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Swiss Orchestral Society

and

Swiss Accordion Club Concert

at QUEEN MARY HALL (Y.W.C.A.)

on Wednesday, March 29th, 1939.

"Full House," — this was the notice which greeted me on my arrival at Queen Mary Hall on Wednesday, March 29th, and whilst I was very glad to see the endeavours of the organisers so splendidly rewarded, I could not help feeling sorry for all those who did not book their tickets before, and thus had to leave without gaining admittance.

I am sure that I am on safe ground if I state, that never before has it happened, that such a notice has had to be displayed at a Concert arranged by the Swiss Orchestral Society. Well over a hundred would-be concert-goers were disappointed, so this may be perhaps a small consolation to all those who were caught "napping" this time.

If we try to analyse this phenomenal happening, which even surprised the two Societies who had arranged the concert, we can attribute same to various factors.

First and foremost the large attendance of nearly four hundred persons was, no doubt due, to the fact that our compatriots felt the urge, dictated by the present serious political situation, to come into closer contact with each other, and to prove to our English friends that our Colony is a united one, ever willing to live up to our national motto: "Un pour tous, tous pour un."

Secondly, I consider that the choosing of the programme was a happy one, there was something provided for every taste. In giving the Swiss Accordion Club an opportunity to perform before a large audience, the Swiss Orchestral Society has followed a wise policy, there are a good many people, who, although they like music do not appreciate the more classical, or what they often quite wrongly call "high brow" music, and giving them a spoonful of both they were both pleased and satisfied.

Thirdly, in choosing a soloist who was a fine interpreter of our simple and unassuming folk lore the orchestra scored again.

There might be some minor factors responsible too for a larger attendance, such as a more central position of the concert hall, the appeal which the conductor, Mr. E. P. Dick, made in the columns of this paper, and the sending out beforehand of the programmes, so that everybody knew what was in store for them.

Judging, from the tremendous applause which greeted every item, the audience seemed to enjoy the very generous programme which was placed before them, and it seems to me almost futile to voice any criticism; if, nevertheless, I venture to make a few remarks I do so in no vindictive way nor to belittle the achievements of the various performers, bearing fully in mind, that with one exception, they were amateurs.

Personally, I would have liked to hear more of the orchestra, they had alloted a very liberal span of time both to the accordion club and to the soloist. Whilst, I greatly enjoyed the playing of that club which consists of mostly very young members, too much of a good thing tends to become in the end just a little monotonous. Accordions have, of course, a much more restricted field of action than say violins, cellos, brass and wind instruments.

The same applies to a performance of "Volkslieder," these mostly are in a sentimental strain and thus often sound much of a muchness.

If on a future occasion the equilibrium of the programme could be slightly more balanced, the performance would gain still further without impeding the value of the performers. —

The programme was opened by the orchestra, numbering well over thirty players, with the "Raymond" Overture by Thomas, which was played in a very lively manner and with perfect unison. It was followed by a Dance tune "In the Shadows" by Fink, a tune which cannot fail to please when it is played with so much understanding and beauty of tone, as was displayed by the performers.

The next two numbers brought the accordion players on to the platform. Much to my shame I must confess that it was the first time I had heard this club which consists of sixteen players of both sexes.

They played "The March of the Accordionists" with much gusto, the next item played was "Heinzelmännchens Wachtparade" a very pleasant melody, the little nervousness in the beginning of the performance soon disappeared, and the hearty applause which they earned on the conclusion was well deserved. Mr. A. Gandon has the players well in hand and he was successful in bringing the finer point of the music well to the fore.

And then it was the turn of the only soloist of the evening, and when Mme. Aus-der-Au, dressed in the national costume of the canton of Schaffhausen made her appearance she received a hearty and spontaneous reception.

Mme. Aus-der-Au sang three Yodelsongs, called "Schwyzerländli isch nur chli" by J. C. Willi, "s'Bergliedli" and "s'Mündschi" both set to music by herself.

What struck me most was the fine diction of our dialect, and the pleasant voice in which she sang some of those bright and also sad folk tunes. Her Yodle songs were enthusiastically applauded. In all her songs she put her innermost feelings thus creating the right "Stimmung" which these simple folk songs require. Songs like "s'lieb Muetterli" and "Es Gloggeglüt" came straight from the heart and went straight to the heart of the audience. The humour with which she sang "s'Mündschi" (a kiss) was refreshing and earned her an almost riotious applause. There is no doubt that Mme. Aus-der-Au is one of our foremost interpreters of Swiss folklore, in addition she has a pleasing appearance which is an asset too.

