



*Ursula Bagdasarjanz*

## **Violinist as Ambassador for Swiss Music**

**In its online exhibit “Shining a Light: 21st Century Music from Underrepresented Composers,” the University of Missouri-Kansas City features a portrait of Swiss violinist Ursula Bagdasarjanz.**

Ursula Bagdasarjanz made many radio recordings in the 1960s. She was one of the “best violinists of her time in Switzerland” and could hold her own in any “international competition of that time. She also served her contemporary Swiss heritage very well and bequeathed two notable method books for violin technique” (SMZ 10/2006, p. 44).

In 2006, several of these radio recordings were released on four CDs by Dübendorfer Verband Schweizer Musikschaffender (VSM). The Swiss association of creative musicians, which advocated for supporting lesser-known musicians, was dissolved in 2008.

In 2008, VDE Gallo released remastered editions of these recordings, including Bagdasarjanz’s landmark performances of Othmar Schoeck’s compositions for violin. Another CD was released in 2011. Her *Sept Poésies pour Violon et Piano* (Seven Poems for Violin and Piano) can also be heard on these CDs. As documented on her website, SRF (Swiss Radio and Television) often paid tribute to the violinist, and she was also greatly admired in America.

Recently the *Sept Poésies* were added to the collection of the UMKC library. By clicking on the profile of the violinist published on the Shining a Light website, visitors can listen to the pieces, view a page of sheet music and borrow the sheet music from the UMKC library.

With *Shining a Light*, the library features portraits of lesser-known composers with their music from the 21st century.