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FÊTE SUISSE and CONFRÉRIE VAUDOISE

SOIRÉE DANSANTE

It is an indisputable fact, that the "Fête Suisse" has become in the real sense of the word, a Family Party, at which all members of the Swiss community, regardless of class or age take part.

From small and modest beginnings it has, especially in later years, attained an increased importance. Whilst for many years the programme had been entirely supported by local talent, it was found necessary, especially in recent years, to "import" artists from our home country.

In a way this is to be regretted as the "Fête Suisse" has thus lost a little of its former more intimate *cachet*, but it has become unavoidable owing to the fact that the flow of young compatriots of ours to this country has almost ceased. Various institutions, such as the Swiss orchestra, the Swiss Gymnastic Society, to name only a few, have gone out of existence, and performers, who formerly supplied the various items on the programme have become either too old or have left us.

This year again it became necessary, in order to present an attractive programme to fall back on "outsiders" to fill the gap. It might be an opportune moment to recall here some of the Societies and personalities which have taken part during the last five years at this annual festival.

In 1949, for the first time, the "Chanson de Lausanne", under the conductorship of M. Guibat, appeared at the Central Hall, Westminster and proved a great success. The following year, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary, M. A. Pini, then Vice-President of the National Council, attended and addressed the audience; amongst the artistes were Paul Sandoz, the well-known Swiss baritone, Mlle. Marie Amster, Swiss violinist and Frl. Linely Bähler, "Jodlerin". In 1951, the "Stadtmusik Solothurn" provided the chief items on the programme, and in 1952, that excellent choir "Chanson du Rhône" gave a memorable performance, followed last year by the "Laendlerkapelle & Jodlergruppe Wattwil", and now again we have the privilege of hearing our old friends of the "Chanson de Lausanne", and I have not the slightest doubt, that a great treat is in store for us. Who, amongst my reader does not recall that lovely tenor solo, "La Jardinière du Roy" rendered by the conductor of this choir, M. Guibat, and I sincerely hope that we shall hear him again. They will be accompanied by the well-known "Musique du Folly". Amongst other items will be community singing and a performance by the "youngsters" of the Colony. We can thus look forward to a really enjoyable evening. I have also been informed that amongst the distinguished visitors will be the Mayor of the town of Lausanne, and one or two members of the cantonal Government.

It goes without saying that the presentation of such an ambitious programme involves the committee in heavy expenses, and it is of the greatest importance that the Central Hall should be filled to its capacity, and I make an earnest appeal to all members of the Colony to turn up in full force. By doing so they not

only show their appreciation to the organisers for the great efforts they have made, but they also pay a compliment to our brethren from the lovely canton of Vaud.

I expect, therefore, to see the notice "Full House" displayed at the Box Office, on Friday the 30th of April, and to save anybody being disappointed I would strongly advocate that tickets should be procured as early as possible. It will be a fine show, and well worth the modest entrance fee. Let us all make a great effort to fill the hall to the last seat.

* * *

To celebrate the presence in London of our Vaudois countrymen, the "Confrérie Vaudoise" has arranged a "Soirée Dansante" on Saturday, May 1st, at the Dorchester Hotel.

This evening also promises to be an enjoyable and pleasant one, to which not only our *romands* are welcome, but all members of the Colony and their friends. We shall hear the "Chanson de Lausanne" and the "Musique du Folly" and there will be dancing too, and what an excellent opportunity for those of our compatriots who speak the "Français Fédéral" to improve their *accent* by mixing freely with our visitors. Amongst them there will be some very pretty young Ladies, as well as attractive young gentlemen.

When the "Confrérie Vaudoise" arranges something, it is always done to perfection, and I have not the slightest doubt that on this occasion they will live up to their reputation and give us a grand evening. All details are given on another page of this paper, and here again I hope that many members of the Colony will take part in an evening which will be dedicated to music, friendship and merriment, a combination which promises well for success.

ST.

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