



## Early February 2025

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

Are you ready to escape the cold and dark winter weather? We are too! In this edition of our newsletter, we share insights into how the Swiss chase away winter with their lively carnival celebrations. You'll have a chance to explore the colorful costumes, music, and parades that light up Swiss cities during this season. Additionally, we invite you to enjoy the performances of dancers from the U.S., Switzerland, and around the world at the prestigious Prix de Lausanne ballet competition. The grace and elegance of these talented participants will certainly help to brighten these winter days. Lastly, don't miss our new series, *The Swiss Beat*, where each newsletter will introduce you to some fantastic Swiss musical artists, perfect for expanding your musical horizons in the new year.

Please continue to check our website, social media channels, and events calendar, where we are providing regular updates, for more cultural content. Have you found something we're missing? What would you like to see more of? Let us know – [we would love to hear from you.](#)

We hope you continue to enjoy, and take care!

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## Dance



Source: [prixdelausanne.org](http://prixdelausanne.org)

## **Ballet Competition - Prix De Lausanne**

**February 2-9, 2025**

**Live stream available [here](#)**

**Instagram Takeover by Rhyan Foerster, February 5, 2025**

The annual Prix de Lausanne, an internationally renowned ballet competition, is taking place this week at the Beaulieu Theatre in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since it first took place in 1973, the event has offered an important stage for young dancers aiming for professional ballet careers. This year's edition will see 15 talented [dancers](#) from the United States gracing the stage, demonstrating their dedication and skill for the international jury (which, this year, features two American judges). Furthermore, this year, seven young Swiss dancers will also compete—including Rhyan Foerster, an American both training in and competing for Switzerland. Rhyan will take over the Embassy's Instagram page (@swissembassyusa) on Wednesday, February 5, so be sure to follow along as she takes us through her day!

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**Meanwhile in Switzerland...**



Source: [myswitzerland.com](https://myswitzerland.com)

## **Fasnacht – Carnival Season in Switzerland!**

### **Early February through mid-March**

In February, Switzerland's usually reserved citizens embrace the lively spirit of *Fasnacht*, *Carnaval*, *Carnevale*, or *Tschaiver* as it is called in various regions of the country—the Swiss version of carnival season. Rooted in a variety of traditions, such as old Germanic rites, pre-Lenten festivities, demon-expelling rituals, and winter's end celebrations, *Fasnacht* brings chaos and joy to every Swiss city. The season typically begins on “Dirty Thursday” (the Thursday before Lent), this year on February 27, though some cities, like Basel, celebrate later. Did you know that Basel’s famous *Fasnacht* has been recognized as part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 2017? With its unique mix of *Gugge* music, *Schnitzelbank*, which is a kind of comedy show, and handcrafted costumes it is a true highlight of the year! To have a look at this spectacle, check it out [here](#)!

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***The Swiss Beat***



Source: [sebalter.com](http://sebalter.com)

Do you want to expand your musical horizons? Are you curious about Swiss musical artists? If so, we have just the thing for you: with every edition of our newsletter in 2025, this new series, *The Swiss Beat*, will introduce you to a different Swiss musical artist. These musicians and their performances are as diverse as Switzerland itself: some sing in one of the national languages (Swiss German, French, Italian, or Romansh), some in English or other languages—listen and learn more!

Today, we present Sebalter, also known as Sebastiano Paù-Lessi, who comes from Ticino, an Italian-speaking region of Switzerland. He performs pop music mixed with some folk and became famous representing Switzerland at the Eurovision Song Contest in 2014 with his song *Hunter of Stars*. More recently, Sebalter has also been performing in his mother tongue, Italian, and gained a lot of success with *Corrono I Baci Corrono* from his album *Gente Simpatica*, released in 2020. Check it out and tell us what you think!

Stay connected for more editions of *The Swiss Beat*—and share your thoughts about Swiss music with us!

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