

**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:** - (1976)

**Heft:** 1721

**Artikel:** Historical setting for his "Debut"

**Autor:** MG

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690129>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 15.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# HISTORICAL SETTING FOR HIS 'DEBUT'

Fenton House, in Hampstead, belongs to the National Trust. It is one of the earliest and largest houses in that part of North London, dating back to 1693, a beautiful architectural product of the William and Mary period. It is surrounded by a lovely garden. Fenton House contains a fine collection of early keyboard instruments and also valuable china. One of the harpsichords, the largest model made in 18th-century England, was made by Burkhardt Shudi, a Swiss, and his son-in-law, John Broadwood, in 1770. This instrument was used at a concert held there on 24th June, 1976. It was under the patronage of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, in conjunction with the International Liszt Centre for 19th-Century Music in London.

The setting was perfect on that lovely summer's evening, and the recital room filled with an eager audience. The President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mrs. Mariann Meier, welcomed members and friends of both organisations, as well as of the Swiss Churches, to whom the surplus of receipts was donated. She also expressed gratitude to the three artists, Shuna Wilson (cello), Uli Stefan (recorder and flute) and Lennart Rabes (harpsichord), who were giving their services free.

The programme began with Handel's Sonata in A minor, Op. 1, No. 4 for recorder and continuo. The recorder blended beautifully with continuo and harpsichord in a pleasant rendering of an old favourite. Bach's Sonata No. 2 in D

for cello and harpsichord was pleasing in tone, played with musical feeling and accompanied with great sensitivity.

The solo Suite No. 2 in D minor for cello was a difficult work, neither easy to play nor to digest. It had great musicality, and was played with expert skill, but there were perhaps not enough differences in character and tonal colour between the movements, no doubt due to the unusually hot evening.

Scarlatti's two sonatas in D minor and C major for harpsichord were a delight in their delicate nuances.

The great surprise of the evening was the first performance in England of the Sonata Op. 2, No. 4 in E minor by the Swiss baroque composer, Gaspard Fritz, born in Geneva in 1716 (died in 1782). He was a distinguished violinist. One of his many works, six solos for cello and harpsichord, is to be found at the British Museum. The sonata played at Fenton House carries a note "Réalisation de la basse chiffrée par Frank Martin", the famous Swiss composer. In this work, all three artists were in complete harmony, and the performance was as expert as it was charming.

Great applause showed the artists how much their fine musical presentation of beautiful compositions had been appreciated.

MG

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

27th to 29th August, ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD at Morat. All Swiss warmly welcome to this gathering. Please apply to Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, 3000 Berne.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, 15th September at 7 p.m. at 34 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, 6th November, Central Hall, Westminster, BAZAAR of the Swiss Churches in London.

LONDON SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY, Wednesday, 29th September, monthly meeting followed by auction. Wednesday, 27th October, monthly meeting followed by members' display Letter "E". Wednesday, 24th November, Cup Competition.

CITY SWISS CLUB - 21st September, Card Evening at St. Moritz Club Restaurant - 7 for 7.30 p.m.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

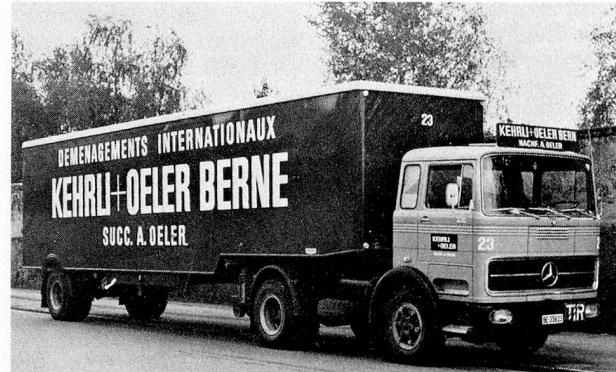
The following readers will be celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the next few weeks.

Mr. C. Fairweather will be 86 on 7th September, and Mr. J. G. Michel 68 on the 8th of the month. Mrs. C. Burren will have her birthday on 9th September, and Mr. E. Ullmann will be 73 on the same day. Mrs. N. Towers will be 78 on 10th September and Mr. Marcel Ney, Director of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne, will have his birthday on 19th September.

Mr. W. Bernhard Sigerist, of Rue de Chillon, 1, Apt. 23, 1842 Territet, Vaud, will be 85 on 23rd September.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Humbel will have their wedding anniversary on 24th September (1938), and Mr. M. Rothlisberger will have his 77th anniversary on 25th September.

Congratulations and many happy returns to these and any other readers who will have celebrations in September.



### TRAVEL WEEKLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals
- Works of Art
- Exhibition Goods
- Machinery

For full information contact

#### In Switzerland

KEHRLI + OELER LTD.,  
3001 Berne,  
Bubenbergplatz 9  
Tel: 031 22 00 22  
Telex: 32414 Kerolch

#### In England

all Eurovan Members



**EUROVAN**