

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: - (1949)
Heft: 1110

Artikel: Concert
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690746>

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: 17.01.2026

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

CONCERT.

SWISS MALE CHOIR, SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY and SWISS ACCORDION GROUP, in aid of the Swiss Benevolent Society, on Friday, 25th March, 1949, at Conway Hall, Holborn, W.C.1.

In a recent article of mine, in which I referred to the long and faithful services rendered to the Swiss Colony, by my friend, Mr. E. P. Dick, as conductor of the Swiss Orchestral Society and the Swiss Male Choir, I expressed the pious hope, that, as a mark of appreciation and affection, he would be honoured by a "full house" at the arranged concert for March 25th.

This wish was unfortunately not fulfilled, causing not only disappointment to myself but in a greater measure to all those, who had worked so hard to present a performance which was worthy of a better attendance.

It is to be regretted all the more, as the receipts were earmarked for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society. Whilst last year five hundred supporters went to Conway Hall, this year barely three hundred found it convenient to attend; many were missing who, I humbly suggest, ought to have been there. Fortunately this lack of support did not act as a damper to the performance as such, and I can safely say, that all those who found it necessary to keep away from Conway Hall, missed an enjoyable evening.

The concert, which started punctually at 7.30 p.m., was opened by the Swiss Orchestral Society playing the Passepied from the "Suite Rococo" by Borowski, in excellent style. This was followed by the Overture of Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor," it was a pity that the first violins were not imbued with the same spirit of exuberance as the "Merry Wives," their performance lacked tone and warmth, and the flute players too seemed to be at variance with the Ensemble.

They were followed by our well-known pianist, Ruth Huggenberg, who played Brahms' Rhapsody in B minor Op 67 with great technical skill, one could have perhaps wished a little more warmth in her execution. The applause which she received was, however, well merited.

The next items on the programme consisted of two songs: "Gott schütze die Reben am sonnigen Rhein" by Attenhofer and Dekker's enchanting "Thurmwärts Minne" both songs were excellently rendered as to tone and diction by the Swiss Male Choir. This choir

has made splendid progress for which they and their conductor are heartily to be congratulated.

The Accordion Group under the competent leadership of Mr. A. Gandon then appeared on the platform, in becoming national costumes. When reviewing their last year's performance, I voiced the opinion, that the rendering of the various items was too long and over generous. The hint then given has borne fruit, they played four items: "Ländler Marsch" (Brauchli), "La Jurasienne" (Thöni), "Rheinländer Polka" (Helbling) and "Toggenburger Ländler" (Zuber) with a commendable liveliness and exuberance and above all "short and sweet." The "Juchzers" which came from all corners of the hall was proof enough how much their performance was appreciated.

This almost hysterical outburst from a Swiss audience, whenever accordion music is played, has always puzzled me. I imagine that these noises are signs of sheer delight in the music played. Now, I too, can get deeply moved by a piece of music, but can you imagine me giving vent to my emotions or feelings by a heart rendering and high piercing shriek à la Dick Barton, during the rendering of some of the lovely passages in Beethoven's Sixth or Eighth, I would at once be forcibly removed and taken to a place where people "who utter shrieks in the night" are usually taken to, and yet nothing happens to those who express their feelings of delight during an accordion playing performance. It is queer, is it not?

After a short interval, the Swiss Orchestral Society again appeared on the platform. This time, they played the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor together with Ruth Huggenberg. Not wishing to judge this performance from the angle of those performances which concert goers are accustomed to hear at some of our well-known Concert Halls by famous orchestras, I never-the-less can truly say, that the orchestra and especially Ruth Huggenberg distinguished themselves; both soloist and orchestra worked in perfect harmony, and are to be congratulated on this, not easy performance.

HIGH CLASS ACCOMMODATION

Twenty minutes from Piccadilly. Comfortable double & single rooms. H. & C. Partial Board. 17, Freeland Road, W.5. Tel. ACOrn 0209.

Telegrams and Cables : TRANCOŠMOS LONDON.

Telephone : MAN. HOUSE 8383 (7 lines).

COSMOS FREIGHTWAYS

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

AGENCY LIMITED.

ALSO AT
LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
HULL, BRISTOL, CARDIFF,
SWANSEA, NEWPORT, Mon.,
GLASGOW.

By Road, Rail Sea and Air
9/10, ST. MARY AT HILL, EASTCHEAP,
LONDON, E.C.3.

