

# Swiss National Sound Archives

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Annual report / Swiss National Library**

Band (Jahr): **109 (2022)**

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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## Swiss National Sound Archives



Once again in 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives worked to preserve and mediate Switzerland's audio heritage in collaboration with various institutions. It acquired important collections, such as those of jazz historian Christian Steulet and those of the Bern music festival *Taktlos*. The Swiss National Sound Archives also relocated in December 2022 from its headquarters in the Centro San Carlo in Lugano to its new home in the immediate vicinity.

## Collection

A total of 936 new recordings were acquired in 2022 (2021: 1,132) and 4,424 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2021: 7,378). Particularly worthy of mention are the acquisition of the collection of jazz historian Christian Steulet, and those of the Bern music festival *Taktlos*. The Steulet collection comprises the audio media that Vaud-born Steulet collected as part of his research. The *Taktlos* Bern collection consists of some 600 concerts from the famous festival of contemporary music that were performed between 1980 and 2006.

## Outreach

In 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: it lent items to the exhibition *Snow. The wonder in white* at the Swiss National Library; to the exhibition **Sagenhafter Alpenraum** at the Forum Schweizer Geschichte Schwyz and

the National Museum Zurich; to the exhibition *Rund um Biel. Die Schweizerischen Landesausstellungen* at the Neues Museum Biel; to the exhibition **Musighanneli: Die Volksmusik-Sammlerin Hanny Christen** at the Museum.BL; to the exhibition *Von Fideln und Meis-tergeigen* at the Swiss School of Violin Making in Brienz; and to the permanent exhibitions at the Swiss Open-Air Museum in Ballenberg and the Dichter:innen- und Stadtmuseum Liestal. The Swiss National Sound Archives also contributed to radio productions by RTS Radio Télévision Suisse (several segments for the programme *Histoire Vivante* to mark 100 years of radio) and to the research project on *The history of the Salon Orchestra Engadin* by the Institute of Cultural Research



### Sagenhafter Alpenraum

An exhibition featuring loans from the National Sound Archives



### Musighanneli: Die Volksmusik-Sammlerin Hanny Christen

The National Sound Archives supported this exhibition with loans from its collections.



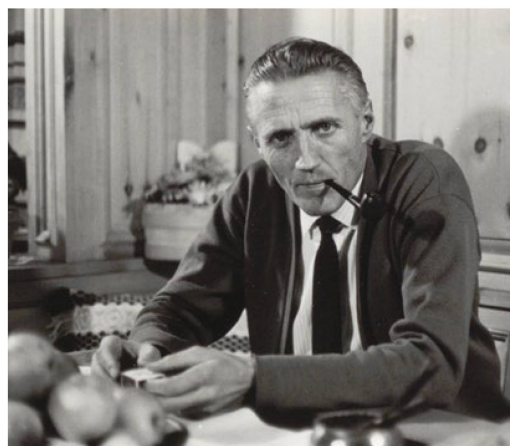
**Yvette Z'Graggen**

A homage to the Genevan writer,  
shown here in 1941



**Yello**

Winners of the Swiss Grand Award  
for Music 2022



**Toni Halter**

Audio collection on the  
Graubünden writer

Graubünden and the Department of Music at the University of Basel.

On 2 March 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives was a guest on the television programme *Il Quotidiano* on RSI Radiotelevisione Svizzera. The extensive report presented the Swiss Federal Sound Archives through an on-site visit and interviews with staff members. On 3 and 4 November 2022, it took part in the *Swiss Open Cultural Data Hackathon*, which took place on the campus of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI) in Mendrisio.

In the year under review, the Swiss National Sound Archives also published various articles on its website on some of its most important collections, such as on the major Genevan jazz saxophonist George Robert, on the Ticinese

composer Carlo Florindo Semini, and on the Widder Bar in Zurich (recordings of jazz evenings hosted at the historic venue in the 1980s).

It also published audio collections of key Swiss figures on its website, such as classic pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, Genevan writer **Yvette Z'Graggen**, famous Zurich duo **Yello** (winners of the Swiss Grand Award for Music in 2022), jazz musician George Robert, Graubünden writer **Toni Halter** and famous Bernese songwriter Mani Matter. Also worth



**Anna Felder**

Interview with the ticinese writer

mentioning is the online publication of an in-depth interview with Ticinese writer [Anna Felder](#), which was granted exclusively to the Swiss National Sound Archives.

Finally, in autumn 2022, the Swiss National Sound Archives launched the section the [sound machine of the month](#) on its YouTube channel, which showcases historical audiovisual machines and devices.

### User services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 772,390 database requests recorded in 2022 (2021: 634,247). The Swiss School of Violin Making in Brienz was added to the 58 institutions in Switzerland with one or more audiovisual workstations that can be used to access the National Sound Archives database.



### Sound machine of the month

Recordophone from Autophon AG  
from the late 1940s

These workstations were used to listen to 139,855 audio documents in the year under review (2021: 183,109).

### Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives strengthened its national and international networks by participating in various conferences and congresses in 2022. Particularly noteworthy is its participation in the annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives 2022 (IASA) in Mexico City in September. At the IASA conference, the Swiss National Sound Archive chaired the meetings of the Training & Education Committee and presented the institution and its activities. The four-day conference was attended by experts from the audiovisual field from all over the world.