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## Carnival Time

The Toétché play and liven up the festivities during five carnival days. The main instruments they use include: trumpets, trombones, sousaphones, lyres, bass drums, drum sets, bells and cymbals. They change their costumes around every three years. Their musical repertoire includes about 30 pieces; each year they add five to seven new pieces and remove some of the older ones. Their pieces are remixed to include covers of pop, traditional and modern music. There is something for everyone, but compared to other Cliques or Guggenmusik, the Toétché definitely have a modern style and play varied covers including Michael Jackson, LMFAO, Johnny Hallyday, ACDC, U2 etc. Some videos are available to view online at [www.lestoetche.ch](http://www.lestoetche.ch), under the 'Repertoire' link. They have recently added a new CD to their discography, called 'TED Toétché Extrêmement Délirant'. This CD includes musical pieces remixed and played between 2006 and 2016

The Toétché mainly play at the Franches-Montagnes's carnival, at other regional carnivals, as well as in France and Belgium. They can also be seen at village festivals, Neuchâtel's grape harvest festival and at sporting events like the race 'Course de l'Escalade' in Geneva. They have also played on the side of ski slopes in Nendaz and Vercorin in the Swiss Alps. Highlights of 2015, they played at two large events: Nice Carnival (third largest in the world) with 600,000 festival-goers where they marched on the Promenade des Anglais; and in China at the folk festival of Shanghai and in several cities including Xi'an, Shaolin and Beijing. This can only be promising for New Zealand... The Toétché gladly travels.

Written by Véronique Vuille

Photos kindly supplied by Stephane Meyer



What can be said in New Year rhymes,  
That's not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,  
We know we dream, we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,  
We lie down weeping with the night.

We hug the world until it stings,  
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,  
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,  
And that's the burden of the year.

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

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Organisation of the Swiss Abroad

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