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SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY. ANNUAL CONCERT.

On Friday, March the 12th, the Swiss Orchestral Society held their Annual Concert at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.—

The Swiss Colony has, on various occasions been compared with an extinct volcano, and whilst I have noticed in the past a regrettable lack of interest in some of the functions, which are always staged with much care, I must say that the week which has just passed, has shown no signs that the volcano is "dead as mutton," quite the contrary; I must congratulate the respective authorities that, after a lull of about six weeks, they have managed to crowd into one week no less than six functions. This is a remarkable feat of organisation, but whether it benefits the attendance at the respective arrangements I leave it to my readers to judge. —

Almost on the verge of a nervous breakdown, I attended the above mentioned concert, and I am glad I did not shirk my duty, because this evening acted as a tonic to me.

I have always had a soft corner in my heart for the Swiss Orchestral Society, because I feel that they deserve all the support they can get, for more than one reason, and I am glad to say that the appeals which I made in this paper for the last two weeks, have at last been answered, and the Orchestra had for once a "full house."

This would have been very satisfactory if the Concert could have been held, as on former occasions, in the big hall, but owing to the poor support on previous occasions, the Orchestra decided this time on the smaller hall, which although it might have been justified from a financial point of view, was a mistake.

The hall which was chosen, and which, I was informed has seating accommodation for about 150 people, was far too small for an orchestra numbering about 30 performers. The result was, that the sound was almost thrown at the audience, and the more delicate points of their excellent playing were entirely missed. This small hall would be ideal for a performance of Chamber music, but for a large orchestra it is unsuitable. —

Having indulged in this little criticism, which has nothing to do with the actual playing of the orchestra, I would like to congratulate the Swiss Orchestral Society right away on their really remarkable playing. —

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, was unable to be present, owing to illness, he was represented by M. Ch. de Jenner, Councillor of Legation, who was accompanied by Mme de Jenner. —

The programme throughout was on the light side, which benefits an orchestra of amateurs. It started with a March which went with a swing. Adam's well-known Overture "Si j'étais Roi" was played very beautifully.

The two Cello Soli, "Bist Du bei mir" (Bach) and Gavotte (Popper) by Miss Dorothy Davis, were much appreciated, the tone in the higher notes, was, especially in the first piece, a little uncertain, no doubt due to nervousness, but Schubert's "Serenade," given as an *encore* was faultless, and proved that Miss Davies is a capital little artiste.

Komzak's "Love and Life in Vienna," one of the many lovely Viennese valses was played with perfect rhythm. The orchestra surprised the audience with a spirited and exceedingly competent rendering of the "Ballet Suite de Sylvia" by Delibes, it was a most creditable performance for which both orchestra and conductor should be highly complimented.

Mr. Theodore Weil another soloist of the evening played the Andante from the Violin Concerto in E Minor by Mendelssohn. Those who heard this fine young artiste on previous occasions (Fête Suisse) could not help noticing the remarkable progress he has made; his playing, this, by no means easy, Andante, proved him to be a capable and competent artiste. As an *encore* Mr. Weil played "Sicilienne" by Paradis in fine style and the great applause which he received was fully merited.

The programme finished with a valse by Weber and the "Zigeunerbaron" Overture by Joh. Strauss which were played with assurance and perfect unison.

It might be said, without exaggeration, that the audience enjoyed every item played by the orchestra, under the competent leadership of its conductor, Mr. E. P. Dick. The Swiss Orchestra has attained as high a standard of competence as I have ever witnessed at an amateur concert. It was all in all a most enjoyable evening, and I am sure everyone who was present will agree with me, when I say:

Well done Swiss Orchestral Society!

ST.

CINDERELLA. CITY SWISS CLUB. Mayfair Hotel, March 13th, 1937.

The City Swiss Club give a party. And what a party. They call it a Cinderella Dance. I do not know why they give it this name.

I remember something about a nice little girl who had two wonderfully ugly sisters and the sisters went to a ball which was not given by the City Swiss Club. I say this so that there may be no misunderstanding. The ugly sisters left the nice little girl at home, but her fairy godmother did a lot of funny stuff and fitted her out, like one of the big modern departmental stores, with a marvellous frock which had no back to it, and Rayon stockings and glass shoes. These must have been most uncomfortable and it must have been like dancing in a pair of sabots, but there you are, you must believe it, as it says so in the story. The nice little girl, who was called Cinderella, was told that if she stayed at the ball, not the City Swiss Club's dance, until the clock struck midnight, all her beautiful clothes, backless frock included, would tumble off and she would be left in her ordinary ragged garments. Apparently she forgot the warning and you all know what happened then. Now on Saturday night, everyone enjoyed himself or herself immensely and when midnight struck the orchestra stopped playing and nobody's clothes dropped off and so I don't understand why the Committee will persist in calling the dance a Cinderella.

It is sometime since I was present at one of the Cinderellas and I was glad to see the dear old garden suite at the Mayfair Hotel once again and to find that the flowers were still on the walls and their brightness and fragrance still undiminished by the passage of time.

I have already described eloquently the garden suite in the Swiss Observer so I will abstain from repetition and tell you something about Saturday night. The dinner was excellent, or at least as much as I eat, because I arrived late, about the fourth service. I believe some people thought it was done on purpose, so that everyone could admire *ek*, making a solemn and solitary entry, but that was not the real reason.

