

Albert Ferber at the Wigmore Hall

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NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE

Es ischt öpis ganz bsunders wenme z'London uf English iglade wört amene Vortrag zuozhöre über "Zürütütsch vo hüt i' dr englische Sprooch, vomena Schwyzer wo Professor ischt d' dr Manchester Universität. Aber daas Vergnüege hemer gha am 18. Christmonet im Swiss Hostel for Girls, Belsize Grove, wenn de Herr Professor R. E. Keller under anderem a Gschichtli im Züri Dialekt vorglese het wo vom Traugott Vogel gschriebe worden ischt.

Professor Keller first gave a brief survey of Swiss dialect writers and literature. Although Swiss "Mundsprache" and written language were probably nearer each other in the past than today, "Swiss" is today almost entirely an oral language. Few of those who speak it would be able to write in it. It is therefore not only interesting, but from the home-cultural point of view highly desirable, that more writers actually write in the one or other of our dialects. Languages are living manifestations and are apt to change. The Swiss, of course, since they use Hoch-Deutsch — as writing language and listen to Bühnendeutsch (Stage German) on the Radio and elsewhere, are liable to have their own "Mundart" diluted with High-German words. A similar integration, if one can call it so, takes place amongst the various dialects themselves though, even as was noted by some of the listeners to Prof. Keller, slight divergencies in the enunciation of "Züridütsch" even between Zürcher and Winterthurer could be noted still.

The reading of a piece from Traugott Vogel's "Taitli Liebi" by Prof. Keller beautifully rounded off an exceedingly interesting as well as entertaining performance. "Viele Dank und uf Wiederhöre" Herr Professor.

J.H.B.

ALBERT FERBER AT THE WIGMORE HALL

Our compatriot Albert Ferber has a reputation of being a specialist in French music. This was proved once more when, by request, he gave the opening recital of the London Pianoforte Series on Sunday, 6th January. The first part of the concert, however, was devoted to Viennese Classics and opened with Haydn's Fantasy in C major. Whilst I would not go as far as the critic in the "Times" who called it "a graceless and perfunctory performance", I felt that the playing had an angry touch about it and lacked the easy grace one associates with Haydn.

There is no doubt that Mr. Ferber has a highly intellectual approach in his interpretation and I felt that Beethoven's rarely played but very fine Variations in F major, Op. 34 suited this inclination better than most Beethoven works I have heard him perform, and the result was most rewarding.

Schubert's Sonata in C minor, Op. Posth., rounded off the first part of the concert and it was a pleasingly impressive performance.

The second half of the recital gave full scope to Mr. Ferber's abilities. The lovely *Nocturne* and exciting *Impromptu* by Fauré were followed by two early pieces by Bartok, *Elégie* and Roumanian Dance, both interesting, and played with great understanding.

The concert ended with Ravel's *Oiseaux Tristes* (Miroirs No. 2) and *Alborada del Gracioso* (Miroirs No. 4). The former was an expressive study in sadness delicately executed, and the latter showed up the brilliant technique at Mr. Ferber's command.

The two encores put the final touch to the splendid collection. Debussy's *La Valse La Plus Que Lente*, showed some of the most tender and exquisite playing Mr. Ferber is capable of whilst the *Bourrée Phantasque* by Chabrier brought out the very best of his art. His playing is devoid of all false sentimentality, always clear and never messy.

I cannot but agree with the critic in the "Financial Times" who gave a most favourable write-up and at the same time forcefully expressed his regret that such an outstanding artist could not be heard in London more often.

Mariann.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Every Sunday 7 to 11 p.m. — The Swiss Catholic Youth Club — Social at Westminster Cathedral School, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1.

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Every Thursday, from 6 to 7.30 p.m. — Discussion Circle in English — Young men specially invited. Tea from 6 to 6.15 p.m. Swiss Y.M.C.A., London Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Great Russell Street, W.C.1.

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Every Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Unione Ticinese — meets at the Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. All Ticinese welcome. The "Corale" rehearses from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m. — Swiss Social Meeting at 2 Sussex Place, Widcombe, Bath.

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Every 1st Wednesday in the month — Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres — meeting at Swiss House, 35 Fitzroy Square, W.1, at 7 p.m.

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Saturday, 26th January 1963 — Swiss Mercantile Society — Annual Dinner and Dance at the Dorchester Hotel, W.1.

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Friday, 8th February 1963 — London Swiss Philatelic Society — Annual Dinner — Montana Hotel, S.W.7.

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Wednesday, 20th February, 7.15 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Swiss House, 34/35 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

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Wednesday, 8th May — FETE SUISSE at Central Hall, Westminster.