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ROUND AND ABOUT

LAUSANNE

The 42nd Lausanne National Fair will be opening its gates from 9th to 24th September 1961. For nearly half a century, the main branches of the Swiss economy — industry, agriculture, trade and craftwork — have been displaying at Beaulieu the typical products of Swiss work and endeavour. Both exhibitors and consumers, who have been meeting here regularly for so many years now, have been able to note the continual development of the fair, its positive action, its ever-increasing fame, and the prestige it enjoys far beyond the frontiers of the country.

To-day, as a result of the complete transformation of its northern sector, the Lausanne Fair is entirely housed in permanent premises. Its structure has been modified, new sectors have been added. The Swiss Comptoir — as it is popularly known — a traditional event that can never be accused of standing still, has reached a new landmark in its history.

May both exhibitors and visitors derive increased satisfaction from the new scope thus afforded. This will be reward enough for all the efforts.

Finally, may the warm welcome extended to Greece, this year's guest of honour, assure her of the high esteem and friendship in which she is held by the Swiss people.

LUCERNE

For almost a quarter of a century this Swiss lakeside town has been the site of an International Festival of Music that ranks among the best of Europe's musical events. Once again, for the twenty-third time, Lucerne offers an outstanding programme in accordance with its traditional high standards.

From 16th August to 9th September, Lucerne's Festival Weeks present some of the finest European symphony orchestras under the baton of well-known directors, as well as eminent soloists. In addition, open-air serenades and song and piano recitals are scheduled. Choir and orchestra requiems will be given in Lucerne's historic churches.

As in previous years, these events have been organized in co-operation with the Lucerne Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Dr. Walter Strebi and the management of Dr. Othmar Fries. They are being held in the spacious Concert Hall, the Kunsthause, at the Loewendenkmal (Lion's Monument) and the Casino.

Two symphony orchestras have been engaged for this year's festival: the Swiss Festival Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. They will give eight symphony concerts under the direction of Ferenc Fricsay, Carl Schuricht, Miltiades Caridis, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Herbert von Karajan, Rafael Kubelik and Joseph Keilberth.

Among the soloists to appear at these concerts are Yehudi Menuhin, Robert Casadesus, Van Cliburn, Wolfgang Schneiderhan, Hans Richter-Haaser, Nathan Milstein and Geza Anda. Their recitals call for Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Bach, Beethoven and Richard Strauss.

Mozart's Requiem will be given twice, in the Kunsthause and the Jesuit Church. It will be sung by the Lucerne Festival Choir under the direction of Joseph Krips, and with Maria Stader, Margrit Conrad, Nicolai Gedda and Walter Berry as soloists.

GENEVA

The opening of two large new hotels next year is expected to ease Geneva's chronic shortage of hotel rooms. The two new establishments will increase the number of guest beds available in this lakeside city by more than six hundred.

Meanwhile, the smaller Hôtel des Alpes has recently opened at 12 Rue des Alpes. It offers rooms with private baths, furnished rooms with kitchenettes, and arrangements for long stays.

The President Hotel, which it is claimed will be the most luxurious in Europe, is going up on the right bank of the Lake of Geneva. It will be an eight-storey structure with about three hundred rooms and five hundred beds. Furnished in a classical style, it will be fully equipped with the latest electronic appliances, and will contain a bank, travel bureaux and business offices.

It will be operated by the President Hotels Company, whose president, Marcel Jacquignon, has announced that his organization plans to build similar hotels elsewhere in Europe, as well as in the United States.

The other new hotel that is due to open in Geneva in 1962 is the Hôtel de Berne, a four-storey structure containing some sixty rooms, all with private baths, and most with twin beds. The management of the Berne, which is rated as second-class, plans to furnish comfortable lodgings at moderate prices.

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