

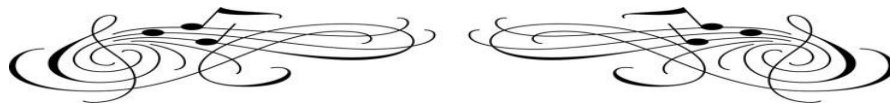


SWISS HERALD

Special Edition August 2016

Vancouver Swiss Choir 50. Anniversary

1966-2016



5 Decades of Music and Laughter



Vancouver

Swiss Choir in 2016: Front row from left to right: Heidy Legere, Marie-Louise Hanna, Andrea Flukiger, Anna-Marie Spaeti, Dorli Meier, Elisabeth Appenzeller, Maja Joehl; second row from l. to r.: Sylvia Silkin (President), Marianne Vlek, Karin Kapp, Rosy Schuepbach, Margaret Spengler; third row from l. to r.: Erna Schaefer, Hans-Peter Wacker, Dubravko Pajalic (Conductor), Rolf A. Brulhart, Ingrid Nagy. Missing on picture are: Melanie Crook, Francesca Dappen, Jeff Olson, Kimberly Olson, Erika Salas, Terresita Schwegler, Max Weber

Message from the President Silvia Kinvig

It is been a pleasure and an honor for me to celebrate the 50. Anniversary of the Vancouver Swiss Choir this year. Many of you have attended our Spring Concert on June 18, 2016.

To honor all the support we have received from our members and audience we would like to share the history of the choir and the many photos of that night. It was wonderful to see so many faces from the past.

The choir would like to dedicate this special edition of the Swiss Herald to all of you. This is a small token of appreciation to you, who have helped us to reach that milestone.

On behalf of all the past and present choir members we would like to thank all the audiences and friends of the choir for their loyalty and support. We can celebrate this milestone only because we had your support over the years.

Now we aim for the next 50 years. To reach that goal we will work hard at our craft and hope that you as a singer come forward to join the choir. It is an honor and a joy to be a part of our history. We do need new members in our choir so we can keep the Swiss tradition alive here in Vancouver. Hope to see you all on our next performance or any other venue, so we can toast to each other with some wine in real Swiss tradition.

Glueckwuensche zum 50. Geburtstag des Vancouver Swiss Choir

1. From the Organisation of Swiss Abroad in Bern, Switzerland:

Der Vancouver Swiss Choir feiert in diesem Jahr sein 50-jähriges Bestehen. Wir freuen uns sehr, ihnen zu diesem Anlass die Glückwünsche der Auslandschweizer-Organisation zu übermitteln. Die ASO vereinigt Schweizervereine und schweizerische Institutionen in der ganzen Welt. Die Zeit der Auslandschweizerclubs sei vorüber, wird hier und da gemunkelt. Der Vancouver Swiss Choir beweist das Gegenteil: als soziokultureller Bezugspunkt für die Schweizergemeinschaft bietet er ein soziales Netz und agiert als Brücke zwischen Wohnland und Herkunftsland—Die Schweiz, bis auf weiteres bloss „zugewandter Ort“ in mitten der Europäischen Union, ist mehr als andere darauf angewiesen, internationale Bindungen und Beziehungen auf allen Ebenen zu pflegen. Unsere Landsleute im Ausland und ihre Institutionen spielen dabei eine nicht zu unterschätzende Rolle. Der gewichtige Beitrag, den unsere Auslandsbürger in der Kommunikation mit der Welt leisten, wird in der Schweiz zunehmend erkannt und gewürdigt. Möge der Vancouver Swiss Choir noch viele Jahre und Jahrzehnte lang weiterleben und weiterwirken. Ihrem Zusammenschluss und Ihnen, die Sie ihn beleben, danken wir für das Engagement und wünschen für die Zukunft Glück und Erfolg!

Remo Gysin, Präsident der ASO in Bern Sarah Mastantuoni and Ariane Rustichelli, Direktorinnen der ASO

2. From Hans-Peter und Riccarda Willi, Stuttgart: Stuttgart, June 18, 2016

Dear Members of the Vancouver Swiss Choir,

We would like to present our heartfelt congratulations to the Vancouver Swiss Choir for achieving its impressive 50th anniversary. 50 years ago the founding members took the initiative to establish a choir as they might have been missing Swiss folk songs on the West Coast. Since then the Choir is displaying and spreading the traditional Swiss culture throughout Vancouver and the rest of British Columbia. It

has always been our pleasure to support the activities during our time in the Olympic City and Riccarda has been an active and proud member. She took part in the Sangerfest in Vancouver and Tacoma and participated in many other Choir performances. All of you know how much she enjoyed being part of the Choir. It is impressive to see how the Vancouver Swiss Choir is still running strong with many dedicated members, even after half a century. We wish the Choir and its members the best of luck for the future and for yet another successful 50 years to come. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend tonight's celebration but are with you in our thoughts and look forward seeing many of you during our next visit in beautiful Vancouver.

