

La farandole



PRESENTATION FILE

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VIDEOS Youtube - La Farandole de Courtepin

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THE GROUP



The group is very active during the year and takes part in numerous events in Switzerland and abroad.

In Switzerland it gets involved in the social life of its home town and carries out actions like the organisation of town events, dance introduction for teenagers or shows for kids. Each year the group actively participates by volunteering at the CIOFF International Folk Festival of Fribourg. Furthermore, it is appointed by companies and clubs all year long to liven up events with its dances, music and costumes.

Each year it takes part in folk festivals all around the world from small events in neighbouring countries to famous events overseas. Abroad « La Farandole de Courtepin » acts as an ambassador for Switzerland in order to share its traditions and culture.

The folk dance group « La Farandole de Courtepin » is composed of young dancers and musicians coming from the canton of Fribourg, Switzerland. The average age is 23 years old and the group includes:

- About thirty dancers
- A brass band of 15 musicians
- Alphorn players
- Flag swingers



HISTORIC

The folk dance group « La Farandole » was founded in Courtepin in 1938 by Mrs. Hermine Renz. Initially it was meant for young girls of the home economics school who learned how to make a traditional costume. Then popular dances started being taught and men joined the group. In 1950 « La Farandole » took part in its first festival abroad in Nice, France. Over the years the dance repertoire expanded, the members multiplied, the performances became more frequent and the group made its name in the world of Swiss folk.

ITS AIMS AND VALUES

« La Farandole » aims to share in Switzerland and abroad its traditional dances and customs of the region of Fribourg. It seeks to familiarize young people with folk and traditions. The values of the group are youth, open-mindedness, sharing, commitment, respect of traditions and innovation.

LABEL CIOFF

The group is a member of CIOFF Switzerland which attests to its quality. The International Council of Organization of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) is an international cultural Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in formal consultative relations with UNESCO and aims to safeguard, promote and diffuse traditional culture. It references folk festivals and groups in order to put them in contact and create synergies.

THE COSTUMES

The dance group wears the two local folk costumes of the Canton of Fribourg and a brand new traditional costume that was created in 2005.

The principal costume, called « The Old Territories », illustrates the bilingual tradition of the region of Fribourg. Women wear a long dress with a bib apron, gloves, a headdress made of embroidered ribbons called « liron », typical of the French part of the region. Men wear semi-long black trousers, a red jacket and a white shirt with puffed sleeves, characteristic of the German part of the region.



With the second costume, La Farandole presents La Gruyère, a mountainous region of the South of Fribourg, world-famous for its cheese. Women wear the « Dzaquillon » and a straw hat. Men wear the « Brezon », the costume of the cowherders and cheese makers that is still worn today. It is a short-sleeved jacket decorated with edelweiss and blue trousers with a large embroidered belt. Moreover, a so-called « capet » is worn on the head, which is a kind of forage cap embroidered with black velvet.

The third costume, called the « Craftsman's Costume », was made for the stage and



was designed from historical patterns. This costume was made for the choreographic creation « The Miller of La Sonnaz », a regional legend from Courtepin. The women's dress reflects the traditional characteristics of the weekday costume of the German-speaking Lake-District: the striped gown, the edges finished with a bias, the laced bodice and the blouse with a round collar. The boys wear the famous « Hupper » of the region of Morat, as illustrated on several colored engravings of the 19th century. Its puffed trousers, held up by a small cord, and the double-breasted coat are made of linen and cotton.



DANCES

Our region, which is at the border of the French and the German cultures, is the source of the large diversity of our repertoire. Our dances belong to three expressions of different repertoires.



First of all, the repertoire of traditional expression is made up of ancient dances that people enjoyed during local balls. Among these dances one can cite « coraules », « polkas », « farandoles », « schotisch » and waltzes. « Coraules » are circle dances from the canton of Fribourg initially led by coryphaeus.



