

Call to competition:

“Alphorn in Glass”



The first known written mention of an alphorn in Switzerland dates back to 1527, with an entry in the account book of St Urban monastery for ‘two lots to a Welshman with alphorn.’

The alphorn was nearly forgotten by the 18th century, because it had gained a bad reputation in the 17th century. At that time it was mainly played by poor shepherds in towns and was dubbed ‘begging horn.’ In the 19th century, both a flair for romance and an influx of tourists (mostly English to start with) caused a comeback of folklore and a revival of the alphorn. Today, the alphorn has become part of the national identity, along with cheese, chocolate, and the Swiss army knife.

The first shepherds’ festivals with alphorn music (Unspunnenfeste) took place in 1805 and 1808. The German Glassblowers’ Association wants to uphold the traditional spirit of the shepherds’ festival during this year’s symposium in Switzerland and calls all participants to create alphorns out of glass.

Your alphorn can be borosilicate, quartz, or AR glass. It should be at least 200mm, but no more than 4m long. The larger models should preferably be in parts that can be assembled on site so they can be transported more easily. They must fit into the gondolas that take us up to the venue. Most importantly, a skilled alphorn player must be able to coax a noise out of them.

Please send your name and a photo of your alphorn to beirat@vdg-ev.org by 20 August 2018.

The best glass alphorn to reach the summit will be chosen during the banquet at the symposium.

Get your burners and lathes fired up! We’re looking forward to the results!