Herzliche Grusse aus Stuttgart, Riccarda & Hans-Peter

3. From the President of Edmonton Swiss Men Choir Hans Voegeli:

Dear Members of the Vancouver Swiss Choir; Dear Saenger Kameradinnen und Kameraden;
The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir would like to wish you all the very Best on your 50th Anniversary! This is a milestone and you all should be very proud to be part of this group; the SEMCO celebrated it's 35th Anniversary last year and we thought that we existed for a long time, but looking at your choir we have a few more years to go!

We have fond memories of spending many good times together, singing, yodelling, dancing and partying (not as much as before...). The ESMC treasures our association with the Vancouver Swiss Choir and we are looking forward seeing you next year at the Pacific Rim Saengerfest in California.

Enjoy the festivities and celebrate in style; congratulations and kindest regards.

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

Hans Voegeli Kameraden

4. From former Consul General of Switzerland in Vancouver: Max and Silvia Inhelder:

Liebe Mitglieder des Vancouver Swiss Choir

Eure Vereinigung feiert heute am 18. Juni, 2016 seinen 50. Geburtstag. Silvia und ich erinnern uns sehr gerne an Eure vielen Aktivitaten und besonders an Euren eindrucklichen Beitrag zum grossen Event 1991 im Vancouver Museum zum 700jahrigen Bestehen der Eidgenossenschaft, wo der Klang Eurer Stimmen das lange Programm auflockerte und bereicherte. Einige Jahre vorher war ich als Gast am "Sangertreffen" der Pazifikschweizer Sanger in Alberta. Ich freue mich, dass das Singen aus Schweizer Kehlen im Westen Kanadas eine so grosse und nachhaltige Tradition aufweist. Wir sind sicher, dass wir an diesem Treffen noch einige freundliche Gesichter aus unserer gemeinsamen damaligen Zeit sehen wurden, wenn wir uns bis Vancouver vorwagen wurden. Aus gesundheitlichen Grunden meiner Frau ist uns dies leider im gegenwartigen Zeitpunkt nicht moglich, obwohl die Jahre in Vancouver uns nur in allerbesten Erinnerung bleiben und das Stichwort WestKanada uns immer wieder in Erinnerungen schwelgen lasst.

Meine Frau und ich gratulieren Euch recht herzlich zum 50. Geburtstag Eures herzerfrischenden Singens.
Silvia und Max Inhelder, Bern

5. Conductor Michael Zaugg, Pro-Coro Canada, Edmonton:

I would like to congratulate the Vancouver Swiss Choir and their current director Dubravko Pajalic on 50 years of Swiss Music and on keeping our traditions alive in British Columbia. It is wonderful to see how the Swiss community gathers, and enjoys and promotes the Swiss culture and the songs we all grew up with. I had the pleasure of working with the Vancouver Swiss Choir in the past and would like to highlight their fluency in languages, their vibrant singing and their dedication to precision - certainly a Swiss virtue! Congratulations again, and I wish the choir many more years of joyful music making.

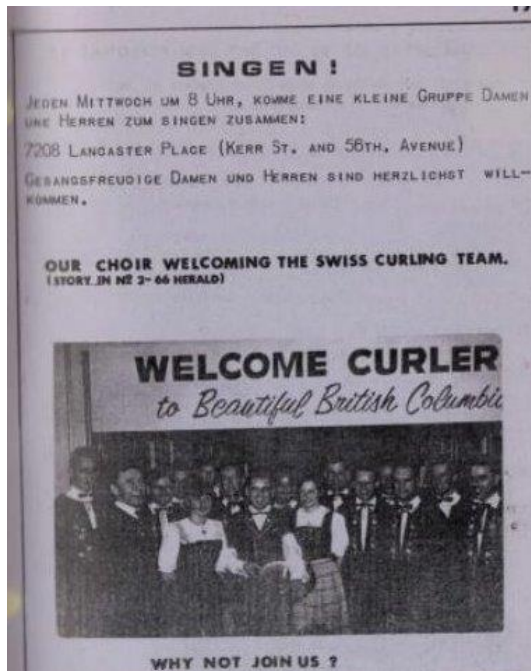
Michael Zaugg, Swiss-Canadian Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Pro Coro Canada, Edmonton

