

JULY 27 - AUGUST 2 (2026)



The First Altai Harp Retreat

Romainmotier - Switzerland



Be among the first outside Mongolia to play the Altai Harp - a rare instrument discovered in 2008, now taught in Europe for the first time, with an easy method anyone can learn, at any age.

An unforgettable Musical Retreat - The Altai Harp first steps in Europe

Step into a once-in-a-lifetime musical journey at an historic site, nestled in the picturesque village of Romainmôtier. Surrounded by forested hills, clear rivers, and the timeless stillness of the Jura mountains, this location sometimes feels like a reflection of the Altai region of Western Mongolia — the birthplace of the instrument you'll be learning.

For 7 days, Altai invites you to immerse yourself in the music, history, and soul of the Altai Harp — a rare instrument, hidden for centuries in a burial cave until its rediscovery in 2008. You'll learn from two dedicated teachers: Ganpurev Dagvan, the Mongolian musician, composer, and researcher who revived the harp and created its unique, beginner-friendly learning method; and Rowan Hartsuiker, the first person in Europe officially allowed to teach and sell the instrument.

Workshops take place both indoors and in nature — playing by rivers, in meadows, or even in the medieval church of Romainmôtier, where the harp's warm, meditative tones bloom in the breathtaking acoustics. Alongside learning melodies, folk songs, and lullabies, there's space for rest, nature excursions, optional Mongolian throat singing sessions, and moments of stillness.

All meals are freshly prepared and made with the same care and attention we bring to our music. Each day is a balance of inspiration, connection, and time to simply enjoy the surroundings — leaving you with not only new skills, but memories to last a lifetime.

This is more than a retreat — it's the very first gathering dedicated solely to the Altai Harp in Europe, and the starting point for a new Altai Harp community here. Together with Ganpurev's thriving community of players and ensembles in Mongolia, this week marks the beginning of a shared vision: bringing the voice of the Altai Harp to audiences and players across Europe.



**What makes this
retreat so unique**

What makes this retreat so unique.

A first in Europe: This is the very first retreat fully dedicated to the Altai Harp — with the goal of starting the first Altai Harp community in Europe.



Full immersion: Seven days of music, culture, and connection, with a specific focus on learning the Altai Harp. You'll also explore Mongolian folk songs, lullabies, and (optional) throat singing to combine with the harp.



Professional guidance: Learn directly from Rowan and Ganpurev — the very musician and researcher who revived the Altai Harp in Mongolia — supported by Saran, Tuul and Lucas.



All-inclusive care: Accommodation, three freshly prepared meals a day, daily workshops, yoga/massage sessions, coffee, tea, fruit, and snacks – everything included, so you can fully focus on learning, connecting, and relaxing.



Nature as your stage: Play by rivers, in forest glades, mountains, caves or even in the medieval church of Romainmôtier with its breathtaking acoustics. Nature excursions are guided by Lucas.



Creative space: Each day offers plenty of room to breathe, reflect, practice, make music together, or simply enjoy some quiet moments for yourself.



Yoga & Massage: Yoga and massage sessions guided by a specialist, supporting deep relaxation and enjoyment.



Small-scale & personal: A maximum of 10 participants – creating a warm, friendly, and personal atmosphere, which we value deeply.

More than a retreat: This is the very first gathering dedicated solely to the Altai Harp in Europe — and the starting point for a new harp community here. Together with Ganpurev's thriving network of players and ensembles in Mongolia, this week marks the beginning of a shared vision: bringing the voice of the Altai Harp to audiences and players **across Europe.**

**Meet
the team**

Please meet the team.



Rowan Hartsuiker

Musician, teacher, and co-founder of Altai. For over twenty years, Rowan has immersed himself in Mongolian throat singing (“Khuumei”), overtone singing, and traditional instruments such as the Morin Khuur, Tovshuur, Altai Harp, and jaw harp. His music bridges tradition and experience, touching people at their core.

Together with his wife Saran, he shares a passion for cultural exchange through their concept “Altai.” During retreats and workshops, Rowan brings these musical traditions to life in an accessible and personal way.

Saran Myagmarsuren-Hartsuiker

Co-founder of Altai and born in Mongolia, where she grew up in a traditional yurt on the countryside. Saran embodies her culture – and you feel it in the hospitality, the atmosphere, and the care with which she embraces every retreat and workshop. Her love for cooking and culture makes each experience truly special.

Together with Rowan, she is the heart of Altai: warm, connected, and genuine. She invites you to taste the Mongolian tradition – in every sense of the word.





