

# Swiss National Sound Archives

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## Swiss National Sound Archives



Lugano municipal council chamber  
(Photo: administrative archives of  
the city of Lugano)

Once again in 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives worked to preserve and mediate Switzerland's audio heritage in collaboration with various institutions. For example, together with the administrative archives of the city of Lugano and the Memoriav association, it launched a project to safeguard audio recordings of meetings of the Lugano municipal council between 1962 and 2003. It also acquired important collections, such as those of the Swiss band More Experience and Zurich's Widder Bar. In addition, to mark the centenary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's birth, it released a phonography on the Swiss writer and painter.

### Collection

Some 1,132 new recordings were acquired in 2021 (2020: 800) and 7,378 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2020: 5,746). Extensive use was made of [www.fonoteca.ch](http://www.fonoteca.ch), with the site recording 634,247 views in 2021.

The digitisation of recordings of the Lugano municipal council meetings from the period 1962 to 2003 is a significant cooperation project. The Swiss National Sound Archives launched the project in 2021 with the Lugano administrative archives and the Memoriav association to safeguard and upgrade the audio recordings. The project involves the digitisation of over 400 magnetic tapes held in the administrative archives over a period of four years. The public can already listen to some of these recordings in the digital catalogue of the Swiss National Sound Archives, and therefore discover a valuable piece of historical heritage, which provides an important insight into the history and political life of the city of Lugano.



The Jimi Hendrix cover band  
More Experience (Photo: More  
Experience)

Notable acquisitions in the year under review were the collections of the Swiss band More Experience and Zurich's Widder Bar, as well as Jean-Georges Pertin's record collection. The More Experience collection contains all recordings by the world's best-known Jimi Hendrix cover band. The recordings from 1989 onwards also include those made with the bassist (Noel Redding) and drummer (Buddy Miles) of Hendrix. The collection comprises some 200 audio media and complements the collection of More Experience concert posters, which the band donated to the NL's Prints and Drawings Department.

The Widder Bar collection comprises unique recordings of jazz concerts that took place in the historic bar in Zurich. The recordings were made by Arnold Burri, who organised the musical events *Jazz in der Widder-Bar* in the 1980s. The collection comprises some 300 CD-Rs with recordings of leading Swiss and international jazz musicians.

The immense record collection of Jean-Georges Pertin from Carouge, which the Swiss National Sound Archives acquired from the Musée de Carouge in 2021, comprises 1,500 LPs, 850 CDs and around 500 shellac records.



Stephan Eicher  
(Photo: Wikimedia)

### Outreach

In 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: with the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel for the permanent exhibition and event *Dürrenmatt Sciascia 100* to mark the centenaries of Friedrich Dürrenmatt and Leonardo Sciascia; with the Swiss National Library for the exhibitions *Meat – An exhibition on the inner life* and *Vote now! On the right to have a say*; with the Galerie Litar for the exhibition *Adelheid Duvanel's Himmel*; with the Fondation Martin Bodmer for its permanent exhibition; for radio productions by SRF (*Internierung der Bourbaki-Armee in der Schweiz*), RTS (*Piero Coppola*) and the documentary films by the Uetendorf film team (*Das Reduit. Geschichte von 1939 bis 1945*). The Swiss National Sound Archives was also a guest on the RSI programmes to mark *Swiss Music Day* on 16 September 2021.

In 2021, the Swiss National Sound Archives published various articles on its website on key holdings from its collections. Some of the topics covered included Lugano city council meetings; Piero Coppola, the pioneer of the classic record; Hanny Christen, the custodian of Swiss folk music; Pierre Dudan, the cabaret singer and Walter Furrer, the composer.

It also published audio collections of key Swiss figures on its website: singer Caterina Valente, conductor Charles Dutoit, composer Igor Stravinsky, author Giorgio Orelli, writer and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt, composer Rudolf Kelterborn, musician Stephan Eicher, jazz bassist Isla Eckinger and the band More Experience.

Of particular significance were the outreach activities by the Swiss National Sound Archives on Swiss writer and painter Friedrich Dürrenmatt and on Sicilian author Leonardo Sciascia. The year 2021 was not only the centenary of Dürrenmatt's birth (1921–90), but also that of Sciascia (1921–89). The Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel organised an event with various guests to mark the occasion in October 2021. The Swiss National Sound Archives produced a clip for the event featuring audio documents on both figures from its archives and the archives of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG SSR. It also released a phonography on Friedrich Dürrenmatt with over 200 recordings of readings, lectures and interviews.

## User services

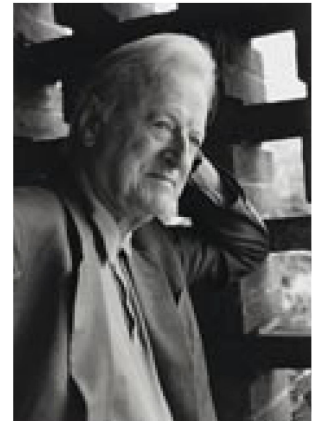
Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection grew markedly in 2021, with the database being accessed nearly 26 million times (2020: 18 million). The Roothus Gonten Foundation and the Swiss Historical Lexicon in Bern were added to the 56 institutions in Switzerland with one or more audiovisual workstations that can be used to access the National Sound Archives database. These workstations were used to listen to 183,109 audio documents during the year (2020: 199,172).

## Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives played host to the 2021 annual congress of the Germany/Switzerland branch of the *International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives – IASA*. The event was held online and was used by the Swiss National Sound Archives as an opportunity to present the institution and its activities to a specialist audience and to network. The two-day congress was attended by around a hundred participants.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt (Photo: Monique Jacot, Swiss Literary Archives)



Giorgio Orelli (Photo: Yvonne Böhler, Swiss Literary Archives)



Piero Coppola with Sergej Prokofiev (Photo: P. Coppola collection, BCU Lausanne)