History of the Vancouver Swiss Choir:

1966-2016

Milestones

1966



The Swiss Society was asked if there was a choir that could perform at the World Curling Championship. Fourteen like-minded Swiss-Canadian men and two enthusiastic ladies met in Gody Rey's living room to practice. Soon after that they performed at the Air Canada Banquet for the curlers and at the PNE.

The **1966 Scotch Cup**, the men's *world curling championship*, was held in *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada* at the *PNE Forum* between March 21-24, 1966.

1966 Scotch Cup Winner



Canada

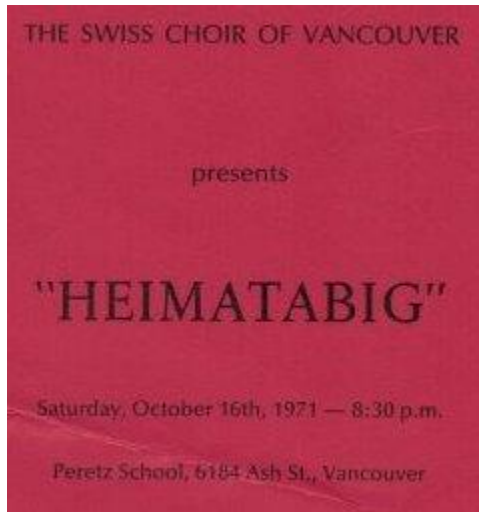
7th title



Rudy Buechi, Founding Member and First Choir President

He also designed the **Vancouver Swiss Choir Flag** in 1981

1971



The choir performed the **first public concert**.

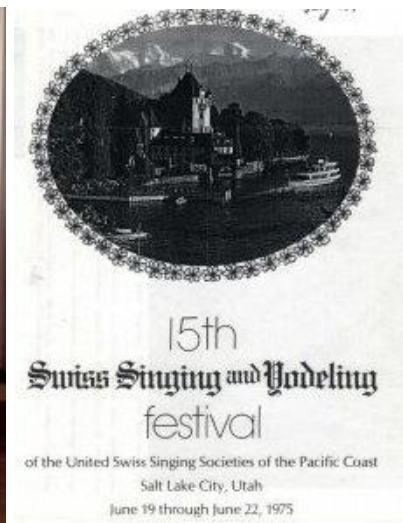
This has become an annual event to this day.

That concert led to the first guest appearance at the Pacific Singing and Yodeling Festival in the United States.

1972

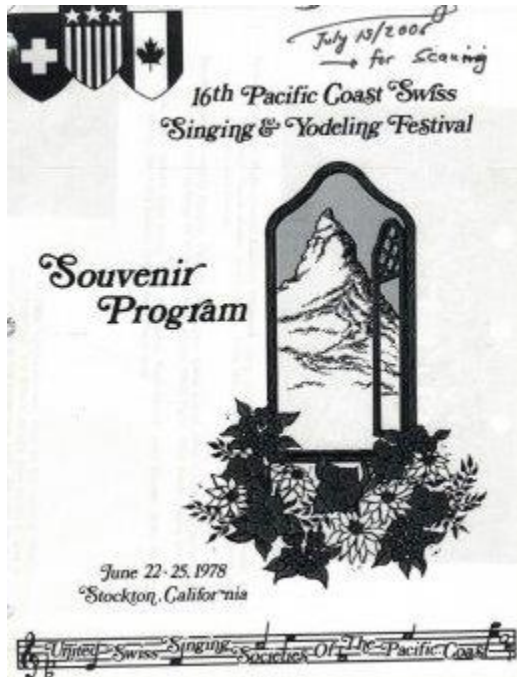
We went to **San Francisco** as a Guest Choir.

1975



Another Performance as a Guest Choir in **Salt Lake City**.

