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Lisa Stoll – “Swiss Lady”

Lisa Stoll is a Swiss alphorn soloist from Wilchingen in the canton of Schaffhausen.

Her love of musical instruments, especially wind instruments began at the age of six when Lisa Stoll began to play the recorder.

Two years later, the cornet was added before she turned to the alphorn at the age of ten.

Lisa Stoll celebrated her first success in September 2007 at the Ostschweizer Solisten- und Ensemble Wettbewerb in Sirmach, where she emerged as the winner with the cornet in her category.

After qualifying for the national finals of the 15th Swiss Young Musicians Competition in April 2008, Lisa Stoll took part in the national final in June as part of the Federal Yodelling Festival and was one of five winners in the field of folk music the final of the Swiss Junior Yodelling and Young Musician Competition. With the other finalists, she secured part of a joint CD production under the direction of Alex Eugster. Then, at the final of the Swiss Junior Yodelling and Young Musician Competition in Fribourg on

August 30, 2008, Lisa Stoll won the jury prize with her own composition.

Six months later she celebrated her first major TV appearance in the folk music program “Hopp de Bäse!” then barely two weeks later she was invited to Kurt Aeschbacher’s talk show. Numerous stage performances and other television appearances at national and international levels followed, including “Hopp de Bäse!”, Aeschbacher’s special show “Menschen 09” as well as “Benissimo” and “Musikantenstadl.”

She qualified for the final of the Musikantenstadl Young Talent Competition for Switzerland in September 2009 and in December, won the Stadlster 2009 at the Silvesterstadl with the “Dance of the Cows” (composer: Carlo Brunner). By December 2009, she released her debut album “Alphorn Love” which made the Swiss Charts.

* * * * *

It was in early 2016 that we met Lisa in Whitianga, NZ. A friend called us to see if someone could borrow our alphorn for a 21st birthday party. Naturally we were a bit apprehensive. At that time Lisa was attending language school in Whitianga and neighbours of her host family had Swiss connections, hence asking Lisa to the party. Lisa had brought her own mouth piece so straight away we thought she knew something about alphorns. What a surprise we had when Lisa gave us a short recital on our balcony overlooking Mercury Bay. A few weeks later Lisa called in again on her return from travelling to the South Island and gave us another recital where we had invited family and friends along. She gave us a CD which is a delight to listen to and has been played over and over again – even at some of our Swiss Club functions.

After this we started following Lisa a bit on Facebook and on her website. We were even sent an article that had appeared

in a Swiss magazine “Glueckspost” in which there was a photo of her playing alphorn on our deck in Whitianga. Our brother-in-law in Switzerland recognised this picture and alerted us to the article. Even a friend of our daughter’s recognised the background of Mercury Bay. Such a small world!

This year we had a planned trip to Switzerland so of course we checked out dates when Lisa would be appearing. We came up with the 26th August where Lisa was going to perform on the Brünni Alp, Engelberg as part of the Alpen Schlagerfestival. In the meantime Walter had discussions with school friends at his class-reunion and mentioned Lisa to one of the Biberstein sisters who said she knew Lisa. A week later Walter got a call to say that Lisa definitely wants to see us in Engelberg so off we went and who did we see on the cable car going up the mountain – Lisa Stoll!

Everyone was so excited to see each other and quickly photos were taken before Lisa had to go and practise before her planned performance. It was a picture-perfect day on the mountain and just amazing to listen to Lisa’s repertoire. She played so many lovely tunes and the crowd was so enthusiastic. During her break Lisa signed autographs so Walter lined up with his grandson Jerome and received two of her latest CDs.

At the end of Lisa’s second segment she even acknowledged Walter being there all the way from NZ and coming to Engelberg especially to see her. This created a bit of stir amongst the audience and following this someone came up to us to see if we knew his brother who lived in NZ – and of course we do, it is one of our fellow Hamilton Club members, Sery Odermatt!

We had hoped to meet up with Lisa again before heading back to NZ but we all seemed to be too busy to come up with a date that suited everyone so maybe we will meet up again in the future – either in Switzerland or NZ.

Source: Wikipedia and article written by Anita Zuber
Photos by Walter Zuber.

