

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: - (1966)

Heft: 1514

Artikel: Successful London performances by two swiss artists

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696735>

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ATLAS OF SWITZERLAND A new set of maps of Switzerland

In 1961, in answer to a proposal by the Federal Home Office, the Federal Council gave orders for the publication of a detailed geographic and scientific atlas of Switzerland. A first instalment of this work, comprising 11 plates — over 40 maps — has already been published. The whole work, unbound, will appear in 9 separate instalments (one every 9 to 12 months) each containing about 10 big maps in colour. On the back of each map will be printed an explanatory text in French, German and Italian.

On May 14th, 1965 the first instalment of this fine work was presented to the public at a ceremony held under the patronage of Mr. Tschudi, then President of the Swiss Confederation and the experts responsible for making this atlas. The presentation was followed by an exhibition of the work at the National Library in Berne.

The Atlas supplies information on the nature of the country, i.e. its relief, soil, climate and weather, vegetation and fauna as well as on aspects of human geography: languages, religions, social strata, forms of housing, agriculture, forestry, industry, trades, commerce, cultural institutions, foreign relations, types of landscape and many other subjects. For the first time in a new, attractively presented form, the Atlas presents a complete view of the natural foundations of Switzerland, her historical development, and the economic and social conditions of her population. In this respect it follows in the line of the new national atlases published by many countries today. Alongside the topographical maps of the Confederation it represents the most remarkable cartographic work in Switzerland, an achievement of the greatest use for science and education, administration, planning and the running of the economy.

The Federal Council asked the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich to be responsible for the work of cartographic editing and the Federal Topographic Department at Wabern to handle the reproduction and publishing of the maps. The overall responsibility for the whole project has been entrusted to an Editing Commission presided over by Prof. Edouard Imhof, Dr. h.c.

(“Swiss Industry and Trade”.)

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SUCCESSFUL LONDON PERFORMANCES BY TWO SWISS ARTISTS

With very much assurance and real feeling for a colourful and sensitive interpretation, the young Swiss cellist **KLAUS HEITZ** performed at Wigmore Hall on 25th November. He gave a selection of twentieth-century works by Martinu, Fauré and Frank Martin, rounding off the very interesting programme with a sonata by Brahms.

His playing was featured by a solid and incisive technique and a rich and powerful tone. At some loud allegro passages, however, the piano accompaniment by Tibor Hazay was disappointing and instead of supporting the cello, it drowned it almost completely.

In the first Sonata by Martinu and the Ballade by Martin, Klaus Heitz was seen at his best, performing in a masterly fashion and with splendid ability. Brahms's Sonata in F major, Op. 99, was well balanced, and it pleased by the cellist's sensibility, whereas his performance of Fauré's second Sonata in G minor didn't reach the otherwise high musical standard and seemed to lack much of the music's subtler nuances.

Ph.F.

On Monday, 28th November, one of our greatest Swiss violinists was heard at the Wigmore Hall: **Blaise Calame**. Accompanied on the piano by Tasso Janapoulo, he played works by Kodaly, Beethoven, Prokofieff, Chausson, Debussy and Wieniawski. It was apparent that the strength of his playing lay in a full, rich tone. In some places, however, especially in the piano parts, one missed the necessary delicate touch and “inwardness”. Nevertheless, the above mentioned works were performed convincingly. Unfortunately the audience wasn't very large, but those present fully appreciated and applauded the artist and his achievement.

U.S.



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