1978



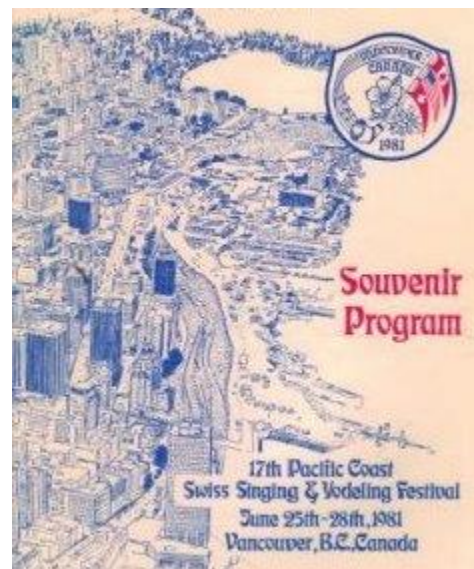
Our choir was now ready to join the Pacific Singing and Yodeling Festival in **1978**. This was the first year that they participated as members and not just as a guest choir. The Festival was held in **Stockton California**.

1981



On April 4th, the Inauguration of the **Vancouver Swiss Choir** flag designed by Rudy Buechi, was celebrated.

The choir hosted the **Singing and Yodeling Festival in Vancouver**.





Alphorn Quartet, Vancouver, B.C.
From left: Monika Jakob, Franco Azzolini, Bert Eicher,
Ulrich Bleiker, Kurt Freiburghaus, Heidi Lieberherr



Swiss Choir in 1981

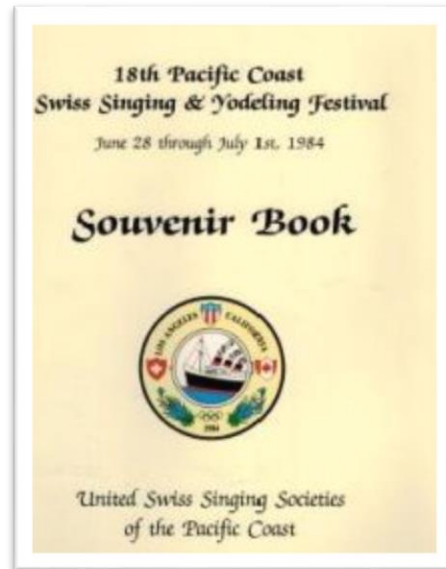
On this picture are 60 Members!

In this year Rudy Buechi was named "Saengervater".

There were many more Festivals to come. A lot of wonderful and valuable memories were experienced during those Festivals and the social aspect was very important too.

1984

Festival in Los Angeles and again in 2005



Mass Choir in Los Angeles



1986

Expo 1986



Max Bissegger, President at the time.



Choir's 20. Anniversary 1986

THE VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR PRESENTS

Annual Spring Concert

Under the direction of RODERICK FADER

Saturday, June 14th, 1986
at the Hellenic Community Centre
4500 Arbutus & Valley Drive, Vancouver, B.C.

Highlight: 20 Years Vancouver Swiss Choir Celebration

DOOR AND BAR OPENS AT 7.30 P.M.
CONCERT STARTS AT 8.00 P.M.

Singing, Yodeling
Alphorns, Tombola
Refreshments, Bar

**Dancing to:
The Alpiners**

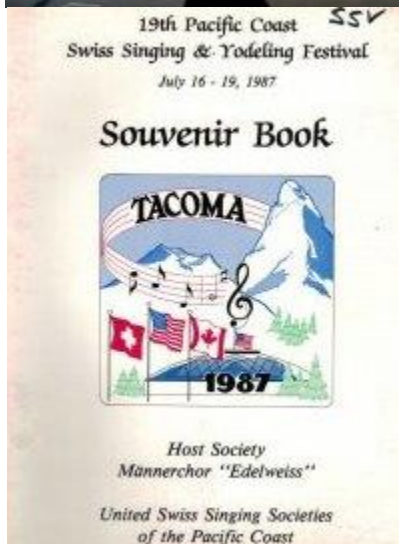
ENTRANCE FEES:
Members \$6.00
Non-Members \$8.00
Seniors and Juniors \$5.00

FOR ADVANCE TICKET SALES:
Contact any Choir Member
or Helen Dobele 987-6831



1987

Tacoma (1987, 1996, 2008)



1988

Calgary Swiss Saengerfest



Choir at Germanica conference



1990 San Diego 1992 & 2014 Portland 1993 & 1999



We also hosted choirs and musicians from Switzerland and Edmonton over the years.