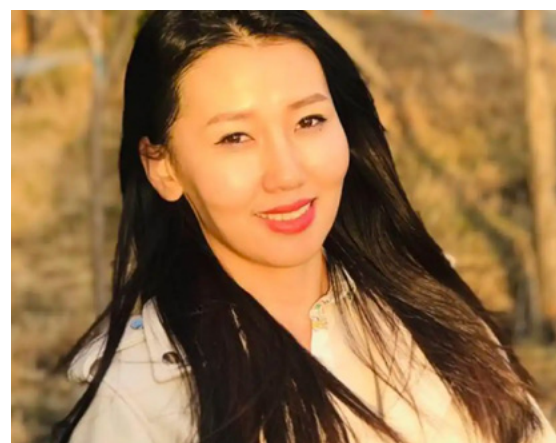
Ganpurev Dagvan

Musician, composer, and researcher, born in Mongolia. Ganpurev has dedicated much of his life to reviving and sharing the music of his homeland. After years of performing and studying in Mongolia and Germany, he became closely involved in the 2008 rediscovery of the Altai Harp.

Since then, he has reconstructed the harp, developed a modern and accessible playing method, and built a growing community of players through the Chure Club in Ulaanbaatar. He has performed worldwide, always with the aim of keeping Mongolia's musical heritage alive. His deep expertise and generous spirit make him not only a master musician, but also an inspiring teacher for players of all levels.

Tuul Bayasgalan

Niece of Saran and based in Geneva, Switzerland. Tuul supports the retreat with warmth and dedication, helping prepare meals and create a welcoming atmosphere. Her friendly presence and care make everyone feel at home.



Lucas Vertesi

Co-founder of Henosis in Romainmôtier, Switzerland, where this retreat will take place. Passionate about Central Asian music and throat singing, he has traveled to Mongolia and created a documentary on this unique art form. During the retreat, Lucas will lead our nature excursions, sharing his love for the local landscapes and their hidden gems.



**Location
of the retreat**

The location of the retreat

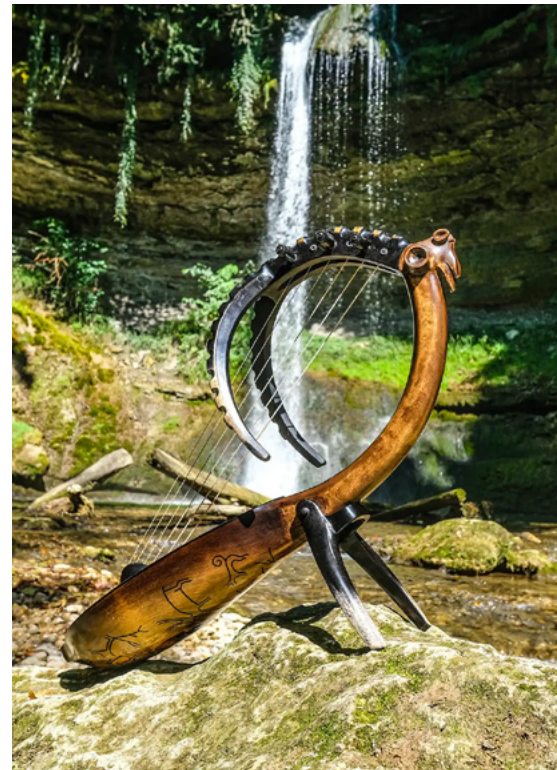


Domaine en Praël

Domaine en Praël (the name of the house) exudes history. From a monastery site in the Middle Ages to a bustling industrial center in the 19th century. After decades of silence, the domain was given a new life at the beginning of this century as a place for culture, encounters and stillness. The house has three floors. Downstairs, you'll find a spacious concert hall with stage and bar, a professional kitchen, a large modular space and toilets. A hydroelectric turbine runs under the floor that supplies the house with electricity. On the first floor, there is a second kitchen, a large living room, three bedrooms and a bathroom. At the top, there are private rooms, but also a guest bedroom and an apartment with a mezzanine.

Garden / surroundings

Domaine en Praël is surrounded by a lush garden, perfect for relaxing or practicing music outdoors. Step beyond its gates and you'll find yourself in the heart of Romainmôtier — a medieval town full of winding streets, historic stone buildings, and timeless charm. The surrounding area offers stunning natural beauty: nearby waterfalls, serene forests, mountain paths, and sweeping views that reach all the way to the Alps. At times, the landscape even echoes the Altai region of western Mongolia — with its rivers, caves, and rugged mountain silhouettes — making it a truly fitting backdrop for the music we'll share.



