



## “SWISS DIDGE WEEK END”

Locations: [Wiedlisbach \(Switzerland\)](#)

When: [3-4-5 July 2009](#)

Report by: [Jack Azzarà](#)

Swiss Didge Week End (SDWE) or how a week-end can redraw a didgeridoo player's boundaries.

The SDWE can be considered the legitimate heir of Swizzeridoo, the magical didgeridoo festival held from 2000 to 2007. Mr. Roman Buss is at the helm of SDWE, just he was of Swizzeridoo. The location is still Wiedlisbach, a nice, quaint Swiss village 45Km north-east of Berne.

Just like the Swizzeridoo, the SDWE was held at the Froburg Concert Hall → [http://www.wiedlisbach.ch/xml\\_1/internet/de/application/d6/f78.cfm](http://www.wiedlisbach.ch/xml_1/internet/de/application/d6/f78.cfm)

The Froburg Concert Hall is divided in three areas: a spacious entrance hall where some stands were located, a large music hall and, finally, the restrooms downstairs.

On the whole, I found the Froburg Concert Hall a really comfortable venue, neat and with impressive acoustics.

Froburg's wide parking lot was used in order to accommodate other stands. In total there were about 20 stalls, not only from Switzerland's nearby countries such as Germany, Austria, France, but also from faraway nations as Israel and Poland.

These stands offered several products like food, clothes, furniture and trinkets. Obviously, some of them were managed by didgeridoo maker and/or instrument seller, such as Serious Sticks, Walter Straßer, Eddy Halat, Bruce Rogers e Alex Didgeridoo.

The audience was extremely heterogeneous. Visiting the stalls, I had the opportunity to meet good didgeridoo players of any age. They came from France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Switzerland etc. I was particularly impressed by the French. Judging upon what I heard, they are all excellent players. Among them (I am NOT sure) there was the maker of this 8 meters pvc didge → <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6ThPeprOSs>

SDWE is a really International didgeridoo event, under every perspective... it is a great Melting Didgeridoo Pot!

The shows' schedule was really well-conceived.

On Friday and Saturday the shows started at 06.00PM and finished at about 1.00AM: On Sunday they started at 01.00PM and finished at 05.00PM

Each show lasted either 30 or 60 minutes, and was followed by a 30-40 minutes break.

This was a great idea, because it allowed the audience either to visit the stands or to refresh themselves. In particular, three stands who served exotic food such as kangaroo and ostrich meat, as well as (obviously) vegetarian food.





The musical offer was extremely varied. It ranged from "didgeridoo solo" performances (Gauthier Aubè, Dubravko Lapaine), to "didgeridoo solo plus electronic devices" (Andrea Ferroni, Fiorino Fiorini, Zalem, Bruge Rogers), to didgeridoo-duo (Fast, Naturton) to group performances (A.A.R.A, Sound Of Atlas, Airtist, Analogue Birds).

I liked every artist, even though, as it often happens, a few of them impressed in a particular way. I am talking about Airtist, Dubravko Lapaine and Gauthier Aubè.

Airtist are made up by Markus Meurer (Didgeridoo), Dome (voice & beatbox) and Zoltan Aron Szilagyi (jew's arp & doromb).

The three musicians did really a great job in blending their individual styles and sound. For sure they fulfilled their purpose, as quoted in the booklet of their "Wireless" cd, which reads: "Our aim is to make the most elementary dance music with the most ancient instruments using the oldest element: air"

Dubravko Lapaine aka Dudo confirmed his great talent performing live the tunes contained in his latest cd, "Kosmopterix". In my humble opinion, Kosmopterix is destined to enter the club of the "Best Didgeridoo Albums Ever Issued"!

A little aside about Dudo.

A lot of people states that his playing style could be described as "Ondrej Smeykal's Style". I strongly disagree.

This year I attended shows both by Dudo and Ondrej. Furthermore, I listened to their CDs and I watched their YouTube videos more than one hundred times. Finally I attended workshops held by the both of them.

In the light of this I must say that in no way Ondrej's didgeplaying influenced Dudo's "Kosmopterix". There is nothing in "Kosmopterix" inspired by Smeykal's work.

On the contrary, I consider "Kosmopterix" an album more complete and mature than the two - albeit very remarkable - cds Smeykal realized.

Finally, I must speak about Gauthier Aubè.

He offered a show at the same time both powerful and exquisite. Undoubtedly, he has a great mastery of the didgeridoo playing technique. I also appreciated his performing mimic and his innovative didgeridoo style.

I was really impressed by this tune → <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL4SZt842VM>.

I consider the combination of didgeridoo and voice one of best I ever heard. Moreover, it exemplifies one of my own favorite approaches to the singing tree.

Shows apart, another great feature of the SDWE is the Saturday afternoon Open Stage. Provided you sign up in time, you're allowed to play for about 10 minutes on the main stage, using the same PA used by the artists, for an audience of didgeridoo enthusiasts and connoisseurs.

Actually, I consider the SDWE the perfect didgeridoo festival. I believe every didgeridoo player should attend it at least once in a lifetime.

Finally, if you are going to attend to the SDWE, I strongly suggest you to visit the nearby Wangen





An Der Aare Bridge, taking with you a camera and an instrument.

It is really close to the Froburg concert Hall (just 3 KM). As you can see by the following links, the locations is really nice and well deserves a visit!

<http://www.schweiz-bilder.ch/vacanze-svizzera/wangenanderaare/immagini-foto-webcam.php?Lnk=wangenanderaare&mgXp=126&mgYp=40&Id=140913>

<http://archive.skyworks.co.uk/footage/wooden-bridge-wangen-aare.html>

[http://www.emmental.ch/tourismuskultur/Tourismus/ProspektBuchung/Holzbruecken\\_engl.pdf](http://www.emmental.ch/tourismuskultur/Tourismus/ProspektBuchung/Holzbruecken_engl.pdf)

(page 8)

On Sunday July 5th, while I was coming back to Italy, at least one thousand thoughts and emotions were bustling in my mind. Anyway, what really obsessed me were the notions that I never attended the Swizzeridoo festival, and that I waited way too long before bringing myself to attend a didgeridoo festival outside Italy.

Attending the SDWE was a fundamental step for me. It helped me to improve my own didgeridoo knowledge. It also allowed me to compare myself with foreign didgeridoo players.

My own advice for those didgeridoo players who never did that, is to attend a didgeridoo festival abroad. This will probably widen your boundaries and let you see new roads that maybe you didn't think you could travel on playing the magic pipe.

Jack Azzarà

[Jack.azzara@yahoo.it](mailto:Jack.azzara@yahoo.it)