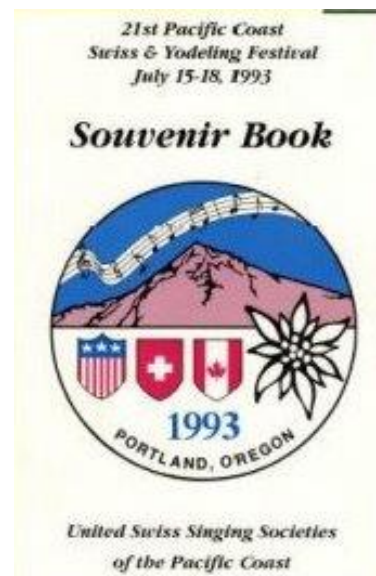
1992

Whistler



1993

Portland, Oregon



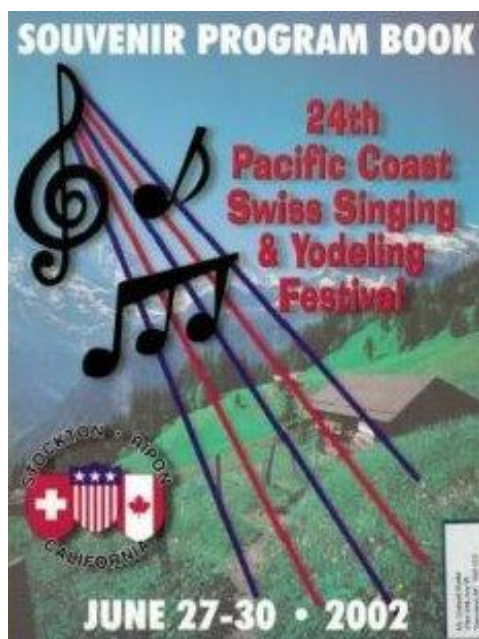
1996

Tacoma



Choir Garden Party





In **2000**, after 25 years as our conductor, **Rory Fader** stepped down and John Trotter took over. Soon after John stepped down we had the good fortune of securing **Dubravko Pajalic** as a new conductor who remains our conductor to this day.

At the concert in 2016

2006

European Festival





Choir Practice at the Alpenclub



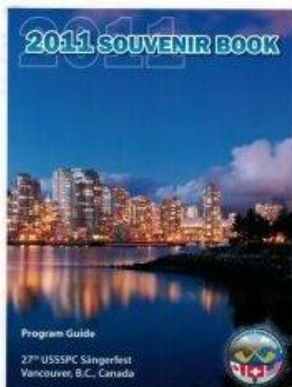
Socializing after Practice

2010

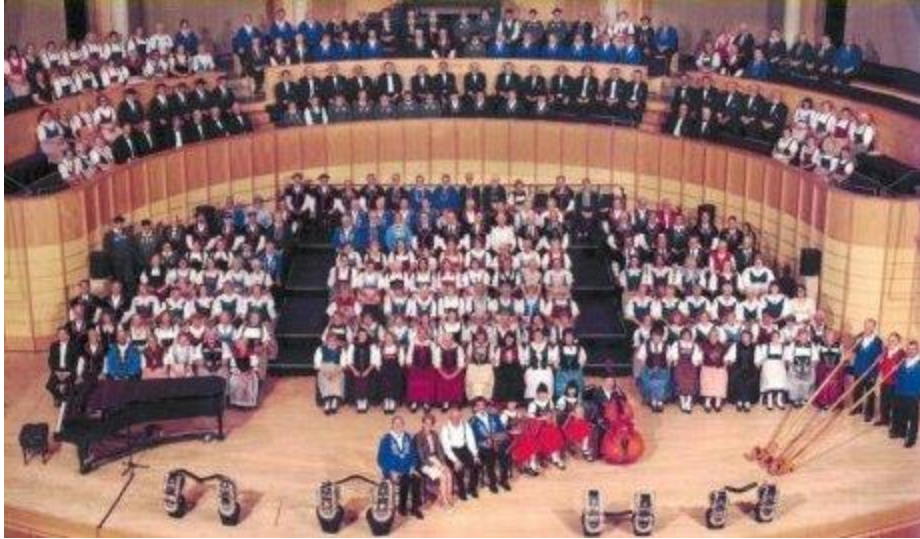
Winter Olympics in Vancouver

2011

Saengerfest in Vancouver



Rolf Brühlhart was named Sängervater



Mass Choir in
Vancouver

During the past 50 years, the choir has had a variety of performances. Apart from the more formal musical events, the Vancouver Swiss Choir is still involved in many other important activities such as:

- Singing at Seniors' Homes,
- Annual Seniors Christmas Brunch of the SSV,
- The annual Spring Concert and Fundraiser,
- Guest performances at concerts of other local ethnic choirs and bands (especially the Vancouver Dorfmusik)
- Parades
- Van Dusen Garden's Festival of Lights
- Vancouver Christmas Market
- Annual Swiss National Day Celebrations as well as
- Social gatherings such as picnics and retreats.

