

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1962)
Heft: 1420

Artikel: Swiss news fromt the world of art : music
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694376>

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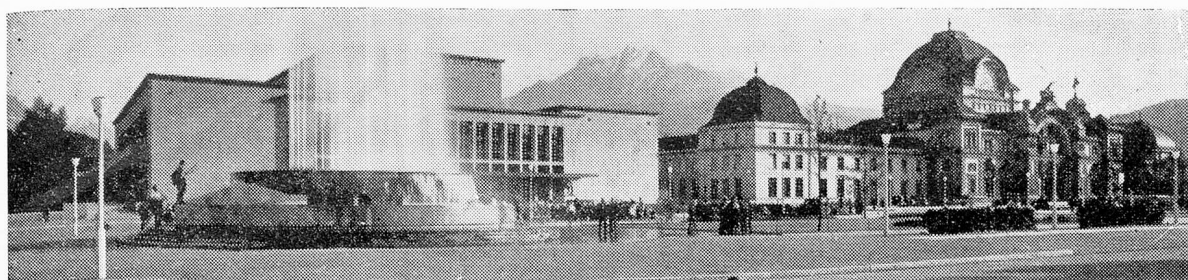
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Lucerne
Concert Hall
and Railway
Station.
(S.N.T.O.)

SWISS NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF ART: MUSIC

No doubt, this subject could be illustrated very attractively had one but the money to pay for the photograph blocks. But when talking about Swiss music it is quite fitting to show this photo (the block of which has kindly been supplied as so often by the Swiss National Tourist Office). For the Kunsthhaus in Lucerne has become a well-respected international centre of music during the "Festival Weeks" every summer.

This year, the Festival opened on 15th August with a symphony concert at which Rafael Kubelik conducted the Festival Orchestra, to which belong of the best-known Swiss musicians. Every year distinguished conductors and soloists from all over the world are invited, and orchestras of repute. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and, for the first time this year, the Orchestre Philharmonique de la RTF (Paris) took part. Next year, when the Festival will celebrate its silver jubilee, the Philharmonia Orchestra (London) and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra will perform in Lucerne.

Between mid-August and 10th September twenty-seven concerts were given, chamber music performances, recitals, master classes, and two open-air serenades (Collegium Musicum, Zurich, under Paul Sacher) at the foot of the Lion memorial. Church music was performed in the Hofkirche.

Apart from well-beloved classical music, several new works were introduced. "The Times" reviewed some of them very favourably in September, Bartok's oratorical one-act opera, "Bluebeard's Castle", and four first performances of chamber music, amongst them the Swiss composers Hermann Haller and Albert Moeschinger. The Editor had the privilege of attending the symphony concert at which George Szell conducted Sir William Walton's Partita for orchestra, a remarkable performance, though the highlight at that concert was no doubt Brahms' First Symphony, the most superbly dramatic rendering of the last movement she had ever witnessed.

One of the first performances which created a great deal of interest was Rafael Kubelik's "Requiem pro memoria Uxoris", also reviewed in "The Times" in August.

In 1956 the Festival Strings gave their first concert in Lucerne, at which their founders, Wolfgang Schneiderhahn and Rudolf Baumgartner, took part as soloists. The "Strings" have become perhaps the most outstanding group of the whole Festival. Some of the world's most distinguished artists have played with this string *ensemble* of soloists, and the "Festival Strings" have given successful concerts in many countries including the USA and Canada. In May they played at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Amongst other Swiss artists who have won admira-

tion abroad is the musical director of the Basle Municipal Theatre, Silvio Varviso, who appeared at the Glyndebourne Opera. He was also invited by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to conduct "The Rosenkavalier" by Richard Strauss before going to the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The Conductor, Peter Maag, took part in the Florence and Salzburg Festivals, then went on a successful tour in Japan before going to the USA.

Erich Schmid, the leader of the Zurich Radio Orchestra, conducted the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin at a performance of the epic oratorium "Thyl Claes" by Wladimir Vogel (Ascona) in which the Zurich "Kammersprechchor" took part.

The mixed choir of Zurich, again under Erich Schmid, performed with great success Willy Burkhard's "The Year" at the Music Festival in Strasbourg. Twenty young musicians of the chamber orchestra "Pro Musica" St. Gall started their ten days' tour of the Grisons and several towns in Italy, where they gave concerts in aid of Tibetan refugees. Finally Rudolf Serkin, who played Schubert's "Wanderer Fantasy" at the Festival Hall on 25th October, was acclaimed by "The Times" reviewer as "complete a musician as any in the world".

Amongst foreign artists who performed in Switzerland were the members of the "Mozarteum" Salzburg. These master pupils gave concerts in Zurich and Geneva under the Salzburg Academy's Director, Prof. Kurt Leimer. In Lausanne an Italian Opera Festival took place. One of the great artists who performed in Switzerland was Yehudi Menuhin, who gave no fewer than eight concerts at the Gstaad Festival. This has become quite a feature. In the Engadine, too, concert weeks took place in eight well-known holiday resorts with some sixteen musical events in 4½ weeks.

