

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 81 (2015)  
**Heft:** [2]  
  
**Artikel:** Appenzeller music  
**Autor:** Latham-Zurbruegg, Tanja  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943529>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 17.05.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# Appenzeller Music



## The Appenzell Dulcimer

The hammered dulcimer, the Hackbrett, is the heart and soul of Appenzell folk music, and has been since the 16th Century. It is an ancient instrument that originated in Persia. The hammered dulcimer is a stringed instrument with the strings stretched over a trapezoidal sounding board. The musician holds small mallet hammers in each hand to strike the strings - called "Ruten".

The traditional setting includes two violins, a dulcimer, cello and double bass. An accordion and a piano are also present in some musical ensembles. "Appezöllerstöckli" (pieces of music from Appenzell) are also played by various brass band groups (6-13 musicians), which are referred to as "stegräffe" or impromptu music.

In addition to yodelling songs and Ratzliedli (humorous songs and songs to tease people), choral ensembles also sing pieces without words as a form of yodelling. This practice is known as Rugguusseli in the canton of Innerrhoden and Zäuerli in the canton of Ausserrhoden.

Appenzeller music is fascinating and also includes the alphorn, the Betruf (a sequence of musical notes sung as a traditional evening call to prayer) through to the Schölleschötte (musical chords formed using cowbells) and Talerschwigen (coin rolling). The playing of the chord zither has recently again seen a resurgence in popularity.

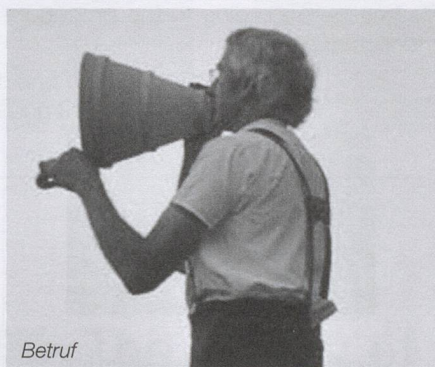
## Coin rolling - Talerschwigen

After 1900, another accompaniment of natural yodelling became popular in

Appenzell and Toggenburg: a practice called coin-rolling. A five-franc piece is rolled around the inside of a porcelain bowl, which is held on the palm of one hand and slowly rotated. Three bowls of different diameter, used simultaneously, produce a sound reminiscent of distant cowbells, which harmonises well with yodelling. The coin rolling became a tourist attraction and is known only in Eastern Switzerland.

Tanja Latham-Zurbruegg

[www.appenzell.info](http://www.appenzell.info)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammered\\_dulcimer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammered_dulcimer)  
<http://www.appenzellerferien.ch>  
<http://www.appenzellerland.ch>  
<http://www.swissinfo.ch/html/swissalpinemusic>



Betruf



Talerschwigen (coin rolling)



This Easter at the Swiss Café and Bakery we have a wide range of home-made, hand-crafted chocolate Easter goodies including bunnies, chocolate eggs filled with loose truffles, chocolate

spoons and our delicious hot-cross buns. **With every purchase from our home-made Easter range you go into the draw to win a giant Easter bunny valued at \$175.** Prize will be drawn on Thursday the 2nd of April.

Café will be closed:

Good Friday, Easter Sunday & Monday

**SWISS CAFÉ & BAKERY** 

5 Milford Rd, Milford, Auckland • Phone 489-9737

## Do you have German or Swiss books, or souvenirs which collect dust?

We'd love to recycle them for you at the Swiss Market Day (Sat 02 May).

We decided to have another Book and Souvenir stall. Proceeds go to the Auckland Swiss Club.

If you have anything suitable, please contact me, Nelly Steinemann (nsteinemann@xtra.co.nz or 09 4794038). In past years, the most popular items were Children's books, reasonably recent novels and mystery, some of the classics. We did have many of the very old books left over.

Nelly Steinemann

## Buy it once Buy it right

Looking for superb quality european tools and products? We import and sell tools and products for builders, roofers and many more.

**REES**

**LONG LIFE**  
RECTO VERSO

**STUBAI**

**Nedo** Precision surveying and measuring

**WUKO**

see our whole sortiment on  
[www.fribesco.co.nz](http://www.fribesco.co.nz)

**FRIBESCO**  
quality european tools