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CULTURAL EVENTS

Thursday, 2nd May. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. English Bach Festival: The bass *Jakob Stämpfli* a soloist in a programme of works by J. S. Bach, with the 'Camerata Frankfurt' and the 'Junge Kantorei' conducted by Joachim Martini.

Friday, 3rd May. Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. English Bach Festival: The tenor *Ernst Häfliger* and the bass *Jakob Stämpfli* sing the parts of the Evangelist and of Christus in the St. John Passion with the Camerata Frankfurt and the 'Junge Kantorei' under Joachim Martini.

Wednesday, 15th May. Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. *Eva Pedrazzi* plays the Cello Concerto in C by Haydn and the Cello Concerto by *Peter Mieg* with the New London Ensemble under Richard Bradshaw.

AN ANCIENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENT N.S.H. Open Meeting 2nd May

All Swiss and their friends will be welcome at the Open Meeting of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique on Thursday, 2nd May at 7 p.m. It will be held at the Lecture Hall of the Swiss Embassy, 16/18 Montagu Place, W.1. The speaker will be Dr. Brigitte Geiser, Berne, and the subject is *The Swiss Alphorn – not only an attraction for Tourists, but an ancient Musical Instrument*.

Very few people realise what a fascinating instrument the alphorn is, and as the talk (in English) will be illustrated by recordings and slides, it will afford a unique opportunity of getting acquainted with the history and nature of the alphorn.

Dr. Geiser is an expert on history and development of old instruments and author of a number of publications on the subject. She is at present engaged in preparatory work for the volume *Switzerland in the Manual on European Folkloristic Musical Instruments*. Under the auspices of the British Council, Dr. Geiser is doing research work in Great Britain.

MORE SWISS EVENTS

Folklore Get-Togethers in Switzerland

If you appreciate folklore and want to learn more about popular music and dancing, be sure to participate in two folklore get-togethers which will take place this coming summer. One will be held in Domat-Ems near Chur from 22nd May till 26th and will include Swiss and foreign groups. 65 groups have already agreed to participate. As a further encouragement to Swiss-French folklore, the "Rendez-vous folklorique" will again be held in Villars from 5th July till 7th. Competitions will be taking place between rural choirs and, as of late, various Swiss folk-dancing groups.

A Diversified Summer Time Awaits Visitors to Lenk

The health resort of Lenk in the Bernese Oberland holds much variety in store for its summer programme. For the fourth time running, art weeks will be held from 8th July till 15th August. For example, the "Dancing and Movement Forum" will be running a course on dance therapy and classical music lectures. A special programme awaits children too as they must be kept busy. They can participate in the musical weeks (where each child can bring his instrument), in the pantomime, rhythm and movement course, the experimental theatre, drawing and painting courses (Fr.50 per child and course). A new riding school with ponies has been planned for small children near the

Simmen falls. There's also a riding school for adults. Tennis fans can yet again attend the tennis school from July till October. An all inclusive week (accommodation and 4½ hours' daily instruction) costs Fr.386 upward. When bad weather prevails, pupils use the indoor courts at nearby Zweisimmen. If you enjoy walking, there's 120 miles of well-indicated paths to explore; or, if you prefer, try hiking circuits with low-price return tickets. Special hiking weeks are planned in September and guests can participate in guided game-observing tours twice weekly.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

At the 102nd Annual General Meeting held in Basle under the Chairmanship of Prof. Max Staehelin, the Board's proposals to increase the share-capital of the Bank by the issue of 220,000 new bearer Participation Certificates of Sw.Fr.100 nominal (at a price of Sw.Fr.150 and in the proportion of one participation certificate for every five ordinary shares of Sw.Fr.500 held) were approved. The ordinary shares of Sw.Fr.500 will also be exchanged for five new ordinary bearer shares of Sw.Fr.100 nominal. This is the first time that any of the larger Swiss banks has taken such steps and it is hoped that in this way share ownership will be available to a wider section of the public. The net profit of the bank for the year 1973 amounted to Sw.Fr.160,786,355 (Sw.Fr.163,317,973 in 1972) and a dividend of Sw.Fr.80 per share (same) is declared.

IL BOLLETTINO NOSTRANO

D'OLTRE GOTTARDO. — *Berna*
Una quarantina di deputati si sono iscritti al grande dibattito avviato mercoledì, 13 marzo, dal Consiglio Nazionale sull'iniziativa dell'azione nazionale contro l'inforestieramento. 3 deputati del C.

Ticino figuravano nell'elenco: Speziali, Barchi (liberali) e Wyler (socialista). Mentre Barchi e Wyler si sono espressi a titolo personale, Speziali è andato alla tribuna in nome della deputazione ticinese. Ecco i passi salienti della sua

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