

Modern Swiss music

Autor(en): **P.M.B.**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1975)**

Heft 1705

PDF erstellt am: **21.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687791>

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R.-M. Zumofen, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Glarner and Messrs. Ch. Hill, W. Lockyer and L. Smith. All the parcels in the Greater London area were again distributed personally and these visits were much appreciated.

Our contributions towards holidays are down this year, mainly because a number of the older pensioners do not wish to stay away from home any more and at the most go for day-outings. Contributions to these are quite naturally less costly than a real holiday. However, these holidays are not reserved entirely to the elderly and we can also consider applications from younger people who are in need of a break.

Help for children's holidays in Switzerland, mainly under the Pro-Juventute scheme was given to 14 youngsters. This is a significant drop from the previous year, due entirely to the smaller number of applications received as we were able to accede to all requests for support.

Repatriations no longer form part of our duties. With the new Law on Assistance to the Swiss Abroad which came into force on the 1st January 1974, it became obvious that our handling of this matter would only duplicate with the work that the Embassy has to do in this respect and whilst we are still at their disposal, should there be any need for our intervention, it was decided that the routine could be handled more efficiently by one body only.

This new law is an interesting innovation from two points of view. The first is that all assistance given to Swiss people living abroad is now concentrated in the hands of one central organisation. This eliminates the differences and discrepancies which occurred when help was granted by cantons and communes to their citizens and it greatly speeds up the treatment of each application. The second important point is that the law can provide help in some cases when people are in receipt of assistance from the host country and even forsee preventive measures. During the course of the year, we have assisted a number of clients in making their application through the Embassy and in the cases known to us, the response has been both rapid and adequate. It is also worth noting that, when the law was in preparation, a draft was submitted to the Swiss welfare organisations abroad for their comment.

Some rooms in the house at Conway Street are let, mainly to youngsters, and the general running of the place and dealing with the various problems that crop up in a community where people of different outlooks and temperaments live under the same roof takes up a great deal of time and, not infrequently, patience.

Our property at Belsize Grove, housing the Swiss Hostel for Girls, needed

substantial repairs during the course of the year.

The Executive Committee met regularly once a month to deal with the applications for help and other business. In May, Mr. and Mrs. F. Adams invited us to their home and again in December, the meeting was held at Asmara Road, this time unfortunately by way of a goodbye celebration. We extend our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Adams, not only for the two pleasant evenings and the splendid dinners, but for giving us the occasion to meet outside the formal surroundings of the office and we wish them all the very best in their new post.

The relations with the Welfare Office for Swiss Girls continue to be most pleasant and beneficial to both organisations. We particularly wish to thank Miss R.-M. Zumofen, the social worker, for a most agreeable collaboration.

Mrs. M. Lyster again did the relief work during Mrs. Sharp's holidays and we thank her for her efficient help.

We very much regret to have to report the death of two of the most faithful former members of the Executive Committee. Mr. J. Zimmermann, Secretary to the Society from 1952 to 1968 and member of the Committee for many more years, died in August and Mr. G. Godet passed away in December at La Neuveville, having retired from the Executive Committee earlier in the year. Both men were in close touch with our clients, Mr. Zimmermann through his function and Mr. Godet through his faithful visiting. They and the Society have a great debt of gratitude towards them.

We are grateful to our Honorary President, His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. A. Weitnauer for his continued support and the interest he has shown in our activities. The Embassy were represented at our Executive Meetings by the Counsellor, Dr. B. von Tschärner and the Consul-General, M. F. Adams.

We also wish to thank all those who have supported us in our work during the course of the year: the Swiss Federal Authorities, the Swiss Embassy in London, the Swiss Churches, the Swiss Societies in London, the *Swiss Observer*, our Honorary Auditors, English social workers of both private and statutory bodies and quite particularly the many individual friends and supporters on whose interest and contributions we depend more than ever. Last but not least, we thank the British Authorities for their hospitality and assistance.

To terminate, we wish to thank our Social Worker and Secretary, Mrs. A.-R. Sharp, for the way in which she has carried out her manifold tasks.

