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THE Zurich Chamber Orchestra began as a professional body in 1954 and belongs to one of the distinguished groups of its kind. Its reputation is established all over the world. The main area of its activities is Europe.

Its travels have taken it from Finland to North Africa, from Oslo to Athens, and places including Vienna, Berlin and Sevilla – not to forget the United States as far as San Francisco.

In 1968 the orchestra appeared with great success at the Israel Festival. In 1970 they toured the USA for the fourth time. In April and May of 1971, they visited Japan, Australia and New Zealand for the first time.

In the Far East the concerts were so successful that the orchestra has been invited again. In 1974 they toured the Soviet Union giving concerts in four cities. The orchestra has also appeared at many international music festivals.

The orchestra's repertoire includes works of the baroque and early classical era. It has made many recordings.

Among the soloists who have

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Zurich's much travelled musicians

appeared with the orchestra the following are worth mentioning: Yehudi Menuhin, Maria Stader, Teresa Berganza, Sir Clifford Curzon, James Galway, Norma Procter, Sir Peter Pears, Ernst Häfliger, Wilhelm Backhaus, Arturo B. Michelangeli, Maurizio Pollini, Claudio Arrau, Wilhelm Kempf, Martha Argerich, Ruggiero Ricci, Paul and Maud Tortelier, Maurice André, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Nikita Magaloff, Aurèle Nicolet, Heinz Holliger, Igor Oistrach, Pierre Fournier, Itzhak Perlman, Georg Malcolm.

The orchestra has commissioned some important works of contemporary composers, in particular Frank Martin's "Polyptyque" for solo violin and two orchestras and Penderecki's "Lukas Passion".

Both are dedicated to the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and Edmond de Stoutz. The first is also dedicated to Yehudi Menuhin who gave the first performance. The latest work which was finished in 1979 is a "Suite à l'Image du Temps" by the Swiss composer Norbert Moret.

This work was recently performed in North America by the orchestra and proved to be successful. In Switzerland it has also aroused much interest.

★ ★ ★

Canon Georges Athanasiades, organist, plays in the following concerts:

Wednesday, November 18, 1pm to 2pm, St Margaret Church, Lothbury, (Works by Mendelssohn, Bach, Cramer and Brahms)

Friday, November 20, 12.30pm to 1pm, Saint-Paul's Cathedral. (Works by Liszt, Bach and his Suite pour un grand orgue).

Friday, November 22, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, Christ Church, Chelsea. (Works by Bach, Brahms, Franck and Dupré)

Swiss-born George Athanasiades is a theologian, professor and Canon of the Abbey of St Maurice, Switzerland. Educated at the universities of Heidelberg and Freiburg in Germany and the Conservatory of Lausanne in Switzerland, he made his concert debut in 1953.

For more than 20 years Mr Athanasiades has given many concerts in Switzerland and throughout Europe. He has participated in many major European festivals including the Festival of Magadino at Lugano and the festivals of Lucerne and Montreux.

He has also recorded many works by Bach and Brahms, the major works by Liszt and the Chorales by Franck.

Peter Maag conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Thursday, November 12, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall. (Works by Beethoven).

Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky)

Saturday, November 14, 5pm, Maltings Concert Hall, Snape. (Works by Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky)

Sunday, November 15, 3.15pm, Royal Festival Hall. (Works by Tchaikovsky)

Monday, November 16, 7.45pm, Town Hall, Watford. (Works by Tchaikovsky)

Tamas Vasary, piano, is the soloist and conductor in the following concerts with the London Philharmonic Orchestra:

Saturday, November 28, 8pm, Fairfield Hall, Croydon. (Works by Rossini, Mozart and Kodaly)

Monday, November 30, 1.05pm, St John's, Smith Square. (Works by Mozart)

Erich Schmid conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Tuesday, November 17, 7.30pm, Birmingham Town Hall. (Works by Beethoven, Mozart and Mendelssohn) with Walter Klien, piano, on:

Wednesday, November 18, Dewsbury Town Hall. (Programme as November 17).

Hansjörg Schneider, writer, will lecture on the emergence of the Swiss-German dialect as a language of the theatre (provisional programme).

Friday, November 13, morning, University of Manchester.

Monday, November 16, afternoon, The New University of Ulster, Coleraine.

Tuesday, November 17, 1pm to 2pm, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Tuesday, November 24, 11.30pm, Bristol Polytechnic.

Wednesday, November 25, 2.30pm, Institute of Germanic Studies, London.

Thursday, November 26, afternoon, University College, Cardiff.

Born in 1938 in Aarau, Hansjörg Schneider studied Germanistic history and psychology at the University of Basle. He spent some time as a teacher at the Kantonsschule Chur then as a journalist for the Basler National Zeitung.

In 1968 he became assistant manager and actor at the Basler Theater. Since 1972 he has been a freelance writer. He is married and has two children.

David Josefowitz conducts the New Symphony Orchestra in a concert with works by Beethoven.

Wednesday, November 4, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.