

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: - (1956)

Heft: 1271

Rubrik: Concert news

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CONCERT NEWS.

Ruth Huggenberg and the Wembley Symphony Orchestra.

The people of Wembley were offered a real musical treat at Wembley Town Hall on Sunday, 18th March, when the Wembley Symphony Orchestra, under the conductorship of Vernon Elliott, gave a very fine programme of music from compositions by Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms. Our well known Swiss pianist, Ruth Huggenberg, was the soloist in Schumann's Piano Concerto.

I have since been invited to record my impressions of this concert and I must say that I found indeed a great improvement in the Orchestra's performance since I heard them a year ago; I was very much surprised by the excellence of what I did hear.

The concert began with the overture "Fidelio" by Beethoven, followed by "Variations on a theme by Haydn: St. Antoni Chorale" by Brahms, both works being performed in a masterly fashion. The playing of the Variations was extremely good. The constant changes of tempo were taken with great steadiness, a fact which reflects great credit on the conductor who indeed contrived throughout to keep his forces well in hand. The violins in particular came through the various difficult passages with flying colours, though the other sections of the Orchestra also contributed to a most competent performance.

Then followed the Concerto for Pianoforte and Orchestra in A minor by Schumann. To hear this wonderful concerto was a treat in itself. Ruth Huggenberg gave us a most spirited performance; I was listening with great delight to all three movements and was surprised to find how delicate and perfect were the "Demandes et Réponses" between Soloist and Orchestra; this only Ruth Huggenberg's mastery of technique and depth of feeling could achieve. In the more robust passages of the last movement I found the Soloist with a crisp firm touch and simple straight forward approach together with strict control of feelings required for the accurate interpretation of the composer's meaning.

I hear Ruth Huggenberg is shortly leaving for a Concert Tour on the Continent; I feel sure we all wish her a successful and happy journey.

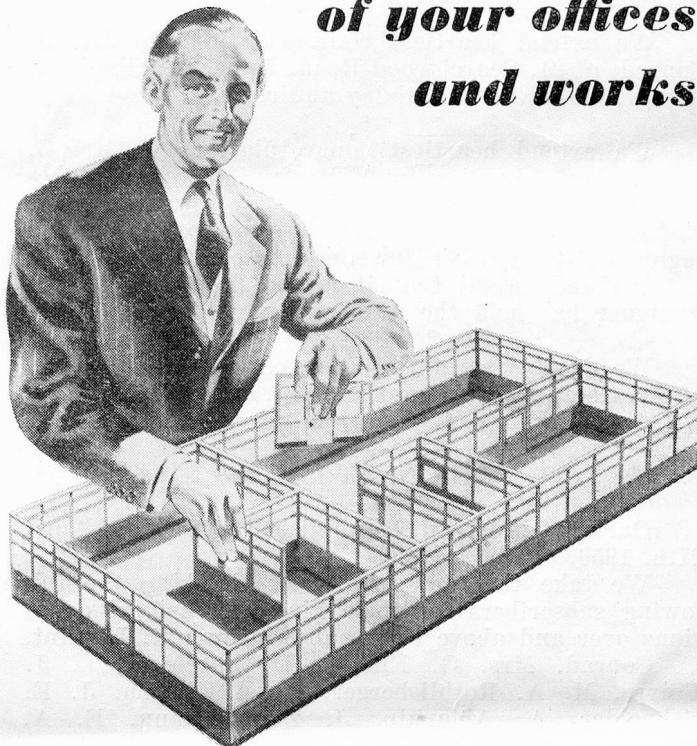
I am also pleased to record here that Ruth Huggenberg and the Wembley Symphony Orchestra were greatly honoured by the presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur Armin Daeniker accompanied by Madame Daeniker.

The Orchestra concluded the concert by playing the Symphony No. 2. in D by Brahms. Also this work was extremely well performed and was a fitting Finale to a completely successful evening.

It is gratifying to record that the audience evinced their interest and appreciation by their generous applause. Their numbers could, however, have been much greater to give the orchestra and its conductor all the encouragement for further successful concerts. It is clear that its members have real musical ability, the will to work, and the right team spirit; the Wembley community is to be congratulated on the possession of such an excellent musical organisation.

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