OFFICIAL FREIGHT AND
PASSENGER AGENTS FOR
SWISSAIR AND ALL AIR LINES
TO SWITZERLAND AND ALL
PARTS OF THE WORLD.

CONNECTED
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD

REGULAR GROUPAGE SERVICES WITH

SWITZERLAND

ANGLO-SWISS CUSTOMS EXPERTS.

Agents: WELTIFURRER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. Ltd., Zurich, Basle, Buchs, Schaffhausen, Geneva, St. Gall.

The second item played consisted of a selection of melodies by Tchaikowsky, well played, but somehow too long; for my part, I would have preferred to hear the whole Piano Concerto instead of only the first movement.

Ruth Huggenberg, followed by playing Chopin's Polonaise Fantaisie, Op. 61, again her technique was faultless and her execution without a flaw. As an *encore* she played a Mazurka by Chopin. Amidst loud applause she was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers. The Colony possesses in Ruth Huggenberg a capable and earnest artiste.

Once again the Swiss Male Choir appeared, they lined up to sing "La Chanson du Ramoneur" by Doret and "Zieh' mit mir in den Lenz hinein," both very well sung and with feeling, I especially liked the latter, the baritone solo was finely rendered by Mr. G. N. Ross. It is a sheer delight to listen to this Choir.

The Concert concluded with a few numbers played by our accordionists, their performance was again delightful and most enjoyable, and both Mr. Gandon and his youthful players are to be heartily congratulated.

In concluding this report, I wish to pay a special tribute to Mr. E. P. Dick, the conductor of the Swiss Orchestral Society and the Swiss Male Choir, who has given us an evening full of delight and enjoyment.

ST.



Four tablespoons makes a gallon of first rate soup!

Good beef stock makes a grand basis for soup; but when you haven't got it—and, in these days, that's all too often—you'll find Maggi's Beef Bouillon a great help. It is a scientifically prepared Meat Extract, packed in tins of 5 lbs. gross (enough to make approx. 35 gallons of soup at four level tablespoons per gallon) and can be used with great satisfaction to yourself and your patrons as a base to your own soup recipes both thick and clear.

MAGGI'S

FREE TESTING SAMPLE Recipes and a generous sample of Maggi's Beef Bouillon will be sent on request

Beef Bouillon

MARBER & CO. (FOOD PRODUCTS) LTD. HAYES, MIDDLESEX Telephone: Hayes 3811

CVS-27

GENEVA IN MODERN FICTION.

"By the Lake," a novel by Kay Dick.

William Heinemann 8/6.

Geneva, that lovely city on the banks of the Rhone, is made to serve as the background to this, Kay Dick's first novel, entitled "By the Lake."

The action — such as it is — takes place in the period during the two world-wars. Robert, an English boy who is an illegitimate child, is sent to a school in Geneva and lives in the house of an old watchmaker and his wife. He provides the subject for a psychological study of mental development from childhood to adolescence, and his feelings and emotions are dissected and analysed.

Through his adoptive father the boy is connected with an old Swiss family, the members of which are introduced in turn. The author, who was herself educated in Switzerland, seems at ease in her descriptions of Geneva and of its inhabitants whose volatile gallic temperament she contrasts with the stolidity of the German-speaking Swiss. When, however, she ventures on German-Swiss localities and people, she is on less familiar ground and the result is a travesty.

The story is of the slightest and consists of trivialities interspersed with lengthy depressions into metaphysics. These are dexterous efforts, not without literary ability, but their style, ornate and flowery, is often laboured and turgid.

The characters are somehow unreal and their conversations stilted and unnatural. Perhaps the most skilfully drawn is that of the boy's frivolous and wayward young mother. The narrative is completely devoid of humour.

In fairness to the author it must be said that the diffuseness of the work and the absence of a plot are not accidental. She has made an attempt at Flaubert's ideal of literary composition and she quotes, in fact, the great French writer's saying that he could think of nothing more beautiful than to write a book on nothing, with scarcely a subject, sustained by the strength of its style alone.

Whether she has succeeded, let the reader judge.

J. J. F. S.

SWISS CLUB BIRMINGHAM.

The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Club Birmingham was held at the Midland Hotel on Monday, March 21st. The new Committee elected is as follows:— *President*: Mr. F. E. Brunner. *Secretary*: Mr. P. Duvoisin. *Treasurer*: Mr. A. Klötzli.

Delicious

Ovaltine

*for Restorative Sleep
and Abundant Energy*