

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 86 (2020)
Heft: [2]

Artikel: Ä Jodler
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943898>

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Ä Jodler



On the bright sunny morning of 22nd September 2019 Kurt and I joined Peter and Ursi at the Alpnach Catholic Church for morning mass. Before Mass began, I took time to look at the church's interior and make peace with the fact that I am no longer a church-goer. As I admired the church's interior and thought about all the celebrations, the praying in times of hardship, giving thanks for what one had and general community support that this and other churches had brought and continue to bring to their communities, my thoughts were diverted by a familiar laughter and I walked out to find the owner: outside stood Bruno and Anna Rufer, fellow members of Hamilton Swiss Club who were visiting an aunt in the area and had heard of the mass's 4 recitals that Peter and Ursi would present. I was also approached by a few locals who told me they were cousins of mine. Mass commenced and as I sat with my new found cousins my mind returned to the late 1950s and the life that must have surrounded this church with most of us having been baptized here and my older brothers had their first communions as well as their confirmations here in this very church. We lived on a rather steep farming area near Alpnach, known as "Rengg" and had no car until we prepared to move to NZ in 1961 - thus we were dependent upon those who had cars to pick up the new borns (6 of us in 10 years!) and have them baptised within 3 days of being born as was the custom for the Catholic Church. This of course meant that often the mothers were left behind as they recovered from birthing. So my parents were at the forefront of my mind as I listened to the mass which in 1950s would have been presented in Latin. Mass over it was time to meet some of Peter and Ursi's friends and fellow musicians. The big event: The CD Launch would take place in the church in the afternoon and it is then that Kurt and I would become godparents to a CD!!

Peter's daughters, Tania and Tamara, their mother Marina and their families travelled from New Zealand to Switzerland for this occasion. Our brother Joe's daughter, Shauntelle, lives in Stans and she and her family completed the entourage. (by the way, Shauntelle's son Lee attends Peter's yodelling lessons and Lee sat enthralled when he recognized the Yodel notes that they were being taught).

Old family friends who had spent their youth with us in NZ, but returned as adults to CH also came to the ceremony which opened with Peter's voice preceding him as he entered the church from the back. There followed a vast array of recitals with the different choirs and instrumental groups that Peter and Ursi have joined since their move back to Switzerland. Peter had written some of



The making of the CD: Ä Jodler – compiled by Ursula Arnold

Peter and I started to think about putting a CD together in September 2017. (People always asked whether we had a CD).

First thing was to find a producer whom we felt comfortable with and after discussing the matter with friends we soon had a contact: Urs Ehrenzeller. A meeting was arranged where lots of details were discussed. Some weeks passed and Urs suggested we come to his studio and do a small rehearsal at no cost. Urs was very impressed with the quality of our singing so the start of recording was going to be quicker than we thought.

We practised and practised to make sure we would not waste too much money and time!

We were also thinking about which group of other performers to include in the CD. Finally, we decided to invite the following: The Schii-Cherli, Beggriaeder Gruaess, Hoeibode Choerli, Paul Walliman (Alphorn) and Gery Wolfisberg (Peter's duet partner at the yodel fests) to come on board. Peter performs with all of them except the accordion trio.

Months went by, suddenly it was time to look for a photographer, to do



his own yodels: "Echo von Fern" and "De Vater" and his CD includes our father's compositions: "Stiegli Juiz" and "Rengg Juiz". Peter had to get permission to become "owner" of Dad's compositions and went on to Patent Dad's and his compositions and have them registered at the Suisa in Zurich. Now when a song is sung (or presented on radio) he and Ursi get royalties. Many of us, close friends and family think he should go on spotify.

Anyway, as usual, I digress. Back to the story.

The Schii-Cherli, Beggriaeder Gruaess, Hoeibode Choerli, Paul Walliman (Alphorn) and Gery Wolfisberg, his duet partner at the yodel fests, all performed alongside Peter and Ursi in front of the sun flower decorated church altar. The church acoustics complimented their voices and musicianship. Speeches by moderator (MC) Ruedi Niederberger and my brother Peter paid homage to the history of Peter's 70 year life journey and his pleasure at having so many of his New Zealand family present to share this moment with him.

The moment for CD christening had arrived. The sheet-shrouded montage of the CD was placed off centre of the altar stage while Urs Ehrenzeller introduced himself and explained some of the things that went into making this CD. It was then moved center stage where Kurt and I revealed the CD : "Ä Jodler" whose cover sleeve shows Peter and Ursi in the forefront with our once family home and the chapel in the background to show the roots of where he and his talent had come from.

Champagne was poured over the CD and some consumed and then followed a few more songs and among them was *Pokarekare ana* sung by Peter and Ursi with accordion accompaniment – a standing ovation which lasted many minutes brought this 90 minute CD Launch Ceremony, that had for many present rekindled old memories of local history and celebrated the return of one of its own, to an end.

After mingling with the people who had attended the church concert we walked across the road to the Restaurant Schlüssel for a celebratory dinner and some more entertainment. All the kiwi youngsters taught their Swiss 2nd cousins the Haka which they then all presented with gusto and vigour, much to the delight of the dinner guests. It was truly an amazing experience for all of us who had been given the privilege of being part of it.

I wish my brother Peter, his wife Ursi, and their combined talent all the best.



the photos and graphics for the CD booklet. Luckily, we knew a lot of people in our area, so not much time was wasted before we found the right person : Kobi Christen from Beckenried. It was a big job for Kobi who spent hours on his PC. His wife Vreni is related to the Arnold family (on Dad Arnold's side) and was a big help.

September 2018. We needed to book a definite date for our CD presentation. We settled for the 22nd September 2019 in the Catholic Church in Alpnach Dorf.

Then it was time to spread the word: the advertising of the CD presentation through local newspapers and various radio stations had to be done.

Finally, on May 2019, our last recording took place and not long after we joined Urs in his studio to do the final preparations for the printing of the CD. August 2019. We received 500 of our very own CDs. We were very proud of this product, but it had to remain hidden in the boxes as they would not be saleable before the CD presentation!

And so nearly 2 years since the CD idea was born - on the 22nd of September 2019, Sunday 5pm at the Alpnach Catholic Church, the CD presentation began to an almost full church.