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Edinburgh Tattoo



Swiss bring the noise to Edinburgh Tattoo in Wellington

Top Secret Drum Corps is a precision drum corps based in Basel. With 25 drummers and colorguard members, the corps became famous for its demanding six-minute routine performed at the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2003. With its invitation to Edinburgh, Top Secret became one of the first non-military, non-British Commonwealth acts to perform on the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle.

Since its success in 2003, Top Secret was invited to return to Edinburgh in 2006 with a new and improved routine. They were invited a third time in 2009 and again in 2012 and 2015. Under the leadership of Erik Julliard, the band is also responsible for the founding of the Basel Tattoo, a military tattoo show similar to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, now held annually in Basel.

Top Secret has its roots in the rich drumming traditions of the band's home city, Basel, which is known for its annual carnival called Fasnacht. The city is said to have over 3,000 active drummers at any one time. These drummers perform at traditional events such as Fasnacht, the Vogel Gryff, Charivari, and various parades associated with the city's guilds. A Trommelkönig (Drummer King) competition is also held every year by the city's Fasnacht Committee.

Basel drumming style is militaristic, derived from the military drumming drills of Swiss soldiers dating back to the Middle Ages. Top Secret in many ways adheres to the military nature of Basel drumming, but differs in many respects. Its drummers play at a much faster rate. Also, while traditional Basel drumming is

somber and favors traditional marching tunes (accompanied by fifes during the Fasnacht), Top Secret's drumming style is upbeat and playful. Segments of their routines feature a rhumba, a drummer's duel, drumstick juggling, exploding flagpoles, and other crowd-pleasing details. Perhaps because of their 18th Century uniforms and precision work, the band is often referred to a military band or a part of the Swiss Army, but it is not affiliated with any military unit.

Top Secret's members range from highly dedicated college students to drummers with diverse day jobs — bankers, civil servants, factory workers, etc. They give up their free time to practice nearly every day of the year.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo featuring Top Secret from Switzerland will perform in Wellington's Westpac Stadium on February 18, 19, 20 and 21. For further information and to buy tickets please visit:

<http://www.festival.co.nz/royal-edinburgh-military-tattoo/>

Leisure offers in your second homeland

Young Swiss from all over the world enjoy the exciting programmes prepared by the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). You too can have an unforgettable holiday or select one of our training schemes in your second homeland.

Easter camp Saas Grund

This camp is a unique opportunity to discover the super skiing area of Saas Fee, Saas Almagell and Saas Grund. This winter paradise has something to offer for everybody. Together with more than 150 km of runs there are several toboggan runs and ice rinks as well as picturesque winter walks waiting for you. So get ready - let's discover this versatile ski resort in the Alps! The OSA team provides ski and snowboard lessons, as well as a wide variety of recreational programme.

• 19.03. - 27.03.2016 (from 15 years old)

OSA anniversary camps

In 2016 the OSA will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and we are joining the party! For two weeks, four different groups will go on a hike, all with the same goal: Bern. They will set out from the four national borders before heading towards the capital and eventually meeting on the Federal Square for a proper party.

• 22.07. - 07.08.2016 (15 and older)

Discover Switzerland

For two weeks you will go on individual tourist excursions on a theme (e.g. water, history, transportation) and get a closer look at all the diversity of Switzerland. The trips suggested by the OSA are among the most popular and will take you to the Alps, the Mittelland, to town and country. You will post on our blog your travel journal as well as the pictures you shot.

• all year round, for a maximum of two weeks (from 16 years old)

For further information and to enrol please visit:

<http://www.swisscommunity.org/en/youth/leisure-offers>

