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## Our International Artists

*Scroll down for James Barralet's comments on our Folkclassical artists.  
Click on an image for more information about each of them.*



Muzsikás – Hungarian folk music ensemble



Tritonus – Swiss folk music ensemble



The Navarra Quartet



The Maxwell Quartet



James Barralet – Artistic Director/ Cello

Donald Grant and Friends



Helena Winkelman – Violin/ composer



Li-wei Qin – Cello



Francis Kefford – Viola



Manuel Oswald – Violin

*The Artistic Director reserves the right to find a substitute for any of these artists should it prove necessary to do so.*

**Artistic Director James Barralet** comments on our Folkclassical artists:

With this extraordinary line-up, 2020's festival promises to be sensational!

In the first two concerts, the MAXWELL QUARTET (prize-winning Scottish string quartet with folk music backgrounds) and DONALD GRANT (who treated us to a set of Scottish folk with the Elias Quartet in our 2018 festival), together with his own group, will present an eclectic and vibrant mix of Scottish and European music. I will be there too (another classical/ folk enthusiast) with my cello, as will FRANCIS KEFFORD (viola).

For Concerts 3 and 4 the festival is thrilled to welcome the most important Hungarian folk band of the past 50 years. MUZSIKAS will share the two concerts with the international

prizewinning NAVARRA STRING QUARTET in programmes that will seamlessly flip from the realms of earthy folk music to the Romanian Dances of Bartok and classical quartets of Kodaly and others, and blur the two genres in a soundscape that, with musicians of this calibre, promises to be something unique and magical.

Concerts 5 and 6 will focus on the folk music of the Alpine region and the wealth of classical music that it inspired. We are delighted to welcome another special band, TRITONUS, a Swiss folk ensemble who “will surprise you with folk music of a completely different kind. With magical shepherd’s calls and wild dances, TRITONUS bring the old roots to flower again.”

In addition we have two very special guests. HELENA WINKELMAN, Swiss composer and violinist, with a fascinating wealth of knowledge of Alpine folk music and a rich classical music background, brings a unique humour and sensitivity to her blending of folk and contemporary classical styles. LI-WEI QIN, China’s virtuoso cellist, will join us for the festival’s climax, Schubert’s superlative Quintet in D.



## Tritonus – Swiss folk music ensemble

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* won the ORG (Eastern Swiss Radio and Television) Award and the CD is still on sale today. The group has continued through the years to perform in various formations both in Switzerland and abroad.

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](http://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» (pre-alpine 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.

## Local Attractions



## World Class Artists



## Accommodation



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