Unfortunately the President was absent. I was told by one high in authority, that the President, overcome by his labour during the reception of the Yodel Choir, had been ordered away by his doctor to the seaside there to recuperate. I trust our esteemed President has now recovered and that his illness was not serious. I should not like to insinuate that he had been suffering from a swelled head, because some years ago I got into dreadful trouble when I said that someone had been suffering from a swollen foot and I do not want any more trouble.

I have tried so very hard to be good ever since, although someone did say that I was vulgar. Poor *ck*, who always endeavours to balance his sentences, avoid split infinitives and eschew Kyburgian Capitals. However, let us get away from these sad thoughts and return to our dance. As I said, the dinner was good and after dinner we proceeded to dance. We danced and we danced and we danced. Sometimes we danced a valse, more often than not, sometimes we danced a fox trot and once I believe that someone tried to dance a rumba. At least that was what our best dancer told me was happening, and he ought to know.

Personally I got a little mixed, as the rhythm seemed too complicated, but I am sure it was my own incompetence as one of our expert dancers said it was excellent music and he ought to know as I believe he has danced with all the crowned heads in Europe to say nothing of other international experts. Of course, we had a Paul Jones and a Spot Dance and three ladies received marvellous boxes of chocolates for being put on the spot. We really do things much better at the City Swiss Club than in Chicago. I am not going to attempt a description of the dresses. I did so once and got into more trouble. Nowadays it is very difficult because everyone seems to wear what they like.

There are lots of other things I should have liked to have told you, but I have lost my notes. In any case, I am quite convinced that the evening was a great success and the absent President and the present Committee are to be congratulated very heartily. One guest came up to me with tears in his eyes, and beseeched me to write a long article in the Swiss Observer to prove how essential it is that there shall not be one Cinderella but two Cinderellas and even three Cinderellas during the year. Another little criticism and perhaps this one is really justified, is that the air conditioning, or the automatic refrigerator, or whatever they do at The Mayfair Hotel, was having a night off, and in consequence the Garden Suite got terribly hot. And it did.

However, the evening was a real success and when Signor Colombo's orchestra played the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne at midnight everyone was sorry that the time had come to depart.

ck.

"CALENDI APRILE."

The March of Time has recently brought us civil war and non-intervention, floods and snow, treaty-breaking and rearmament "ad absurdum," but nothing as outstanding as will be the Banquet and Ball which the UNIONE TICINESE have arranged for Wednesday, the 7th April next, at Pagani's.

The function needs no introduction to the many friends of the Unione Ticinese in the Colony, and this year no efforts have been spared with a view to making the occasion as popular as ever.

Tickets (15/6) are obtainable from all the Committee members.

SUMMER TRAFFIC ON SWISSAIR ROUTES 1937.

Beginning on April 4th Summer Air Traffic will be introduced on Swissair routes.

Zurich-Basle-London operated jointly by Imperial Airways and Swissair will be continuing the brilliant success of Swissair's first all year air line. Arrangements have been made with Imperial Airways for two departures in each direction. As during winter time Swissair will maintain a *daily service* whereas Imperial Airways will only fly on *weekdays*. On the Swissair run the now familiar Douglas DC2 is going to be used. As soon as the new 21 seater Douglas DC3 will be ready this type of airliner is going to carry the Swiss flag on the Zurich-London route.

The early afternoon service of Swissair has at Croydon a very good correspondence with Railway Air Services to and from Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Belfast and Dublin bringing the north of England within an easy 5 hours flight from Switzerland.

Between Zurich and Paris a regular service will be opened on April 4th by Swissair. Leaving Switzerland in the early afternoon, Paris is reached in about 2 hours flight offering excellent connections to Brussels, Amsterdam and London. From June 1st a supplementary service to Paris will be flown in the early morning in order to satisfy the increased traffic in connection with the Paris World Exhibition.

The service Zurich-Berlin is flown in co-operation with the Deutsche Lufthansa. At Berlin an excellent correspondence with the North of Europe will be assured.

On April 5th the regular nightmail service Basle-Frankfurt connecting Switzerland with Europe's night mail network will come into operation.

Special importance is attached to the introduction of the new *non-stop service Zurich-Vienna* opened May 1st. On this particular route, described as Europe's most scenic air line, the new Junkers Ju 86 twin engine Diesel Express machine will be flown. The distance Zurich-Vienna will be covered in 2½ hours — the fastest connection between Switzerland and Austria. This high speed service service allows passengers to catch in London or Paris the afternoon Swissair plane to Zurich, spend there the night in a good hotel, board the Express plane for Austria the next morning and still arrive at Vienna ahead of the fastest train.

Starting May 1st a special morning service will connect Zurich with Munich via St. Gall, to ensure the very popular correspondence with Venice and Rome.

PERSONAL.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Dr. C. Rezzonico, on his promotion to Councillor of Legation.

* * *

We also wish to congratulate Dr. C. Eckenstein, our valid collaborator (*ck*) on having been promoted to the rank of "Officier de la Légion d'Honneur."

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

The Editor,
The Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.
Sir,

It appears to be felt by your correspondents that greater honour would be done if Switzerland were to send a distinguished delegation to attend the Coronation.

The occasion is an official one, and representatives of the Services will be prominent in every delegation. Is it suggested that a "Neutral State" should, on an official occasion, emphasise its Army and its Air Force? The argument that Swiss observers attend military manoeuvres in this country is, to my mind, irrelevant, attendance at manoeuvres being quite clearly for a different purpose than attendance at a Coronation.