The first part of the programme finished with Toselli's "Serenata" played by a Quartette of the Accordionists, it proved that apart from marches and "Ländlers" this Club can tackle music of a different calibre with equal success and the two Ladies and Gentlemen were rightly applauded for a very creditable performance. I much enjoyed Grolimund's "Waldnixlein" a delicate little piece well played.

After the interval, the orchestra opened the second part of the concert with the "Rienzi" Overture from Wagner, which was the *pièce de résistance* of the evening. Those who have any experience of playing in an amateur orchestra will agree with me that the "Rienzi" overture requires a certain standard from its players, and I am glad to say that the orchestra gave us a spirited and exceedingly competent rendering, the understanding between the conductor and his players was a remarkable feature, the same can also be said of the "Three Hungarian Dances" by Brahms with which the orchestra finished the programme.

The performance of the Accordion Club in the second half of the programme was equally as enjoyable as in the first half, and Mr. A. Gandon, who is himself an expert accordion player is heartily to be congratulated on the remarkable success which he has achieved in a relatively short time.

Mme. Aus-der-Au enhanced her reputation still further in the second part of the programme, and if it was the first time that we have heard and seen this charming artiste we hope it will not be the last, she has given us a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment, and has brought us for a few happy moments nearer to our country for which we are grateful to her.

It would be ungrateful not to pay a special tribute to the conductor of the Orchestra, Mr. E. P. Dick, who has worked tremendously hard to make this Concert a success, and I feel sure that everybody present will agree with me that he has succeeded in providing the colony with an enjoyable evening. It is now practically twenty years since Mr. Dick took up his baton, and it is a most befitting moment that he should have been able to witness such a numerous attendance. We might mention that Madame Paravicini and Mlle. L. Paravicini honoured the concert with their presence.

And now we are looking forward to the next combined Concert, giving the organisers already now the promise that we shall all be there.

ST.

EASTER 1939.

By KYBURG.

—

"Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

Jesus answered him, if I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why smitest thou me?"

(St. John, XVIII, v. 20-23).

Peace and *Good-will* among mankind are desired by all peoples in Europe and all over the world. The people wish to live happily, their own lives perhaps following slightly different rituals all tending, however, towards the same goal "happiness."

Apart from very few mentally deranged men and women — the war-mongers, the embittered ones, the revengful ones, the thwarted ones and those who would sell their kin to earn a profit — all want *Peace* to enable them to further their social conditions, ameliorate the future of their children, find sanctuary for their own old age.

And yet, *Peace*, i.e. living in harmony with each other, without covetting each other's chattel, without stealing from each other, but helping one's neighbour, supporting him in his difficulties, loving him as a brother and enjoying the *abundance* which good mother Earth provides for all, — *Peace* stands on a precarious pedestal and is being assailed from all sides.

Who is against *Peace*? All those who, blinded by their own intolerance, their own righteousness, their own inability of faith in others, because they have no faith in themselves, shout angrily, each time someone comes forward with some proposal for putting *Peace* on a sounder pedestal. "Are these proposals to be put before the highest sacrificial sovereign? By which is meant "*The world.*" —

The trouble is that the various Nations are each blessed with a Government and that the latter thinks that the safety and interests of its own particular nation is its foremost task. Granted, in a way. But they forget, or nearly all of them forget, that that aim can be achieved *only* if the safety and interests of the other Nations, all of them, are also considered and secured.

Lip-service has been paid to the ideal of a League of Nations. Half-hearted attempst have been made to translate some of the major aspirations of that League into reality. Such attempts have failed, because the peoples of the various nations have not understood the full implication of the League Covenant.

You cannot have a League of Nations between States enjoying full and separate sovereignty.

A "league" means a banding together. As in private life you cannot be a true friend unless you surrender something of your own personality to your friend, as you cannot be a partner unless you surrender something you had into the partnership, so it is not possible for Nations to band together without surrendering some of the exclusivity of their status as individual Nations.

The case of our dear Switzerland, as a small League of Nations, has been cited *ad nauseam*. Comparisons are always distasteful and often deceitful. But, unless the peoples of all nations realise that they cannot have *Peace* as long as they remain independent in the fullest sense of the word, that they cannot have a League of Nations, unless the *League* is *Above* the individual nations, *Peace* will be but an aspiration.

