standard work «TRITONUS – Alte Volksmusik in der Schweiz» – this won the ORG (Eastern Swiss Radio and Television) Award – is still on sale today. Although the group has continued through the years to perform in various formations both in Switzerland and abroad, no further CDs were made.

Together since December 2003, the members of Tritonus are Felicia Kraft (vocals, percussion, rebec), Urs Klauser (swiss bagpipes, cittern, 6-holed fife), Daniel Som (hurdy-gurdy, shawm, flutes) and Lea Zanola (hammered dulcimer, Jew's harp).

„The idea for a new CD arose as we collected more and more material. To follow up our historical and academic first album we wanted to tread new ground with «Alpan». Together with young jazz musicians Reto Suhner (saxophone) and Tobias Preisig (violin), Andreas Cincera (violone, double bass) and Markus Maggiori (percussion) we have created a new programme that combines the past and future of our folk music:

Having pieced together original instrumentations, we can now demonstrate early musical styles, melodies, texts and instruments and mix them with new sounds to show possible future directions.“

The majority of the tracks on this CD are unpublished works that have not been previously recorded.

„Music from Appenzell features strongly, although we've omitted the popular and well documented string music of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The music of the Swedish bands of Ale Möller and Lena Willemark (CDs «Nordan», «Agram» etc. / www.frifot.se) has influenced our ideas greatly.

In recognition of their work we named our CD «Alpan». Later we discovered that our supposed fictional name «Alpan» – made up from «Alpstein» (prealpine mountain massif in the Eastern Swiss Limestone Alps) and «Nordan» – turns out to be the name of an Etruscan goddess of love and the underworld.“

In February 2005 Tritonus was awarded a support grant by the Culture Foundation of the Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden for this CD project.

Further Info: www.tritonus.ch and www.tritonus.ch/alpan.htm

CDs: «Alte Volksmusik in der Schweiz» ZYT 4982 Zytglogge-Verlag, CH-4010 Basel / www.zytglogge.ch
«Alpan» ZYT 4901 Zytglogge-Verlag, CH-4010 Basel / www.zytglogge.ch
«urbanus» ZYT 4966 Zytglogge-Verlag, CH-4010 Basel / www.zytglogge.ch

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