

Swiss Composer represented at Edinburgh Festival

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CITY SWISS CLUB. BIDS FAREWELL TO MONSIEUR CLOTTU.

The holiday season still being in full swing, the attendance at the little farewell party to our departing Social Counsellor, Monsieur P. Clottu, was not as numerous as could have been wished, but never-the-less about 40 members assembled at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, W.1. on Tuesday, September 2nd, 1952.

I could perhaps best describe this function as an intimate family party assembled to honour someone, who, by his unassuming manner, has not only earned the respect, but also the affection of all those who came in contact with him, either professionally or socially during the last five years.

Farewell parties are often quite mournful affairs, during which long and dreary speeches are delivered or inflicted.

Not one of these symptoms was apparent on that evening, everyone was happy and jolly, and, would you believe it, the speech-making took exactly 4 minutes and 32½ seconds, for which I was more than thankful, having come prepared to take copious notes.

The President of the City Swiss Club Mr. Charles Seinet, being away on holiday, Mr. R. J. Keller, Vice-President, was in the Chair, and after the usual toasts had been proposed and honoured, he expressed to Monsieur Clottu, on behalf of the members of the Club, his pleasure at having him in our midst, and wished him God speed and success in his new sphere of activity.

The Swiss on the whole consider themselves a musical nation, and to live up to this reputation, the gathering there and then burst into song. "For he is a good fellow" and "Qu'il vive, qu'il vive!" was sung with more fervour than musical perfection, but still it made a noise.

Our old friend, Louis Chapuis, proposed a "ban du coeur" in honour of Madame Clottu, it is a pity that she could not have witnessed with what emotion this traditional feature was rendered. I am sure she would have been just as much surprised as I was to see, that quite a number of the Gentlemen present, did not seem to have the slightest idea where this most important organ of the human body functions, they "tapped" all sorts of parts of their anatomy save the "heart."

On having exerted ourselves in this kind of physical drill, Monsieur Clottu who was loudly cheered on rising, thanked the members for the honour which they had accorded to him, saying that he is taking back with him nothing but pleasant memories of his London *séjour*, and especially of the many happy hours he had spent in the circle of the City Swiss Club. He concluded his address with the words "Merci de tous mon coeur!"

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Before parting the Meeting voted a donation of £5. 5. 0. for the Relief Fund started by the "Swiss Observer", for the Lynmouth and Lynton disaster.
S.T.

SWISS COMPOSER REPRESENTED AT EDINBURGH FESTIVAL.

A composition by Frank Martin of Geneva played at the Edinburgh Festival by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, was a violin concerto, soloist was Szigeti.

Richard Capell, the well-known music critic wrote in the "Daily Telegraph" (25. 8. 52):

"The new concerto employs the combination of solo violin and orchestra in a highly personal way, and again Martin is shown to be one of the purest artists, if not one of the most robust, of the present day.

This is music of a shadowy world, moving on the outskirts of tonal definition. The style is, however, decisive enough in its masterly consistency. The slow movement in particular is memorable by its mournful but reticent poetry. Mr. Szigeti, the most enterprising of violinists, entered into it heart and soul."

Eric Blom wrote in the "Sunday Observer" (Aug. 31st.):

"An important work new to this country was Frank Martin's violin Concerto, in which Josef Szigeti excelled as the soloist. It is a masterly thing achieving originality without sacrifice of musicality. If anything, it was felt on first acquaintance to be discursive to the point of formlessness, like a piece of prose going on and on, accumulating impressions and a fastidious language without showing much concern for shape."

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