Illinois

Swiss Carnival Band in Chicago

Last November, for the third time in five years, the 15th Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in Chicago featured the Noggeler Carnival Band (Noggeler Guuggenmusig) from Lucerne, Switzerland. The Noggeler were again the only foreign attraction in the festival. In 2002 and 2004, the Rebbiboels Carnival Band from Payerne (Canton Vaud) participated in the festival, also as the only foreign group. The Noggeler were a very special sight in the immensely popular Festival, traditionally held the weekend before Thanksgiving. It kicks off the Holiday Season with a fantastic parade with many Disney characters along Chicago's North Michigan Avenue, one of the great shopping avenues of the world.

The Noggeler "Guggemusig" also performed under the popular Cloud Gate Sculpture at Millennium Park

The Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA) had invited the Noggeler to the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival. Many local Swiss associations and some organizations in Switzerland also supported their stay in Chicago. The lead organizer of the Noggeler Chicago visit was the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago International Sister Cities Program. Since the Noggeler hail from Lucerne, and Chicago and Lucerne being sister cities since 1998, it seemed a natural fit and a special occasion to work together.

In addition to their enthralling music-making and their gorgeously colourful costumes representing the four seasons of the year, the Noggeler brought four Lucerne Carnival Guild Masters (Zunftmeister) as special ambassadors from Lucerne to the Festival Parade. The Guild Masters marched in the parade as the "opener" to the Noggeler double-decker bus. The vehicle was beautifully decorated and proudly displayed many Swiss flags. It was enthusiastically greeted by nearly one million spectators along the parade route. Across the United States, millions of TV viewers followed the Parade on the WGN live broadcast and watched as the holiday lights were being lit by Mickey Mouse, cheered on by

The Noggeler Carnival Band from Lucerne at the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade last November in Chicago

the many floats in the parade and particularly by the Noggeler Carnival Band and their catchy tunes.

The Band also visited Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Chicago's Sister City School to Lucerne. In addition to bringing the students an authentic flavour of the Lucerne Carnival, the Noggeler also answered the many questions the students had regarding carnival and other traditions in Switzerland. Later they performed under the popular Cloud Gate Sculpture at Millennium Park and at Pioneer Court. The Swiss community in Chicago and their friends were invited to the Noggeler Good Bye Party at Mother Hubbard's in Chicago. Their music surely brought back many treasured memories of carnival in Switzerland to the many Swiss in attendance.

A Chicago delegation of the Lucerne Sister Cities Committee visited Lucerne during this year's Carnival in February. Besides strengthening the ties between the two Sister Cities and discussing ideas for future projects, there were many opportunities for the Chicago delegation to enjoy the Lucerne Carnival from an insider's point of view. Perhaps the biggest surprise in store for the Chicago guests were the Noggeler in their new carnival costumes: Benny the Bull. What a great vista to see more than 60 Noggeler in Chicago Bulls costumes in the Carnival parades! Not only was this a most heart-warming welcome to the Chicagoans but also a great sign of friendship from the Lucerne Noggeler to Chicago.

60 Noggeler in Chicago Bulls costumes at the Lucerne Carnival

TEXT: MARGRETH TRÜMPI MARTIN
LUCERNE COMMITTEE
CHICAGO SISTER CITIES
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM
PHOTOS: MATTHIAS LIPS

TRANSPORTING
• Household goods
• Automobiles
• Airfreight and Ocean

Service from New York and California to Switzerland via DIRECT CONTAINER SERVICE NY TO BASEL

USA Contacts:
TRANSCONTAINER TRANSPORT INC.
East Coast – 39 Broadway, Suite 3001
New York, NY 10006
Tel. +1(212) 425 2278 or 1 800 582 0230
Email: nycoffice@transcontainer.com
West Coast – TTI Forwarding
320 Pine Ave, Suite 408
Long Beach, CA 90802
Tel. +1(562) 437 4210 or 1 800 325 3811
Email: laxoffice@transcontainer.com
www.transcontainer.com

SWISS Contacts:
GONDRAND AG
Industriestrasse 10
8152 Glattbrugg
Tel. +41/ 1 828 6830
Email:c.tintori@gondrand.ch
www.gondrand.ch

We are committed to Expertise, Reliability, and Customer Service

We offer a very large selection of delicious
Swiss Sausages, Landjaeger, Buendnerfleisch, Cheeses,
Chocolates, Thomy Mustards, and more.

Old World Flavor — CONTINENTAL SAUSAGE — Gourmet Sausage
HANDCRAFTED SINCE 1969

WHOLESALE & MAIL ORDER:
Continental Sausage
911 E. 75th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80229
Local 303-288-9787 or toll free:
866-SWISS-FOOD | Fax 303-288-9789

VISIT OUR RETAIL STORE:
Continental Sausage
250 Steele Street
Denver, Colorado 80206

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.continentalsausage.com