Then, the repertoire of elaborate expression, includes traditional dances that are adapted for the stage. The music composers are mainly from the French part of Switzerland and the principal choreographer and producer is Jo Baeryswyl. This repertoire has also dances from the Italian culture like « tarentelles ».

Finally, the repertoire of stylized expression presents theme dances created especially for the stage. In 1998, five dances were elaborated on the theme « The Miller of La Sonnaz » on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the group. In 2009, a dance called « Girls' Picking » was choreographed and it represents the tradition of the Spring Celebration Ball of La Sonnaz. For the 75th anniversary of « La Farandole » in 2013, the group staged a musical called « Coucou c'est l'heure » in collaboration with several art groups of Courtepin and four new dances were added to the repertoire. Finally, in 2014 a dance depicting the legend of the Dragon of the Gottéron Valley was choreographed in the context of the creations competition organized by the Federation of Costumes and Customs of the Canton of Fribourg.

ORCHESTRA

The band is made up of 12 to 15 musicians who are about 20 years old. Most of them are students at the cantonal music conservatoire of Fribourg. The playing formation is a « brass band » style with instruments such as clarinets, trumpets, cornets, horns, trombones, baritones, bass and percussion. This music band also plays sometimes for dance demonstrations or special events.



The band includes also three alphorn players. An alphorn is a typical instrument of Switzerland and is made of a long horn made out of spruce. It gives out a sound that can cover long distances with a strong echo in the valleys where it was traditionally played.





PERFORMANCES

The Farandole is a frequent guest to local, national and international events. Touring abroad, this group has performed in more than 60 festivals in European as well as non-European countries. The group has been the official group delegated by Switzerland to visit countries such as Greece, Turkey, Romania, Canada, Macau, South Korea, United States and Puerto Rico.



PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS 1994 – 2022

2022	Croatia – Contemporary Folklore Adventure (COFA), Varazdin	2008	Canada – CIOFF Festival Le Mondial des Cultures de Drummonville
	Switzerland – CIOFF Festival International de Folklore d’Octodure (FIFO)		Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg
	Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg	2007	Portugal – Festival Festarte in Leça da Palmeira
2021	Russia – CIOFF VI World Folkloriada (Ufa, République du Bachkortostan)	2006	France – Europe Celebration in Amilly
	Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg	2005	Turkey – Stay in Istanbul organised by the CIIOFF Turkish national section
2019	Poland – Festival «Kashubian Meetings with the Folklore of the World» (Brusy)		France – Fête de l’Europe in Amilly
2018	USA – Festival World Folkfest in Springville (Utah)	2004	France – CIOFF Festival international de Confolens
2017	France – 53ème Festival International de Château-Gombert	2003	Mexico – CIOFF Festival Zacatecas del Folklor Internacional
2016	Brazil – Performances in Nova Friburgo		France – Festival in Audincourt
2015	France – Festival Rencontres Folkloriques de Montpellier		Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribour
2014	Azores – CIOFF Festival Internacional de Folklore dos Açores	2002	Switzerland - Exhibition 02 in Yverdon
2013	Mexico – CIOFF Festival Zacatecas del Folklor Internacional		Brazil – CIOFF Festival Passo Fundo
2012	Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg	2001	Switzerland – Festival International de Baar
2011	Cyprus – International Folk Festival of Xylotymbou		Greece – Nea Karvali CIOFF Festival
	Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg	2000	Finland – Kaustinen Folk Music CIOFF Festival
2010	Switzerland - CIOFF Rentontres de Folklore Internationales de Fribourg		Argentina – Fextival Internacional CIOFF
	USA – CIOFF Folkmoot International Festival Waynesville, North Carolina	1998	Spain – Cieza Festival CIOFF
2009	Switzerland – Portuguese Festival in Fribourg		South Korea – Kiongju / World Culture Expo
	Bulgaria – CIOFF International Folk Festival	1997	Poland – Biala-Podlaska
		1996	Canada – Drummondville et Chicoutimi Festival CIOFF
		1994	Romania – Bistriça-Nassaud