



**EuroBrass19**

## **EuroBrass19: let's go**

**The main outline of the 2019 European Brass Band Championships – EuroBrass19 – is complete. The program is defined down to the last detail. The composers of the set test pieces – Ludovic Neurohr and Mario Bürki – are already at work. Véronique Gyger will be at the helm of the European Youth Brass Band. The event is organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Montreux, represented by the Mayor Laurent Wehrli, under the patronage of Jean-René Fournier, Councillor of States.**

The 42nd European Brass Band Championships, « EuroBrass19 », will take place in Montreux, from 25 to 28 April 2019. Almost 1000 musicians and 6000 listeners from all over Europe will converge in the 2m2c congress centre. The European Brass Band Championships (EBBC) is the toughest competition in this artistic world. It brings together the continent's best brass bands – defending champions in their respective countries – as well as the European defending champion, currently the Valaisia Brass Band from Switzerland. The EBBC will be held for the fifth time in Switzerland, the fourth time in Montreux, after 1994, 2001 and 2011.

And it is the sumptuous setting of the Auditorium Stravinski that will host the youth brass band competitions, the Challenge Section and – last but not least – the Championship Section. The latter will see two Swiss ensembles compete following the victory of the Valaisia Brass Band in Utrecht in May 2018.

### **« Swiss made » test pieces**

According to tradition, the organizer – in this case the Swiss Brass Band Association (SBBA) – mandates, in collaboration with the European Brass Band Association (EBBA), two local composers for the creation of the set works in the « Championship » and « Challenge » sections. The mandates were awarded to Ludovic Neurohr, from Valais, and Mario Bürki, from Bern respectively, for the first and second mentioned.

Originally from Grône, Ludovic Neurohr first studied the cornet with Géo-Pierre Moren. In 2007, he obtained a teaching diplomat for trumpet and theoretical branches from the Tibor Varga Academy of Music in Sion, in the class of Claude-Alain Barmaz. That same year, he joined the famous University of Salford, School of Media, Music & Performance, where he graduated with a master's degree in composition. In 2009, he won the second prize in the European Brass Band Composition Competition organised by EBBA as part of EBBC.

Born on 26 October 1977, Mario Bürki studied wind conducting at the Bern Conservatory and with Toshiyuki Shimada and Andreas Spörri, and composition with Urs Peter Scheider. He won the 2nd prize in the composition competition of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) in Lucerne and a special prize in the Flicorno d'Oro Junior competition (Italy). Besides composition, Mario Bürki plays trumpet, piano and organ. Mario Bürki also conducts several wind orchestras and teaches trumpet and music theory.



### **The EYBB in female hands**

On 20 April 2019, approximately forty young musicians from all over Europe will gather to form the traditional European Youth Brass Band (EYBB). The organizers each year appoint a conductor. The ASBB chose Véronique Gyger for this role.

Véronique was born in Saxon, in the Canton of Valais. After starting her musical education with her father, she studied piano, music theory and cornet at the Conservatoire of Sion. From 1983 to 1986, she studied under Phillip McCann and Major Peter Parkes. As principal cornet in different English bands, she deepened her knowledge and gathered valuable experience. In March 1986, Véronique was appointed principal cornet of the Brass Band Berner Oberland, a position she held for ten years. She won the soloist prize at the light music competition in 1987 and 1990 and at the Swiss Open Contest in 1990.

Véronique was a member of the music committee of the Bernese Oberland Music Association between 1996 and 2003 and of the National Youth Brass Band of Switzerland for 11 years. She served as the chair for seven of those years. From 1999 to 2003, she conducted the Musique Militaire of Rougemont and from 1999 to 2004 the Brass Band Berner Oberland Junior, with whom she won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section title at the Swiss National Brass Band Contest in Montreux in 2000 and 2001, the “U-Brass” light music competition in the 1<sup>st</sup> section in 2002 and the Solothurn Grand Prix in 2000 and 2002.

Since 1986, Véronique has been teaching at the Saanenland-Obersimmental Music School, where she was appointed Assistant Director in 2011. She is the resident conductor of the Ensemble de Cuivres Euphonia and of the Musique Militaire of Rougemont. She is regularly invited as an adjudicator and conductor.

### **Prestigious Patronage**

This 42nd edition of the EBBC will begin on Thursday 25 April 2019 at the Casino Barrière de Montreux with the final of the composition competition organised by the EBBA, with the participation of one of the best Swiss brass bands. The Championship competition will be divided into two days – set test piece on Friday and individual choice on Saturday -, the Challenge section competition will take place on Saturday morning and the two youth competitions on Sunday morning, all at the Auditorium Stravinski. Just like the gala concert on Saturday evening, whose attractive programme – currently under development – will be unveiled later.

Organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Montreux represented by its mayor, Laurent Wehrli, EuroBrass19 can count on a prestigious patronage from Jean-René Fournier, currently First Vice-President of the Council of States. Everything is ready to make the EuroBrass19 an unforgettable event.

All information at [www.swissbrass.ch](http://www.swissbrass.ch)

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