The Music Weeks of Ascona have again produced performances on a high level with several well-known orchestras. The opening concert was in honour of Rousseau and took place on one of the idyllic Brissago Islands. It was indeed a surprise to many to learn that Rousseau had also been a composer. The Philharmonic Orchestra from Belgrade played Prokofieff's Violin Concerto op. 62 (soloist Branko Pajevic), "Daphne and Chloe" by Ravel and Beethoven's Fifth.

The Czech choir, "Ondras", who were to have given several concerts in Switzerland were not given permission by the Federal Authorities to enter Switzerland on account of the trial of Czech spies in Switzerland. It was felt such concerts would have been an unwise manifestation.

In Geneva the annual international music competitions took place from 22nd September to 6th October. In the

twenty-three competitions held since 1934 well over 4,600 young artists from more than sixty countries have taken part. This year 315 applications were received. One of the pieces set was a wind quintet by Robert Suter (Basle); eighteen ensembles applied with a total of five women and eighty-five men. The Orchestre de la Suisse Romande supported the successful candidates in the final concert. It is interesting to note that among the prize-winners figured young people from Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Japan.

"Les Jeunesses Musicales", which aim at fostering musical life especially in the country, arranged a tour of fourteen concerts for one of the winners. "Les Jeunesses Musicales", under their Central President, Mrs. Marguerite de Reding, Berne, are a very active cultural group, nationally and internationally.

Another group of music lovers was founded in August, "Camerata Zurich", whose object is the support of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra. The Cantonal Church of Zurich has created a new Institute for Church Music. It has two departments, one for church community singing and the other for choir and solo singing (Kantorenschule).

Early in the summer, Basle celebrated the Honegger Festival in Honour of Arthur Honegger, the famous Swiss composer who died in Paris in 1955. Nine concert and theatre performances took place. The symphonic psalm "King David" was performed in the Cathedral, under Dr. Hans Muench. His operette, "The Adventures of King Pausole", was also presented.

"Ten Centuries of Church Music in Switzerland" was the title of an exhibition arranged at the Berne Art and Craft Museum on the occasion of the Second International Congress for Church Music. The first congress had taken place in Berne ten years ago, and the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches co-operated in this venture, supported by the Federal Government, Canton and Town of Berne. Many artists of church music as well as sacred music historians of many countries and denominations assembled. From London six members of the Ambrosian Singers took part under British Council auspices. Many fields were covered, widely differing as organ building, hymnology, new forms of worship, etc. Concerts were given, one of them from the tower of the Cathedral. Church services of all denominations included special *musica sacra*. Lectures and symposiums were organised. The Swiss composer Frank Martin's oratorium, "Le Mystère de la Nativité", was one of the highlights of the Congress. Modern church music was allotted a special place. Hans Huber's oratorium, "Soliloquia", was given a first performance. A magnificent concert conducted by Luc Balmer at the Cathedral brought a noteworthy congress to a close.

Mariann.

(Some of the news items by A.T.S.)

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

Tuesday, 13th November 1962, at 7.45 p.m.

OPEN MEETING

DR. E. FROELICH

will speak on

"Progress of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad"

Refreshments are available as usual before the meeting from 6.45 p.m. onwards

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

Amongst the deaths recently reported from Switzerland were the following:

Ernst Morgenthaler (Zurich) at the age of 75, a well-known painter;

Louis Moillet (Vevey) at the age of 82, another painter and well known for his church window panes;

Adolf Schaer-Ris (73) at Langnau (BE), a writer and historian;

Robert Boetschi, Swiss Consul-General in Leopoldville and Brazzaville (53);

Emil Zweidler, Central President of the Schweizerischer Samariterbund;

Kaspar Roth-Keller (80), famous mountain guide veteran from Meiringen;

Jakob Hegner (81), publisher, who lived in London during the war;

National Councillor Paul Frainier from Lausanne (52).

The following university professors died recently:

Edmond Privat (73), Geneva, member of the Swiss delegation to the League of Nations Assembly 1923-1927, co-founder of Radio Geneva, historian and writer, expert on Esperanto;

Henri Spinner (87), Neuchâtel, botanist and politician;

Charles Burky (75), Geneva, economist and expert on anthropo-geography;

Eugène Urech (66), La Sarraz (Vaud), surgeon and professor at Lausanne University;

Raymond Saenger (67), Zurich, physicist at ETH (Federal University of Technology), expert on ballistics, editor of the magazine for applied mathematics and physics;

Louis Locher-Ernst (56), mathematician, Director of the Technikum Winterthur, who lost his life in a mountaineering accident.

The death of three centenarians is announced:

Albin Frey (100), the oldest inhabitant of Winterthur;

Susanna Haegni-Pletscher (102), oldest inhabitant of Staefa;

Lina Beck-Pflugshaupt (104), from Burgdorf.

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT GIVING

Give and be thankful that you may give.

He who knows how heavy a refused gift weighs can also accept.

To live means exchange: the more a man gives and takes, the more intensively he lives.

He who can give of himself cannot be humiliated by any present.

Thank God if you can give and beg of Him people to whom you may give.

Never consider yourself too rich to take and never too poor to give.

Anna Luise Ulrich.

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