

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1927)
Heft: 291

Artikel: Mr. Arthur Honegger in London
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688044>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 13.12.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

soweniger Grund haben wir, barmherzig zu sein, zum Schaden unseres Landes. Die Schweiz ist wahrhaftig nicht ohne Möglichkeiten, doch darf sich niemand darauf versteifen, gerade die Möglichkeiten zu finden, die er sich aus äusseren Gründen selber wünscht. Je mehr also die Rationalisierung als wichtiger Faktor in unser Wirtschaftsleben eingreifen wird, umsomehr Grund haben wir, die Jugend schon von früh auf dazu anzuleiten, in Berücksichtigung der eigenen natürlichen Fähigkeiten und der allgemeinen Verhältnisse eine Bahn zu wählen, die ihr selber und dem Lande zum Segen ausschlägt. Doch Vorbedingung bleibt, das muss immer wieder ausgesprochen werden, dass der handwerklich begabte Schüler, das Kind mit praktischer Spezialbegabung, in der Schule eine andere Stellung einnehme, als es bis dahin der Fall gewesen ist. Wir haben allzusehr versucht, aus allen Kindern Gleiche zu machen, als dass wir nicht auch einmal probieren könnten, unsere Jugend in einem andern Sinne heranzubilden. So typisch es ist, dass unsere Schule von der Stadt ausgegangen ist und darum zu einer falschen Landschule geworden ist, so typisch ist es auch, dass die Schule vom Kopfe ausgegangen ist und nicht von der Hand. Die Folgen sind heute schon deutlich genug. Die Rationalisierung wird sie noch deutlicher machen!

—Felix Moeschlin in "N.Z."

MR. ARTHUR HONEGGER IN LONDON.

There is no field of activity, ancient or modern, which has derived such an impetus from Broadcasting as music. Not only can we enjoy the classic masterpieces at our ease practically without any expense to us, but modern composers are receiving an encouragement which should atone for the traditional disappointments which belong to the curriculum of the artist. Thanks to the enterprise of the British Broadcasting Company we have been privileged to enjoy in this country works by one of our foremost modern composers, Mr. Arthur Honegger, who last Thursday week personally conducted two of his compositions at the Royal Albert Hall, a remarkable array of soloists, choirs and orchestra responding to his baton. Though the concert was undoubtedly a great success, English music critics have by no means been unanimous in their judgement; nevertheless, they have all been sympathetic. Here is what the *Daily Telegraph* (March 18th) says:

When lately a new composition of M. Honegger was performed in Paris immediately after "King David," a critic remarked that in comparison with the novelty "King David" was almost a masterpiece. Last night, thanks to the enterprise of the B.B.C., "King David" was performed at the Albert Hall for the first time. Perhaps because we had no occasion to compare it with anything else it seemed far from the masterpiece class. It is useless to compare anything with "Pacific 231," a harmless and luxurious toy, and there are no grounds on which a comparison could be made between the Swiss and the English composer, for the one is the product of a school in which novelty is the chief consideration, as clearly as the other is of a school in which music is the only concern.

"King David" is described as a symphonic psalm in three parts, after a drama by Rene Morax. It requires, besides chorus and orchestra, a soprano (Miss Elsie Suddaby), a contralto (Miss Phyllis Archibald), a tenor (Mr. Frank Titterton), and a narrator (Mr. Robert Loraine) who does not sing his part like the narrator of the St. Matthew Passion, but speaks it after the manner of Schumann's "Schön Hedwig." The recitation came through very clearly whenever the narrator had the field to himself. At one point, however, he had to contend against the orchestra, the chorus and a couple of soloists, and then, of course, we could only guess the general trend of the narration. "King David" was warmly received—a tribute to its colour and to the great forces used by the composer with some skill, and, possibly, the novelty of the experiment had a share in the success. Purely as a piece of music it is by no means flawless, the most glaring fault being the frequent repetition of melodic or rhythmic patterns which, however interesting in themselves, cannot but surfeit the appetite in the end.

To add my own experience in listening-in, "King David" at times became somewhat monotonous and one was tempted to switch on another station; this was probably due to the absence of a proper *milieu* or atmosphere, the work being in the nature of a pastoral play (Passionsspiel). "Pacific 231" was certainly more enjoyable, though the two are evidently not to be compared. Mr. Honegger's predilection for a railway engine—he was formerly a railway worker—has earned him the publication in most of the English illustrated papers of a picture showing him in the cab of an express engine; the *Daily Herald* (March 17th) has the following interview on his peculiar love for the iron "gee-gee":—

Mr. Honegger, the Swiss musician, who has composed a symphonic movement, based on the rhythm of a railway engine, yesterday had the pleasure for the first time of riding on a Toot-plate, and the experience proved delightful.