On behalf of the Executive Committee
M. Schneebeli, President

MODERN SWISS MUSIC

A concert of modern Swiss music was given at London's Cockpit Theatre on 19th March by the British Ensemble "Dreamtiger" with the Swiss pianist, Lise Martine Jeanneret performing as soloist. "Modern" would certainly appear to be an understatement and the term "music" hardly appropriate. Most of the works given in British première were more aptly described as a succession of disconnected and haphazard noises produced by various instruments — piano, cello, flute and saxophone — invariably used in the wrong way. I would say that the pianist used the keyboard for about a quarter of her stint. Most of the time she was perched fully extended (she was indeed quite small) over the strings of her grand piano, scratching and plucking them with a variety of implements ranging from a comb to a wooden stick.

Miss Jeanneret also resorted to a sheet of paper to produce weird staccato sounds from the instrument, above which towered two large microphones. With the help of electronic interference and the production of ghoulish sounds monitored from a console by the main composer, Mr. Erid Gaudibert — she was able to act as a symphony orchestra all by herself.

Similar, though less ambitious noises were produced by the wind instrumentalists. A final piece called "Interno Inferno" by Jean Derbès was performed in darkness with the musicians moving about the stage in statuesque postures while the projectors flashed their lights on the audience. The music varied in rhythm and presumably in meaning. For one brief and hopeful moment, it took the accent of modern jazz and gave the uninitiated a moment of satisfaction.

But the *Financial Times'* music correspondent, whose account was the only one we saw in the national Press, was far from amused. He said that the works performed were utterly

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unadventurous and added stingingly that the British public had missed nothing having to wait for so long for a performance of Swiss contemporary music.

The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* correspondent, a German musicologist and ex-conductor, promised to write a scathing article and complain in no uncertain terms over the fact that the concert (the first of two at the Cockpit Theatre) should have been staged with Swiss taxpayer's money. It was in fact organised in collaboration with Pro-Helvetia and the cultural section of the Swiss Embassy.

Altogether 48 people attended the first performance, and a good two-thirds of them seemed to have been invited. There would therefore be grounds to question the expenses incurred by Pro-Helvetia.

Most of the audience left the experimental hall with glazed eyes and air of incredulity on their faces. One should be fair, however, and accept that all the players, in particular Miss Jeanneret, played with utter dedication. What indeed matters is that the promoters of such music are sincere and not "con-artists".

At a reception given later by Mr. René Serex, Counsellor for Political Affairs at the Embassy and acting Cultural Attaché, following the departure of Mr. Franz Birrer, it was possible to gather from Mr. Gaudibert that he really was sincere. There was no reason not to believe him. After all, there is no money to be made in that type of music and one is more likely to be exposed to the jeers of a bewildered public. Mr. Gaudibert, who is in charge of musical activities at the Cultural Centre at Orleans, is genuinely looking for something but he admits smilingly that he doesn't quite know where his search is leading him. Still, the sincerity of its protagonists is the main criteria by which to gauge music of this kind.

This music is called "musique concrète" by the French and I understand that what was heard on 19th and 20th March at the Cockpit Theatre was in line with the works of Xenakis. Gaudibert was not the only modern Swiss composer represented at this two-day festival. Others included Klaus Huber, Ulrich Gasser, Heinz Marti, Roland Moser and two "classics", Arthur Honegger and Frank Martin.

P. M. B.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

The following readers will be celebrating birthdays soon:

Mr. Gottfried Keller, of Alte Landstrasse 43, 8700 Kuesnacht, will be 70 on 23rd April. He spent many years in Great Britain as a distinguished journalist, and he and Mrs. Keller retired to Switzerland a few years ago. We wish them many more years of happy retirement.

Mrs. W. Schedler will have her

birthday on 20th April, and Mr. E. Zwicky will be 78 on 22nd of the month. Mr. J. B. Brutsch will have his 86th birthday on 23rd April. Mr. F. Deleloye will be 88 on 26th and Mr. W. Zuber (Ventonor) 76 on 29th April. Mr. A. C. Boller (Saint-Prex) will have his 76th birthday on 8th May.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Bouverat will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on 23rd April, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Burri will have been married for 29 years on 2nd May.

