

Symphonic Social Choir

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"WILLIAM TELL" (Yodle Choir)

AT
PAGANI'S RESTAURANT
TUESDAY, MARCH 9th.

We again wish to draw the attention of our readers to the "Swiss Evening" which has been arranged by the City Swiss Club, in honour of the "William Tell" Yodle Choir on Tuesday next, March the 9th, at Pagani's (Great Portland Street, W.1).

The invitation is extended to all members of the Colony (Gentlemen only) and English friends are particularly welcome.

The "William Tell" Yodle Choir enjoys a great reputation in this country, having for the last four years performed before English audiences numbering several thousands.

They will appear in their National Costumes and they will be accompanied by Gritli Wenger, who is one of the outstanding interpreters in the realm of Swiss folk lore.

ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL OF THE SYMPHONIC SOCIAL CHOIR

at the
Swiss Club (Schweizerbund)
74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

The 3rd Annual Dinner of the Symphonic Social Choir took place on Thursday, February 25th, at the Swiss Club, 74 Charlotte Street, W.1, the headquarters of this young but enterprising Society.

The Choir is composed of members of different nationalities predominantly English and German with a fair sprinkling of Swiss. In spite of the different political views, some of the countries to which the members belong, might have, there reigned throughout the evening a happy and care-free atmosphere.

My Menu bore the inscription "Let us be in perfect Harmony," very laudable advice in these days of strife and distrust; but this reminder was quite superfluous as far as the company was concerned, because the harmony was established long before the 120 participants sat down to dinner.

Although the adage "Wo man singt da lass dich ruhig nieder, böse Menschen singen keine Lieder" is a little worn by now, and not always true to facts, it nevertheless still holds good, and when I looked round at all the smiling faces, I felt convinced that they harboured no evil designs.

The Dinner started fairly punctual; Mr. Swan, the President of the Choir, being in the Chair; he was assisted by Mrs. K. Horn, a charming lady and a stout supporter of the Swiss Club (Schweizerbund) ever since its foundation. She was presented with a beautiful Bouquet of flowers previous to the dinner.

I am reluctant to state the age of any Lady, because it simply is not done, but as the "Lady President;" — I use the term mentioned on the Toast list, — disclosed her age to me during the dinner, I feel sure she will not take it amiss if I mention that she has seen 75 winters come and go. This is a long time and although the years have whitened her hair, her heart has remained young, and seldom before have I had a more charming and more entertaining table partner.

Before I go any further I feel I ought to congratulate the steward and stewardess of the Swiss Club, Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, for the excellent dinner which they served, they can rightly claim a share in the success of the evening. During dinner the Zimmermann orchestra played some very jolly music, and I am glad to say, they played with discretion.

Shortly before the coffee was served, the President proposed the toast to H.M. the King which was accorded musical honours.

The second toast was dedicated to the "Ladies and Visitors," and the proposer was the Lady-President, Mrs. K. Horn; on rising she was greeted with tremendous applause, a sure sign that the honour which was accorded to her to propose this toast, was felt to be in capable hands.

The speech she made was very short and equally sweet, and came direct from the heart and went to the heart. Her advice to work hard and conscientiously, and to do one's duty in whatever position one finds oneself, but also to seek enjoyment in congenial company, was no doubt prompted by personal experience, and was the secret of a successful life.

Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, the Swiss Minister will be present.

The Choir will sing a great number of Swiss songs from their extensive repertoire and we have no doubt that it will be a very enjoyable evening.

The City Swiss Club is very anxious that the members of the Colony should turn up in great numbers to greet our compatriots, who have, through their fine singing received such a warm and hearty reception by the English Public.

In order to allow the Committee to make adequate arrangements it is necessary that tickets should be applied for at the latest on Tuesday, March 9th noon, from members of the Committee or at the Offices of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2 (Tel: Clerkenwell 9595-9596). (Price of ticket 6/6 for dinner).

After having paid some very kind compliments to the Ladies and the official visitors she resumed her seat amongst much clapping.

Mr. H. Boy suitably replied to the Toast.

The last official Toast "The Symphonic Social Choir" was proposed by the President, Mr. T. F. Swan, who was accorded a hearty ovation on rising from his "Fautenil Presidentiel."

He gave a short resumé of the work of the Choir during the last two years, he mentioned that two Charity Concerts were held which realised an amount of £82 which sum was given in equal parts to the Charing Cross and German Hospitals. He also enlarged on the success of the "Weinlesefest," Carnival Dances and the visit of the German Choir from the Rhineland.

The speaker paid a great tribute to the conductor of the Choir, Mr. E. A. Seymour, F.R.C.O., and his assistant, who both are working very hard to improve the Choir.