Instead, therefore, of slapping the face of anyone who proposes some measure which, in time, might lead to such a *League* in which the individual Nations play their part, but are conscious that their individual interests come *After* and not *Before* the interests of the *League*, it would be better if we tried the old way and followed the old exhortation, to fall in with our adversary when he is in the mood!

At Easter-Time it is always easier to *Hope*, than at other periods of the year. Nature awakens, Spring flowers greet us, the message of ressurection gladdens our hearts.

We who grow older, who have suffered, whose heart, at times, have been seared by grievous losses of beloved ones, or who, in younger years, have made mistakes for which we now atone, we realise that *Life* has to be lived to its appointed end. But we also realise, dimly and incompletely perhaps, that Ressurection, the feast we celebrate

at Easter is a very real thing and that our life, however unimportant we may think it is, yet forms a small link in the endless chain of human endeavour and evolution and as such is as indestructible as is the yearly recurring wonder of Easter.

And when the Founder of our Religion says "Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard!" Let us turn our thoughts towards our innermost heart and listen to the voice therein which says

YOU HAVE HEARD!

And so, I wish our Readers a very happy Easter and hope that they may yet live to see the day when *Peace* becomes a reality.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Watchmaking Trade at the Swiss National Exhibition.

If it could be ascertained which high grade Swiss product enjoys a universal reputation it would almost surely be found that the majority of votes would go to the Swiss Watch. The watchmaking trade, mainly at home in the big Jurassian villages and the towns on the skirts of the Jura, has made the name of Switzerland and the finest achievements of Swiss precision work known all over the world.

In the Swiss National Exhibition at Zurich (May 6th to October 29th, 1939) the Swiss watchmaking trade will be allocated a place of honour. After passing through the "Land and People" section of the Exhibition we arrive at a simple pavilion, possessing, however, an air of distinction, surmounted by a light belfry. But the trade will likewise occupy a special position: the thematic principles which govern the whole Exhibition are here abandoned, and the 44 most important firms are able to display their specialities and finest products in their own showcases. This was, indeed, the only way to obtain a representative display. The historical review on the ground floor of the methods of measuring time since antiquity and the highly interesting survey of the development of Swiss watchmaking will, however, be thematic.

In order to appreciate these fine works of art the visitor must give his whole attention to them and not allow himself to be distracted by something else. For this reason the exhibition architecture in this section has been placed unreservedly at the service of the exhibits, which are displayed to the best advantage in the dim light of the upper stories in showcases carefully kept apart from one another. But the watch and clock pavilion of the Swiss National Exhibition will not be a mere "utility" building. The frescoes of the well-known west Swiss painter, A. Blanchet, will adorn the ground floor and the façade will be decorated with the sign of the zodiac by the Geneva enamel industry.

The most powerful locomotive in the world.

One of the chief sights of the Swiss National Exhibition at Zurich (May 6th to October 29th, 1939) will be the gigantic new locomotive of the Swiss Federal Railway which is now rapidly approaching completion. Its 12,000 h.p. (6,000 h.p. per unit) will give it twice the power of the biggest American railway engines. The weight of the most powerful of these, 220 tons, is only 24 t. below that of the new Swiss engine intended for the St. Gotthard line. King Boris of Bulgaria, on the occasion of his recent stay at a Swiss winter sports centre, availed himself of the opportunity of inspecting this coming electric marvel in the works. This brilliant achievement of Swiss engine-building and imposing exhibit of the Swiss National Exhibition will soon be placed in its finished state in the section "Switzerland, the World's Holiday Place," of the National Exhibition.

MORGENLIED.

Wir denken junger Tage:
Wie blüht der Jahre junger Mut!
"Was in dir wogt, das wage!"
Das Wagen, das war gut.

"Ein Herz in Einem Bunde!
Ob welsch, ob deutsch: Mein Eidgenoss!"
Wie das zu guter Stunde
Durch Mark und Adern schoss!

Bald blitzt die Welt in Waffen
Und wankend stürzte Wand um Wand ...
Uns galt nur: stehn und schaffen,
Heil blieb das Heimatland.

Das Kreuz auf unsern Fahnen
Strahlt Segen über alle Welt ...
Dank dir, du Land der Ahnen,
Wir baun dein Ackerfeld.

