

MID-CENTURY SWISS BRASS SINGING BIRD AUTOMATON CAGE ATTRIBUTED TO REUGE

$1,975

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This charming vintage Swiss singing bird automaton combines intricate mechanical craftsmanship with delightful decorative artistry. Crafted in Switzerland circa 1960 and attributed to the renowned Reuge music box company, the cylindrical birdcage features a miniature mechanical songbird that moves and sings when activated.

The gilded brass cage features slender vertical bars beneath a gracefully rounded dome, crowned with a circular ring for easy carrying or hanging. The cage rests on a round black wooden base embellished with delicate hand-painted floral and foliage motifs. Inside, a colorful songbird perches on a small branch surrounded by green leaves. The bird is beautifully detailed with golden-yellow and orange plumage, contrasting white and dark wing feathers, and a small pointed beak, creating a remarkably lifelike appearance.

The mechanical movement is operated by a winding key located underneath the base, together with an on-off switch. Once wound and activated, the bird moves its head and opens and closes its beak while producing a cheerful, melodic birdsong. The combination of movement and sound recalls the celebrated singing bird automata produced by Swiss mechanical workshops.

Reuge, established in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland in 1865, became internationally recognized for its finely crafted mechanical music boxes and singing bird automata, continuing a tradition of precision Swiss craftsmanship.

The vintage birdcage is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, retaining its richly patinated brass finish, decorative painted base, and charming mechanical bird.

A wonderful addition to a collector's cabinet, library, or living room. A video demonstrating the bird singing and moving is available upon request.

Dimensions: 7" Diameter x 13" H

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