

# Swiss Carnival...

For many people of Lucerne Carnival is the most beautiful time of the year. Each time, it starts on Fat Thursday with the Big Bang. Three big parades are among the highlights of Lucerne Carnival.



## How it began

Originally the band was founded in 1978 by a bunch of men with the aim of spreading the carnival atmosphere on the countryside of the state Lucerne in Switzerland. Until today we stick to our traditions and hand-manufacture our dresses, masks, face paintings and other various other give-aways.



The Thursday before Ash Wednesday – or “Dirty Thursday” as it’s known in parts of Switzerland - marks the start of another frenzied carnival season in many towns across the country.

Carnival is a license for the normally well-behaved Swiss to let their hair down and celebrate the festival in their own unique way.

In Lucerne, dozens of costumed brass bands took their signal from a pre-dawn gun salute on Thursday to strike the first dissonant chords of marches and pop songs, and begin parading through the streets and alleys of the old town.

The unique musical combination is known in Swiss-German as “Guggenmusik”.

Dirty Thursday begins in Lucerne and some other German-speaking towns at precisely 5am. The well-behaved mayhem that follows is known as “Fasnacht” and lasts until Ash Wednesday the following week.

Black humor has been part of carnival since the Middle Ages when the lower classes seized the opportunity to mock their rulers from the safety of their disguises.



## Some more information about our group below

# Our Motivation

## Engagement

*We are a carnival band, not more and not less.*

*However, we are an association of particular high engagement. We not only practice and perform songs. Joining the band means hard work and also contribute to the 5<sup>th</sup> season with a deep commitment.*

With our band we succeed in infecting others with our carnival virus. For instance we visit the local hospital or play with handicapped children once a year as shown below. It has become a tradition to visit various crowds every year and make them smile.

## About us

*Making a good first impression counts!*

*Being a member of our group also means celebrating the carnival in peace but still uninhibited. We love sharing our joy with others, no matter if young or old. With our well-thought-out slogan and costumes we try to surpass new limits. We keep a very good relationship with other local carnival groups, even if they might spend less time in their representation.*

The music we play is clearly in the foreground. We invest a lot of time in our arrangements; therefore we practice once a week 5 months prior to the carnival season.

Since we are an amateur band we very much enjoy making music together and also meeting each other. It is not our goal to win medals with our performance therefore every individual is free to offer his own commitment.

Currently our band consist of 52 members starting at the age of 16 until 38. One particular tradition that we stick to is that we are only males. However, the diversity of this group is still immense. For instance we have lawyers, bankers, plumbers, students, engineers, IT-specialists ect. Like that we maintain a very good mix of different people with miscellaneous skills.

Every black Friday in February we hold a festival in our hometown that attracts roughly 6'000 visitors.

With the financial outcome of this festival we are able to cover some costs for our handcrafted work expenses or other outgoings. We also meet each other a lot off season for sports tournaments or special occasions like one of our members gets married.

5 years ago we have heard from the Shanghai Tourism Festival and we tried to participate. Until now it was not possible to find an arrangement and make the necessary precautions.

A dream would has come true and we got accepted for the STF 2016 in September. We will be wearing the Panda costume we had in 2010 with the theme “WWF – Wolhusen WeidFäger”.

Consult our website for further media [www.weidfaeger.ch](http://www.weidfaeger.ch)  
[www.weidfaeger-shanghai.ch](http://www.weidfaeger-shanghai.ch)

