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# Swiss National Sound Archives



The Swiss National Sound Archives acquired some prominent collections in 2023, for example that of Swiss musician Rudi Tüscher (Hotcha). Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 850,000 database requests recorded.

## Collection

A total of 1,020 new recordings was acquired (2022: 936) and 5,467 new bibliographic records were added to the catalogue (2022: 4,424). Worthy of special mention is the acquisition of the Hotcha collection from Biel city library. It includes all the music cassettes of Swiss label Calypso Now, which was founded by Swiss musician Rudi Tüscher (Hotcha) in 1983 in Biel.

## Outreach

In 2023, the Swiss National Sound Archives opened up access to its collections through a range of collaborations: it lent items to the **Multilingual Switzerland** exhibition in the National Museum Zurich; to the exhibition *The alps in legend* in the Museum of History Lucerne; to the major event *Offene Bundesmeile* in Bern, dedicated by the Federal Chancellery to the 175-year anniversary of the Federal Constitution; to the *grenzenlos lüpfig. Volksmusik in Graubünden* exhibition in the Rhätisches/Rhaetian Museum in Chur and to the permanent exhibi-

tions at MuMode Musée suisse de la mode in Yverdon-les-Bains and the Musée des Traditions et des Barques du Léman in Saint-Gingolph.

The National Sound Archives presented RSI Radiotelevisione svizzera with a number of audio documents and thus contributed to various radio productions (different contributions in the series *Radio Monteceneri, 90 anni insieme*).

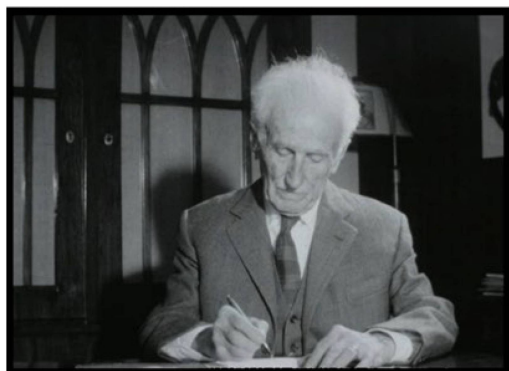
From 16 to 18 June 2023, the National Sound Archives was guest of honour at Passionvinyl festival in Mézières (FR). From 21 to 24 September, it also had a stand at the Eidgenössisches Volksmusikfest, a musical event of national significance held in Bellinzona with over 80,000 visitors. The National Sound Archives visited the *Archivi viventi. Revival, Restituzione, Roberto Leydi* conference, organised by the Centre for Dialectology and Ethnography and the Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology from 17 to 19 November because of the Roberto Leydi archive stored there. From 25 to 27 November, it also



**Multilingual Switzerland**  
A look at the exhibition



**Julien-François Zbinden**  
Composer and jazz pianist



**Francesco Chiesa**  
The author at work



**Raphaël Scacchi**  
Author of the novel  
*Arancione vendemmia*



**Alice Rivaz**  
Photographed by her mother Ida-Marie  
Golay, 1936/37

hosted *GLAM on Tour* in Lugano, an event under the theme *Swiss National Sound Archives* organised in cooperation with Wikimedia CH.

In the year under review, the Swiss National Sound Archives also published various articles on its website about some of its most important holdings, for example on the pianist and composer from Vaud **Julien-François Zbinden** (1917–2021), the classical pianist from Basel Edwin Fischer (1886–1960) or Lucerne composer Mani Planzer (1939–1997).

It also published audio collections of key Swiss cultural figures on its website, such as Genevan author **Alice Rivaz** (1901–1998) and Ticino author **Francesco Chiesa** (1871–1973). An exclusive interview with Ticino author **Raphaël Scacchi** (\*1992) and scholar Stefano Boumya (\*1993) on Scacchi's novel *Arancione vendemmia* was also published on the website.





**The sound machine of the month**  
Studer A820 magnetic tape recorder

Finally, the Swiss National Sound Archives shared brief video clips of historical audiovisual machines and devices under the title **The sound machine of the month** on its YouTube channel.

### User services

Public interest in the National Sound Archives' collection remains very high, with 850,000 database requests recorded in 2023 (2022: 772,390). Three new audio stations in Basel University Library were added to the 58 institutions in Switzerland with audiovisual workstations for accessing the National Sound Archives' database. These workstations were used to listen to 154,207 audio documents in the year under review (2022: 139,855).

### Networking

The Swiss National Sound Archives strengthened its national and international networks by participating in various conferences and congresses. In June, it participated in the annual conference of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) in Culpeper (VA, US); in July in a meeting of the Audiovisual Resources working group (AG-AV) in Frankfurt and in September in the annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) in Istanbul. In Culpeper, the Swiss National Sound Archives conducted a workshop on restoring digital audio tapes; at the IASA conference it chaired the meeting of the education and training committee and then presented the institution and its operations to the attendees. The conferences were attended by audiovisual experts from all over the world.