A kiss does not suffice!

I am sure that your Little One before going to sleep, expects something else! You would not be a mother if you did not know what! With his tiny eyes already weary with sleep, he looks for the promised sweet. No fond mother can refuse her baby's wish, but do not forget how important is his health

With a few of the pleasant little GABA TABLETS you will send him to sleep, happy and contented. GABA TABLETS refresh and cleanse the mouth and throat, but will not injure the teeth or disturb the stomach.

Gaba



A tin of Gaba costs 1/- and contains more than 300 Tablets

British Distributors: Messrs. Francis Newbery & Sons Ltd.
31-33 Banner Street, LONDON E. C. 1.

Retail at: Mr. L. R. Roos, 2, Charlotte Street, London, W. 1.
Messrs. Scott Warner & Co., 55, Fore Street, London E. C.
Mr. Crick, 29, Westcombe Hill, Westcombe Park, London W.
Messrs. Bass & Willord, Chemists, Nottingham.
Mr. T. F. Starkey, 37, Beaconsfield Road, Leicester.
Mr. H. A. Martin, P. O. Pharmacy, Willow, Leicester.

He assisted to drive the "Flying Fox" express from King's Cross to Hitchin.

"Railway engines are full of music," he exclaimed afterwards. "They are lyrical. They sing. The song of the railway engine is a symbol and a tribute to the pluck and persistence of man in his big fight with things which are bigger, but not mightier, than he.

"I have wished to drive a railway engine since I was a boy.

"No, I shall not need to re-write 'Pacific 231.' What I learned to-day did not make that necessary. The experience was as I had imagined. But some day I may compose a bigger work about railway engines.

"All things have their own rhythms—you have only to discover them and put them into a musical structure."

Motor cars and mass machinery do not appeal much to Mr. Honegger; but the rhythm of Rugby football does, and one day he will put it into music.

What strikes me is that he singles out a motor-car engine as not appealing to him; I should have thought there is no more acceptable music on a frosty winter's morning than when the engine at last surrenders to one's efforts and starts kicking. I did not know there was rhythm in "Rugger," but after this I am quite prepared to hear that he has written a symphony on a doctor's prescription or an operation for appendicitis!

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.		Mar. 15		Mar. 22	
		Frs.	£	Frs.	£
Confederation 3% 1908	...	83.25		82.25	
" 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	...	101.65		101.75	
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	...	83.90		84.25	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	103.00		101.55	
SHARES.		Mar. 15		Mar. 22	
		Frs.	£	Frs.	£
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	767	760	
Crédit Suisse	...	500	800	792	
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	690	690	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2595		2599	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	4302		4250	
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	2840	2832	
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	573	567	
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1300	1290	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	713	702	
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	...	1000	1072	1062	
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	560		562	
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	...	100	101	104	
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	...	500	727	726	

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion, 2/6; three insertions 5/—
Postage extra on replies addressed c/o Swiss Observer

SWISS, experienced Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, seeks post of trust.—Leopold Schaefer, 71, Gladstone Park Gardens, Cricklewood, London, N.W. 2.

A GOOD HOME in English family. Students or business people. Convenient for Swiss Merc. School. Fare 2d. by bus or tube. Single bed sitting-room, from £2 2s., double 35/- each. Near Warwick Av. Tube, 6 or 18 bus.—44, Sutherland Avenue, W. 9. Phone: Maida Vale 2895.

SUPERIOR MARRIED COUPLE wanted, the wife as working Housekeeper, in newly decorated service flats; the husband could follow own employment. Must be absolutely trustworthy and have best references. No children.—Write Newman, 15, Cambridge Street, Hyde Park, W. 2.

WANTED, Cement Worker (Ticinese) for about one month.—Apply A. F. Suter, Lower Kingswood, Surrey.

AUG. BINDSCHEDLER House Decorator.

ELECTRICITY PLUMBING GASFITTING
CARPENTERING ROOFING Etc.

HIGH CLASS WORK AT MODERATE PRICES.

9, Tolmers Square, Hampstead Road,
Phone: MUSEUM 412 N.W.1