He also thanked the members, who have supported him in his endeavours, asking them to give him their help also in the future.

After having given praise to the Management of the Swiss Club for their continued hospitality, the Steward and Stewardess for their culinary efforts and the band for their excellent music, he asked the company to rise from their seats and drink to the health and prosperity of the Symphonic Social Choir.

Mr. Swan's oration was warmly acknowledged.

Mr. G. Koch acted throughout the dinner as toastmaster with great efficiency.

The banquetting Hall was then cleared, and the second part of the evening began.

A small orchestra, consisting of members of the choir played a selection of English old-time songs, German folk songs and dance music, and let it be said that they were good musicians, no one could resist dancing to their lively tunes.

It goes without saying that a Choir should sing, I was looking forward to this item with great anticipation, and I am glad to say I was not disappointed.

The Choir, which is a mixed one, sang Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's "Abschied vom Walde" with great feeling, and in fine style.

The "Tanzlied" "Rüdesheimer Wein" from Morley went with a swing in more than one way, for a moment I did not know whether I was swaying or the Choir, but on having rubbed my eyes, I found that it was the singers, for which I was truly thankful. Even my friend, the conductor was swaying in rhythm with the tune, I could hardly believe my eyes as hitherto I have known him as a very earnest and sedate conductor. Before, I could count ten the whole audience was swaying to that alluring tune, and following suite I nearly fell into the lap of a lady nearby, only the helping hand of a friend at hand saved me from disaster.

I much regretted that the time available did not allow for more songs, one could have listened for ever and ever, and could a greater compliment be paid to this excellent Choir!! Mr. Seymour truly deserved all that was said about him previously by the President.

Dancing then continued until nearly 2 a.m. and when "God Save the King" was played the revellers departed taking away with them the memory of having spent many happy hours. It was a fine evening which will be treasured for a long time by all who were present.

ST.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL. Annual Dinner and Dance.

The dinner and dance of the Swiss Club Liverpool, on Friday evening the 26th of February, 1937, was attended by about 60 members and friends and was enjoyed by all. The kitchen of the Bear's Paw Restaurant provided an excellent dinner, the speeches were short and this left plenty of time for the dance. It is hoped that the undoubted success of the evening will encourage the President and the Committee of the Swiss Club Liverpool to re-establish this function as an annual one.

The President Mr. L. C. Comte presided and proposed the loyal toast, which the company supported by singing the national anthem.

The Consul (Mr. E. Montag) had charge of the toast of the President of the Swiss Confederation and referred to the fact that Mr. G. Motta had completed 25 years of distinguished service as Federal Councillor. He said that by his long service he must surely be reckoned as one of the most experienced statesmen of Europe. Our Minister in London at the City Swiss Club dinner reminded us that Switzerland was a democracy when there was no such thing elsewhere in Europe. But our liberty, a priceless possession had to be fought for by a number of very hard generations and their reputation in the Middle Ages was that of a proud, mighty and resolute military race. Contrast with this the declaration of perpetual neutrality which we undertake to defend ourselves at the Congress of Vienna. The dangers of our time can best be met by sticking firmly to our principles.

The President then proposed the toast of the Guests, which he enlivened by two good stories.

He recorded with regret that our Minister in London was not able to accept our invitation and then read the telegraphic message he had sent conveying his good wishes and patriotic greetings for which we are grateful to him. The presence of our Consul in Manchester Dr. A. Schedler and Mme. Schedler was handsomely acknowledged as an act of friendship highly appreciated by all.

The Swiss Clubs in Manchester and Birmingham sent us their Presidents Mr. Kübler and Mr. Brun. There were some other friends we would have liked to have had with us, but for good reasons they could not come.

Dr. A. Schedler replied for the guests and he expressed his pleasure that the Swiss Club Liverpool had come to life. After that the dancing set in, with a good swing till midnight.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a Dinner and Dance, arranged by the above Club, which will take place on Saturday, March 13th, at the Mayfair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

The Committee of the City Swiss Club heartily invites the members and their friends to attend this Dance. (Tickets can be obtained from members of the Committee, or at the Office of the Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. Tel: Clerkenwell 9595-9596.)

GROTRIAN HALL
Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

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(CONTRALTO)
SONG RECITAL
Friday, March 19th

at
8.30 p.m.
First Appearance in England.

At the Piano :
GEORGE REEVES
Grotrian Steinweg Pianoforte

TICKETS (Including Tax) : Reserved 9/-, 6/- and 4/6, Unreserved 5/- may be obtained from Grotrian Hall Box Office, usual Agents, and of THE IMPERIAL CONCERT AGENCY, Empire House, 175, Piccadilly, W.1. (Telephone : Regent 4441).