Feel the Vibe



**Day to day
program**

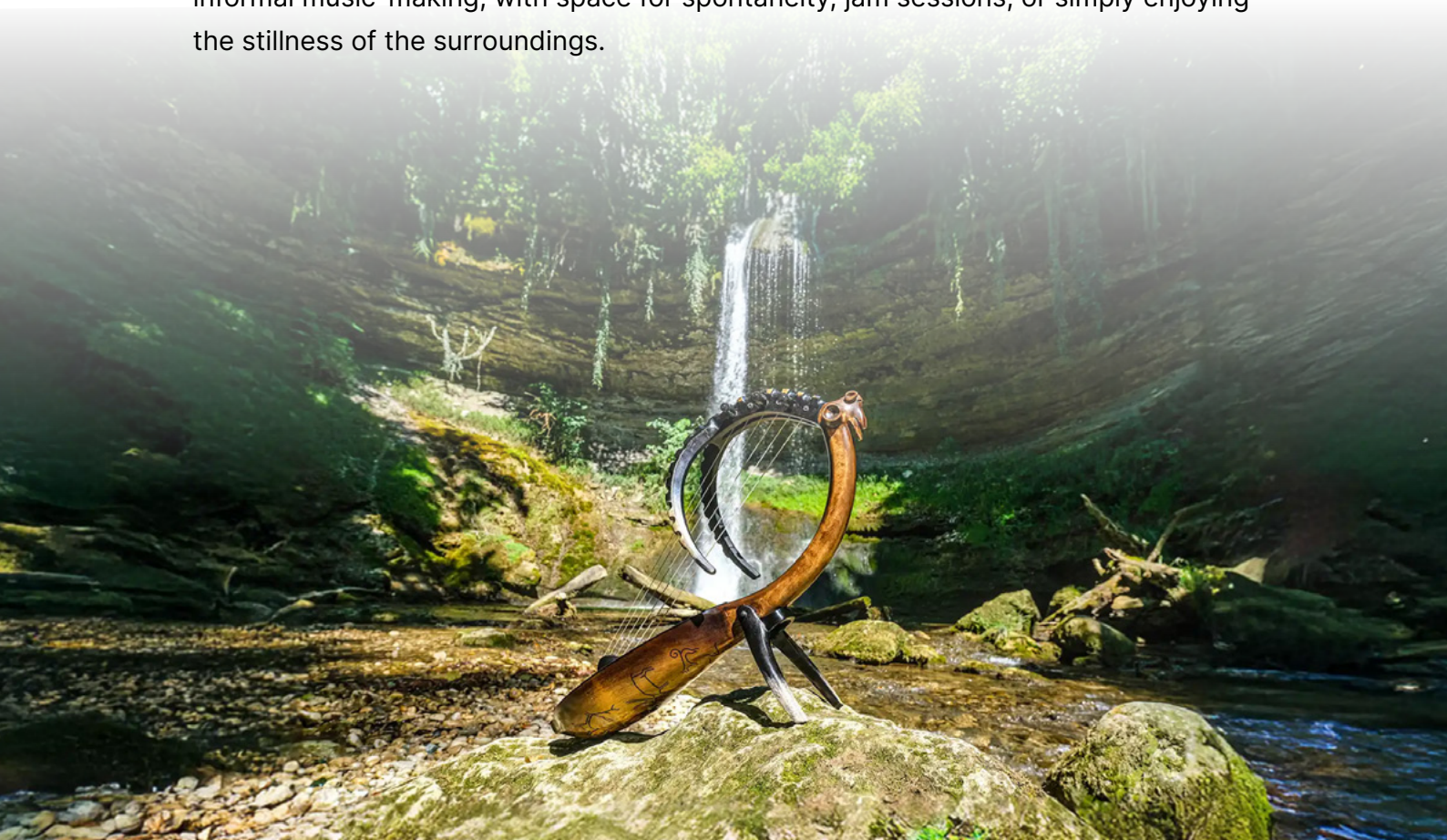
Full program coming soon.

Here is a first glimpse

The final schedule will be shaped closer to the retreat, but here's a glimpse of the experience we're creating. Our mission is to offer a once-in-a-lifetime musical journey — and to share one of our greatest passions with you: the revival of the Altai Harp.