Senior's Luncheons



Vancouver Christmas Market



Van Dusen Garden's Festival of Lights



European Festival



**Choir Performance at the
at Purdy Pavillion, UBC**



Farewell Parties



There are many people who have paved the way to this milestone, but some of them deserve to be specially recognised.

Thank you all for your time and participation:

Conductors:

Kurt Allemann
Anna Decurtis
Rory Fader
John Trotter
Dubravko Pajalic

Past Choir Presidents:

Rudy Buechi
Max Bissegger
Hedy Rauh
Claudette Bell
Ulrich Bleiker
Karl Hochstrasser
Erna Schafer
Marie-Louise Hanna
Andrea Stolte

Sängerväter:

Rudy Buechi
Rolf Brühlhart



Past and current presidents of SSV, Swiss Choir and Swiss organizations in Vancouver

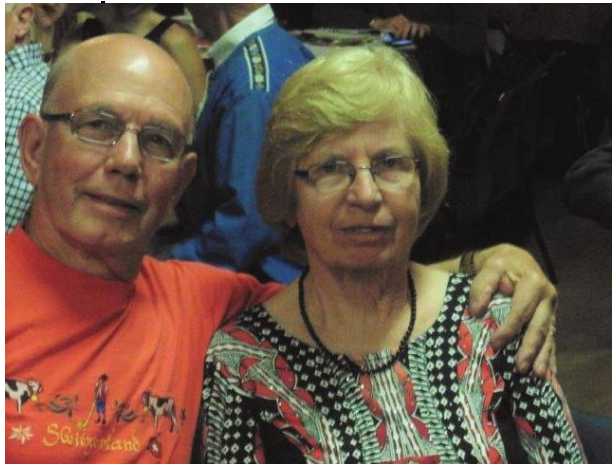
1st row: Silvia Kinvig (choir president), Martina Feil & Urs Strausak (Consul General), Karin Kapp (SSV president), Marie-Louise Hannah (past choir president)
2nd row: Erna Schaefer (past choir president), Claudette Bell (past choir president), Lili Senn (past SSV president), Andrea Stolte (past choir president)
3rd row: Rolf Brulhart (Saengervater 2011-2014), Max Bischoff (past SSV president), Urs Fricker (Dorfmusik president), Henry Kehrli (past SSV president), Markus Spycher (SCMRA president), Joseph Mueller (past SSV president)
4th row: Beat Joehl (past SSV president), Erwin Weingand (past SSV president), Ulrich Bleiker (past choir president), Gordon Koch (Dorfmusik conductor), Max Bissegger (past SSV president), Rory Fader (past choir conductor)

Choir Concert and Celebration of the 50. Anniversary June 18, 2016 At the German Alpenclub with the Vancouver Dorfmusik as Guest

All photos from the concert have been taken by Jenny Kinvig. Thanks very much!



The Vancouver Swiss Choir and the Swiss Society of Vancouver are most thankful for the constant support they have received from the Vancouver Dorfmusik since their foundation in 1986.



Alfred and Kristen Eigenmann



Andrea Flukiger, Silvia Kinvig, Heidi Legere (she has been in the choir since over 40 years!)
Marianne Vlek and Rolf Brühlhart from the choir



Rori Fader is amused



Choir President Silvia Kinvig and a friend



Consul General of Switzerland Urs Strausak
with Ulrich Bleiker

A special thanks goes to the Consulate General
of Switzerland who generously sponsored the
rental costs of the Large Hall of the Alpenclub.

Erna Schaefer thanks Dubravko Pajalic, the choir conductor, Silvia Kinvig, choir president, Urs Fricker, Vancouver Dorfmusik president and Elisabeth Rechsteiner, Master of Ceremony with a token of appreciation.



And last but not least: Thanks very much to Rolf A. Brühlhart Alfred Eigenmann, Silvia Kinvig, Heidy Legere, Mirjam Mai, Joe Mueller, Monika & Gary Studer, Hans-Peter Wacker, SSV Archive and the Swiss Herald for their great input and effort in order to have this special edition of the Swiss Herald created.

Christina Lips, Editor