

## **The Conductor's Score:**

Type A B + / The Titanic Orchestra, 96 years playing at the bottom of the Atlantic... / 25cents obo

**MONTAGNOLA, Switzerland, January 31, 2009—**

Museo Hermann Hesse is alive with an upscale benefit. Montagnola is such a charming town nestled in the hills outside Lugano, with magnificent villas peppered throughout, and charming apartments, with grottos hidden in the woods where one can chat and sample a local chianti.

The pizza is good too, so close to Italy. Here, and in Tuscany, several hours drive to the south, it's hard to imagine a problematic world outside, with a frightened America, and an engine chugging towards despair and a contagious oblivion.