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For the benefit of his "foreign" audience, Prof. Fasani began with a brief introduction of Switzerland and its four literatures. Then concentrating on "the literature of Italian-speaking Switzerland since the last war", the subject of his talk, he immediately drew a distinction between the style of the poets and writers of the Canton Ticino, our Italian canton, and those of the five Southern Valleys of the Canton Grisons, who also speak the "idioma gentil, sonante e puro". Being from the Grisons himself (Prof. Fasani hails from Mesocco, at the head of the Mesolcina Valley), he accounted for this cultural difference by the fact that the Ticino for three-and-a-half centuries had been subject to the Swiss overlords north of the Alps, whereas the "Grigionesi" had been free members of the Gray Leagues.

The main "post war" Ticinesi, e.g. Francesco Chiesa, Giuseppe Zoppi, Plinio Martini, Giovanni and Giorgio Orelli, Felice Filippini were then analysed by the lecturer who also read paragraphs from their works, with ample comments. He observed that quite a number of them introduced death as a main event in their stories.

Of the Grisonese "letterati", Prof. Fasani could not avoid a mention of a past "glory", Faustino Gaudenzi who in the eighteenth century had taught at Pisa University. He then reviewed the Rev. Menghini of Poschiavo, Paolo Gir of S-chanf and Vittorio Spadino of the Calanca Valley.

Finally yielding to Prof. Montuori's plea, Remo Fasani consented to read a few excerpts of his own poetry: one sonnet from the "Senso dell'esilio", and another from "Un altro segno", profusely commenting on each one.

All in all a most enjoyable evening. The lecture is one of a series which Prof. Fasani is giving to a number of British Universities under official auspices, including "Pro Helvetia".

J.E.

### FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Under the patronage of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique and in conjunction with the International Liszt Centre for Nineteenth Century Music in London the *Waldmann Jugendchor* gave a concert in the Swiss Church in London on 18th October, 1979.

The Waldmann Choir had given a very successful concert in London five years ago and five members who sung then are still with the choir today.

The standard of the performance was high, considering that the choir, conducted by its choirmaster Peter A. Zutter (Headmaster of the Freie Evangelische Schule, Zurich, who founded the choir in 1968), consists mainly of children and devoted amateurs.

The demanding piano accompaniment was very ably provided by Brigitte Schnyder. The rest of the

miniature orchestra included Martin Tillmann (cello), Noëlle Merian and Ursula Amrhein (violin) and Barbara Jetzer (recorder).

The choice of programme was a lucky one, holding the balance between "serious" works and more lighthearted music. The concert began with Bach's "*Wohl mir, dass ich Jesum habe*", followed by three more works of Italian church music and concluding the first part with M. Haydn's *Missa* in G major.

In the second part we heard songs by Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Sutermeister and Brahms and the evening ended with folk songs sung in the four national Swiss languages.

It was a true pleasure to listen to those clear voices singing with so much apparent enjoyment of the music they performed.

As well as the lovely solo sopranos of Magrit Roos and Rosetta Zutter I particularly liked the contralto voice of Miss Béatrice Lienert, a second-year music student at the Zurich Conservatoire, with its warm timbre and considerable strength.

The *Waldmann Jugendchor* gave another concert in Woking on 19th October and took in a few of Britain's tourist attractions during their stay over here.

We hope that they will be back in England again and wish them much joy and success in singing for others.

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