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AMERICAN COLLEGE CHOIR AT THE SWISS CHURCH (ST. MARY WOOLNOTH)

A special treat awaited the congregation at St. Mary Woolnoth's on Sunday morning, 25th June. An American Choir took part in the Service of the German-speaking Community of the Swiss Church in London. It consisted of over thirty members specially selected for the European Tour from the sixty members the A Cappella Choir of Bluffton College, in the State of Ohio. Bluffton College was founded in 1900 and is a Church-related educational establishment emphasising the liberal arts. Its focus is upon the methods of acquiring knowledge, opening to students a variety of intellectual experiences. It has 625 students and fifty faculty members. The College is supported by the General Conference Mennonite Church of North America. The A Cappella Choir is not the only musical organisation on campus, but it is the only group on the European Tour 1967. Their itinerary comprises visits and concerts in many cities and towns in this country, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, France and the Netherlands, where the Choir will sing at the Mennonite World Conference in Amsterdam at the end of August.

At the Swiss Church, the Choir sang Heinrich Schutz's 100th Psalm in German, Gustav Holst's "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John", a Negro Spiritual and some smaller items. The quality of the music and of the voices was of an exceptionally high standard and enhanced the Service which was given in English. Afterwards, residents and visitors met over a cup of coffee.

The Choir was conducted most ably by Mr. Earl W. Lehman, and the Director of the educational-study part of the tour, Mr. J. W. Bixel, told the congregation of the Swiss settlers who have kept many of the traditions of their old country, and indeed, out of the thirty members of the Choir, about half have Swiss ancestors. Their names bear witness to this: Oswald, Stockman, Hilty, Gerber, Geiger, Hofstetter, Habeggar, Lehman and such very Swiss family names as Luginbill and Krehbiel, however Americanised.

MM

"SWISS OBSERVER" PUBLISHING DATES

The "Swiss Observer" is published every second and fourth Friday of the month. Our next issue will appear on 28th July. We shall be glad to receive articles and reports not later than Tuesday, 18th July. Short news items only can be accepted later.

Swiss National Day Celebration and Gala Dance

Tuesday 1st AUGUST, at 6.30 p.m.

(Doors open at 5.45 p.m.)

WIMBLEDON TOWN HALL, WIMBLEDON

Next door to Wimbledon District Line Station

Buses : 93, 115, 200, 604, 605

PROGRAMME

The programme, as usual, includes items of a patriotic nature.

The main address will be given by the **Swiss Ambassador, Monsieur Olivier Long.**

A **Swiss Sound Film** (in colour) will be shown.

The members of the **Corale Ticinese** will give a performance of their attractive Ticinesi folk songs.

The famous **Yodelling Sisters** (Radio Beromünster), **Trudi and Josi Giess** will again delight the audience with their popular music. The organisers are most grateful to Swiss Travel Service Ltd., London S.W.1, for offering free air travel for the Giess Sisters and their accompanist from Basle to London, and to the Anglo-Continental School of English in Bournemouth for offering free air travel from England to Switzerland.

THERE WILL BE DANCING, AND REFRESHMENTS AND LICENSED BAR ARE AVAILABLE

TICKETS at 5/- are obtainable the same evening at the Wimbledon Town Hall box office (Children up to the age of 14 are free).

There will be advance sale of tickets at 4/-. These are obtainable from:

The Secretary, First of August Committee, 81 Rosebery

Road, Muswell Hill, N.10, and from:

Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, and

Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9/11 Belsize Grove, N.W.3.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed and made payable to "First of August Committee". A stamped/addressed envelope must be enclosed.

SEE YOU AT WIMBLEDON ON 1ST AUGUST