This retreat is not only about learning a beautiful instrument: it's part of a living chapter in musical history. The Altai Harp's sound is simple, gentle, almost meditative, yet remarkably versatile. Together, we'll explore its many voices: from lively folk tunes and dance melodies to ancient lullabies and more. Combined with regular singing or even throat singing, for those with interest in this part of the retreat (exploring throat singing techniques and overtone singing).

Each day will flow naturally between guided Altai Harp workshops, shared meals, moments in nature, and time to rest or explore. Mornings may begin with music sessions in the main hall or out in the garden, followed by a nourishing lunch. Afternoons might bring focused practice, cultural storytelling, or peaceful walks to inspiring spots... perhaps playing by rivers, a cave, in forest glades, or inside the medieval church of Romainmôtier. Evenings are for dinner, warm conversation, and informal music-making, with space for spontaneity, jam sessions, or simply enjoying the stillness of the surroundings.



**What is the
Chure club**

What exactly is the Chure Club.

Chure Club (pronounced “Choo-Ray”) was founded in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, by Ganpurev Dagvan — the musician, researcher, and composer who rediscovered and revived the Altai Harp after its remarkable discovery in 2008 in the Altai Mountains. His mission is simple yet profound: to make the Altai Harp accessible to anyone, regardless of age, background, or musical experience — and to introduce music to people who may have never played before. Many believe that if they haven’t mastered an instrument at an early age, it’s too late to start. The Altai Harp proves otherwise.

In January 2025, Rowan Hartsuiker became the first to bring Chure Club beyond Mongolia, launching Chure Club Netherlands. Using Ganpurev’s brilliantly simple learning method — based on numbers and tables instead of traditional notation — even complete beginners can play beautiful melodies within days.

Chure Club is more than just lessons. It’s a growing community of players who share music, culture, and inspiration. In Mongolia, the club already has numerous harp players and ensembles; now it’s time for the European community to grow. This unique musical tradition is beginning to find a home far beyond its origins — and we hope it inspires you to play, create, and explore music in your own way. The Altai Harp can be the gateway to your personal musical journey.



Pricing and Information

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Participation: €2250 per person (All-inclusive)

Participation + buy instrument: €3000 (save €250 on the instrument!)

Instrument price: €1000 (including high quality hardcase)

Stay in a spacious room with multiple beds and private bathroom/toilet in each room. Keep in mind you will share a bedroom. We only have so many bedrooms, this means we can not give you any 1-person room. If you want to have privacy during the night, the only option is to camp in the green garden. We will offer you a discount on the price if you prefer this. Please contact us.

The above price includes:

- 7 days (6 nights) accommodation
- 3 meals per day
- Fruit / snacks / coffee / tea / drinks
- Daily workshops in Altai Harp, singing songs (+ optional throat singing)
- Use of instruments (and option to buy it!)
- Your own folder with lesson materials
- Yoga sessions
- Massage sessions
- Nature outings & cultural activities
- Shared WhatsApp/Facebook group
- Official Chure Club Membership Card

Interested and ready to sign up?

You can easily purchase your ticket via our website: www.altairetreats.com

Practical info and Terms

Registration: To register, simply buy your ticket on our website: www.altairetreats.com

Cancellation: You can cancel free of charge up to eight weeks before the retreat.
If you cancel within eight weeks of the start date, we can only refund your payment if we are able to fill your spot.

Cancellation by Altai Retreats: We reserve the right to cancel the retreat if there are fewer than 10 participants. In such a case, you will receive a full refund of your payment.

If cancellation is due to force majeure, we are not obliged to issue a refund. In that case, we will work with you to find a suitable solution (such as rescheduling or a credit for a future retreat). We are not responsible for other costs such as travel or insurance. Therefore, we strongly recommend that participants take out their own travel and cancellation insurance.

Included in the Price:

- 6 nights at a beautiful countryside farm
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner), including coffee, tea, fruit, and snacks
- All workshops, yoga session, and massage session
- Nature excursions
- Music materials and guidance

Instruments:

- Altai Harps are available to borrow (and option to buy them)

Participants:

- The retreat will proceed with a minimum of 8 participants
- Maximum of 10 participants for a warm and personal atmosphere

Language: The retreat is conducted in German/English.
(Ganpurev speaks German quite well. Rowan speaks basic German and fluent English).

Location: Henosis (Romainmotier, Switzerland)

Insurance: We recommend arranging your own travel and cancellation insurance.

Flexibility: The program may be slightly adjusted depending on weather or other circumstances.

Indoor and outdoor alternatives are always available.