

Writer-Lawyer A.C. Frieden Heads to Switzerland with Chicago Delegation

LUCERNE, Switzerland (Sep. 11, 2001) – Writer-lawyer A.C. Frieden traveled to Lucerne, Switzerland as a member of a distinguished visiting delegation accompanying the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the CSO, for the Lucerne Festival. The shocking events of September 11, however, made this intercultural experience more significant than anyone had imagined.

Most of the delegation, including the musicians of the CSO, had learned about the terrorist strikes in New York and Washington, D.C., soon after they happened, at around 3pm local time. On that day, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra decided to perform at the Lucerne Festival, beginning its concert with a short declaration by conductor Daniel Barenboim, a minute of silence to commemorate the victims, followed by the playing of the American national anthem before executing the scheduled program

“The tragedy has made us focus even more on the solid ties between our nations,” said Frieden. “And hopefully this cultural, human bond will strengthen our resolve for a more secure future.” Frieden had traveled to Lucerne many times before, but this trip was his first in his capacity as a board member of the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee and the Switzerland America Foundation.



Above (left to right): Writer-Lawyer A.C. Frieden; Camille Julmy, Co-Chair of the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee; Susy Gübelin, Co-Chair of the Lucerne-Chicago Sister Cities Committee; Hon. Urs Studer, Mayor of Lucerne; Hon. Eduard Jaun, Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago; and Joerg Oberschmied, Co-Chair of the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee.

Lucerne is a city in central Switzerland. With a population of about 60,000 it is surprising that Lucerne is a sister city with Chicago, a city of over 4 million inhabitants. Yet the similarities in culture, modern lifestyles and tourism are part of the growing exchange fostered through the Sister Cities connection. Located on Lake Lucerne (*Vierwaldstättersee*) at the footsteps to Mount Pilatus

in the Swiss Alps, and with its modern infrastructure, Lucerne has become one of Switzerland's most visited destinations.



Above: The CSO performed at the ultramodern 1900-seat concert hall, the Kultur- und Kongresszentrum Luzern, designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel.

As a result of the travel industry turmoil in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Frieden and other members of visiting delegation were unable to fly back to Chicago on their scheduled flights. Frieden returned to the U.S. on September 17.

About the author: A.C. Frieden (aka André C. Frieden) is a Swiss-Brazilian writer and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on his debut mystery novel, *Canvas Sunsets Never Fade*. For details, visit Frieden's official website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog. Frieden also serves with various cultural and business organizations, including as a board member of the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee and the Switzerland America Foundation.

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