Congratulations and best wishes all round!

OBITUARY

We have the sad duty of reporting the death of *Mrs. Emily Delaloye* at the age of 87. Mrs. Delaloye passed away on 11th February, at the home of her son, Marcel, where she and her husband, Mr. Fernand Delaloye, had been living for some months, eight days after returning from a stay in hospital. A memorial mass was celebrated at Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, at Heston, Isleworth, on Wednesday, 19th February. This was followed by a cremation service at Hanworth Cemetery. Mrs. Delaloye was born in England of Swiss parents. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in the colony and at the Schweizerbund. We should like to express our deepest sympathy to Mr. Fernand Delaloye, who only three years ago celebrated his diamond wedding. Mr. Delaloye now lives at 74 Cawdor Crescent, Hanwell, London W72DD. We should also like to extend our condolences to his children and grandchildren.

OTHER RECENT DEATHS

Mrs. Lucienne Raccoursier in Yverdon (Switzerland); Mr. & Mrs. Emile Geneux-Raccoursier in Chamblon (Switzerland); Mr. and Mrs. Michel Roch-Raccoursier in Geneva (Switzerland); Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Pfister-Raccoursier in Battersdorf (Switzerland) and their sons, Kurt and Eric; Mrs. Norma Pocock in Hooley, Coulsdon, Surrey, are announcing, with love and deepest regret, the death of Mr. Walter H. Ziereisen on February 1st, 1975, at his home, 2 St. Margaret's Road, Hooley, Coulsdon, Surrey, at the age of 72. The cremation took place on Monday, February 10th, at the Croydon Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations to the R.S.P.C.A., c/o 7 Churchlane Ave., Hooley, Coulsdon, Surrey.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY: Thursday, 24th April, Orchid Suite of the Dorchester Hotel: Annual General Meeting at 6.55 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m. The Duke of Grafton will speak on the

European Architectural Heritage Year and his talk will be illustrated by slides.

SWISS PHILATELIC SOCIETY: Wednesday, 30th April, monthly meeting followed by an Auction. Wednesday, 28th May: A.G.M.

SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL: Card Evening on first Thursday of the month, at Hotel Dresden, 866 Chester Road, Bromborough. 8.00 p.m.

CITY SWISS CLUB: Tuesday, 20th May, Card Evening. Friday, 20th June, Summer Dinner Dance.

FEDERATION OF SWISS SOCIETIES IN THE U.K.: Friday, 2nd May, at the Swiss Embassy.

ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD: 29th-31st August, in Basle, on the Swiss abroad as Ambassadors of Swiss Culture. For enquiries please apply to Secretariat of Swiss Abroad, 26 Alpenstrasse 3000 Berne.

ENGLISH AT THE SWISS CHURCH

The German-speaking Swiss Parish in London has introduced services in English once a month for the benefit of those who would like to join their Swiss friends or relatives in a service at the Swiss Church but do not understand our national languages. The purpose of introducing English is also to strengthen the links between the Swiss congregation and the parishes of London.

Swiss Churches

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

PASTEUR: Michel Languillat, 8 Park View Road, London, N.3. Tele: 01-346 5281.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: John Southworth Centre, 48 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2HA.

Sundays: Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m. with sermon in German, in the Club hall, ground floor. (2nd floor at the same time, Protestant service in German).

RESIDENCE OF CHAPLAIN: Bossard, Swiss Catholic Mission, 48 Great Peter Street, (2nd floor), London SW1P 2HA. Telephone: 01-222 2895.

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, every Sunday at 9.45 a.m. Sunday school takes place on the first and the third Sunday in the month for children of all age groups. Children assemble in the church with their parents who attend the normal Service. Liturgical Service takes place every second Sunday in the month. Services also at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 every Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

MINISTERS: Pfr. U. Stefan, 1, Womersley Road, N.8. Tel: 01-340 9740.