Und leuchten überm Pfluge
Frührot und lieber Abendstern,
Steigt unser Lied im Fluge
Zu unserm Einen Herrn.

"Sieh, Herr, wir baun und warten-
Alle, die guten Willens sind-
In deinem schönen Garten,
Dein dankbar Jngesind."

Gottfried Bohnenblust.

VISIT OF PROF. DR. A. LATT, ZURICH.

We have great pleasure in informing the Colony that Prof. Dr. A. Latt will give a lecture on Friday, April 14th, at 8 o'clock, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London W.C.1. on: *"Switzerland and the Present European Crisis."* Admission Free.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique, London Group
A. Fred. Suter,
President.

A DEMENTI.

On Sunday last a notice appeared in the "Sunday Times" that a Swiss Air Liner, on landing, over-shot the landing ground, colliding with a house nearby.

We are authorised to state that nothing is known of such an occurence by the Swissair officials in Croydon, and thus the statement which appeared in the "Sunday Times" is not according to facts.

TO OUR READERS.

The Editor of the Swiss Observer would be greatly obliged if readers would supply him with addresses of likely subscribers, so that specimen copies could be posted to them.

If such addresses supplied should be already included on our mailing list, no extra copies would be sent.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE

aura lieu Mercredi le 19 Avril au local du Club, Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un dîner à 7h. 15 très précises (prix 5/-).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

- Procès-verbal.
- Admissions.
- Démissions.
- Rapport du Comité.
- Rapport du Vérificateurs des comptes.
- Election du Comité.
- Election des Vérificateurs des Comptes.
- Election des Fidei-commissaires du Club-House Fund.
- Press reporter.
- Réunion d'été.
- Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 2321/2).

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

ENGLISH COURSES by teacher of languages, also pension. C. Kaeser-Jay, 1293, London Road, Norbury, S.W.16.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, April 12th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — Monthly Meeting — followed by a Social Evening, at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Thursday, April 13th, at 7 p.m.—Swiss Y.M.C.A. — Lecture by Mr. W. Gysler, on "Die Bedeutung der gegenwärtigen Zustände in der Welt." Matth. 16. 3. & 3, at "Westgate House," 28-29, Bedford Place, W.C.1. "All young Swiss invited."

Friday, April 14th at 8 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Lecture by Prof. Dr. A. Latt, from Zurich, on "Switzerland and the present European Crisis," at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1 (small Hall).

Wednesday, April 19th — City Swiss Club — Annual General Meeting (preceded by dinner at 7 p.m.) at Pagani's Restaurant, W.1. (See advertisement.)

Friday, April 21st at 7.45 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting — at "Swiss House," 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

Saturday, June 3rd, at 2.45 p.m. — Swiss Sports and Garden Party — at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds, Burbage Road, S.E.24.

Thursday, June 15th — "70ème Fête Suisse," at Central Hall, Westminster.

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"Venir se ne dee giu tra' miei Meschini." Dante. Inferno. C. xxvii.

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Vendredi-Saint, 7 avril 1939:

11h. Culte et Cène, avec soliste. M. M. Pradervand.

Pâques, dimanche 9 avril 1939:

11h. Culte et Cène, avec solistes. M. M. Pradervand. Pas d'école du dimanche.
7h. Culte et Cène, avec le concours du Choeur. M. M. Pradervand.

Lundi de Pâques. Course à Caterham. Rendez-vous à 10h.15, London Bridge Station (low level). Invitation à chacun.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. M. Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003) Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(Near General Post Office, St. Paul's and Aldersgate Street Tube Stations (Central London and Metropolitan).

Karfreitag, den 7. April vormittags 11h.

Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl, Pfr. E. Bommeli. Mitwirkung des Kirchenchors.

Kein Abendgottesdienst.

Ostersonntag, den 9. April, vormittags 11h.

Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl, Solovortag, Pfr. E. Bommeli.

7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl, Pfr. E. Bommeli.

Mitwirkung des Kirchenchors.

N.B. Wir machen darauf aufmerksam, dass am Ostermontag ein Ausflug der Töchter des Schwyzerchränzli, zusammen mit den welschschweizerischen Kameradinnen stattfindet. Reiseziel: Caterham, Sammlung: London Bridge Station 10.15 a.m., Abfahrt 10.30 a.m. Billette werden am besten im voraus bei Frau Meylan, 15 Bedford Way, bestellt. Freundliche Einladung an Alle.

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