

Swiss cultural events during April

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SWISS CULTURAL EVENTS DURING APRIL

J.S.BACH FESTIVAL AT SCHAFFHAUSEN

For the ninth time the International Bach Society is honouring the town of Schaffhausen by collaborating in a grand eight-day Bach Festival. In the week from April 30 to May 7 choirs, orchestras and prominent soloists will perform Bach music, in all its rich diversity, to audiences from near and far. Oratoria performances and more intimate concerts and recitals will alternate in a truly festive setting.

A FESTIVAL MONTH OF MUSIC AND THEATRE IN LAUSANNE

The springtime music festival in Lausanne again brings a "Saison lyrique", this year with the two most popular Massenet operas, "Werther" (April 6 and 8), and "Manon" (April 15 and 17), both in the Théâtre municipal, and "Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss (April 20 and 22) and "La Fille du Tambour major" by Offenbach (April 27 and 29), in the same theatre. In the Théâtre de Beaulieu "The Chinese Wall", by Max Frisch, will be performed by the Centre dramatique romand (April 12 to 15), and the Orchestre de la Suisse romande, conducted by Ernest Ansermet, will give a special concert, with soloists and choir, in Lausanne Cathedral on April 25. The twelfth "Festival international de Lausanne", with grand concerts in the Théâtre de Beaulieu, opens on April 25.

FESTIVAL PLAY IN MÉZIÈRES

There are only a few places in Switzerland which have been able to establish and develop a lasting festival play tradition independently of the towns and cities.

Whereas Calderon's "Welttheater" is staged in Einsiedeln, though at fairly long intervals, and Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" has become a regular feature both in Altdorf and Interlaken, the Théâtre du Jorat in Mézières—easily accessible from Lausanne—has been performing a wide variety of works in a truly festive setting ever since 1905. This year's programme features the classical musical drama "Orpheus" by Christoph Willibald Gluck (April 16). This stage was created 64 years ago through the idealism of the poet René Morax and the artist Jean Morax; here, in 1911, Gluck's "Orpheus" was produced in astonishingly modern fashion. It was a feat of artistry which created a new style and paved the way for the present high standard. Now, 56 years later, the immortal work will be performed by well-known soloists, a choir from Moudon and the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne. The festival performance will be directed by J.J. Rapin.

GREAT ORCHESTRAS ON TOUR IN SWITZERLAND

With maestro Rafael Kubelik as conductor, the Sinfonie-Orchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks (Munich) will again tour Switzerland, playing music by Beethoven, Weber and Werner Egk, and giving concerts on four successive days (April 4 to 7) in Geneva, Lausanne, Zurich and Basle. A more extensive Swiss tour is being undertaken by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (London) which, conducted by Rudolf Kempe, who spends part of the year working in Zurich, will present major works by Frederik Delius, Igor Stravinski and Richard Strauss. These concerts will be given on the four days from April 18 to 21 in Berne, Zurich, St. Gall and Geneva, the final one being on the "Concerti di Lugano" programme on April 22.

The Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, with Armin Brunner as conductor and the female pianist K. Laretei as soloist, will be performing on April 7 in the Kursaal Baden, the following evening in the Parish Church at Aarau, on

April 9 in the main Concert Hall at Solothurn, and on April 10 in Zug. On April 10, too, the Slovakian Philharmonie from Bratislava will be playing in Basle. The Festival Strings Lucerne, of international repute, are appearing in Olten on April 26, and on April 27 in Lucerne with the pianist Hedy Salquin as soloist. In the latter town, too, the Radio-Orchestra Bero-münster will be playing on April 5 under conductor Erich Schmid.

TELEVISION AND THEATRE ON LAKE GENEVA

A traditional red-letter event in Montreux is the 7th International Competition for Light Entertainment on TV, April 21 to 29, with the award of the "Golden Rose of Montreux". The climax of the Grand Théâtre season in Geneva will be reached with five performances of Shakespeare's romantic play "The Tempest" set to music by Frank Martin, and five performances of the play "The Life of Galilei" written by Bert Brecht during the war (1942).

FORETASTE OF THE SWISS INDUSTRIAL FAIR, BASLE, APRIL 15 TO 25

In the course of half a century the huge complex of buildings which has grown up on the site of the Swiss Industrial Fair in Basle Minor has become an urban entity in its own right.

The visitor strolls through four quite different sets of buildings and absorbs ever new impressions of the great diversity of Swiss industries and trades. While the buyers from all parts of the country and from abroad concentrate mainly on their own special spheres of interest, we "follow the crowd" and make a tour of the first, endlessly long succession of exhibition halls—through the incomparable watch section, then to the circular edifice with its original inside stairways and galleries, on through the monumental building section with its annexes, and—the most recent addition—the multi-storey hall. Everywhere we find attractively designed stands and intriguing displays. There is sheer beauty to be admired in the glittering Jewellery pavilion, sheer elegance in the silks and laces of the Creation exhibits, sheer style and comfort in the Furnishing showrooms. Everywhere Swiss design and workmanship at their best and latest are on view. In the fragrant Foodstuffs section you can sample delicious tidbits, and the restaurants and cafés of the various regions are easy to find when we feel really peckish or "dry".

EXHIBITIONS INNUMERABLE

One of the most fascinating shows of the season is the SPISO, in Berne, for it is devoted to a comprehensive exhibition of toys and souvenirs (April 9 to 15). Then, beginning on April 29 and lasting until May 9, follows the well-known BEA exhibition, covering craftsmanship, agriculture, industry and trade, held in the Festival Hall Berne. In Lucerne the 4th International Boat and Aquatic Sports Show (IBA) opens on April 29 and lasts until May 7; and in Zurich, on the Allmend, the four-day "Camping 67" show covering tents, caravans, camping requisites, and aquatic sports, opens on April 28. From April 18 to 30 the Zurich Arts and Crafts Museum is exhibiting the entire range of Swiss commercial posters for 1966, those adjudged the best being afterwards shown far and wide in Switzerland in the form of a mobile exhibition so that the public can judge for themselves whether the awards allocated by the Department of the Interior went to the right artists.

ROAM THE CONTINENT — REST IN SWITZERLAND