

Concert news : Ruth Huggenberg and the Wembley Symphony Orchestra

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CONCERT NEWS.

Ruth Huggenberg and the Wembley Symphony Orchestra.

I was greatly interested to learn that the enterprising Wembley Symphony Orchestra had engaged an important Swiss musical artist as soloist for their concert at the Wembley Town Hall on Sunday, 27th February last. I refer of course to our well known pianist Miss Ruth Huggenberg. I went along to Wembley and rejoicing in finding an amateur orchestra of some 60 performers which set itself an ambitious programme.

The Orchestra began with the overture "Prince Igor" by Borodine, followed by the "Capriol" Suite for Strings by Warlock. It was this latter work which caught my interest, indeed very pleasant music. The performers gave a spirited and competent rendering of the six movements involved.

Next came the Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor by Rachmaninoff which was, without a doubt, the highlight of the evening. Miss Huggenberg, modest and unassuming, gave us a most mature performance. This concerto presents many difficulties and sets a high standard both for the soloist and the orchestra. Miss Huggenberg mastered brilliantly the most difficult passages with her excellent technique, the orchestra being equally fine as an intrinsic part of the whole. Our soloist has a very fine and delicate touch and in some cases the orchestra was a little too harsh thus covering the solo instrument which should have been heard first and foremost. This overenthusiasm is unfortunately a fault with a great many amateur orchestras, but I enjoyed the performance very much and I tender Miss Huggenberg and the Wembley Symphony Orchestra under their conductor, Vernon Elliott, my sincere congratulations.

The second part of the concert was devoted to two orchestral works, "Walk to the Paradise Garden", Intermezzo by Delius, and Symphony No. 1 in E minor by Sibelius. The work by Delius was very neatly played with much warmth, understanding and beauty

of tone, in fact I liked this performance, together with the Warlock Suite, best of all. The Sibelius Symphony, however, was too ambitious a choice and, although played with enthusiasm, was out of reach to most of the amateur members of the orchestra.

The large concert hall could be said to be fairly full and there was no lack of applause for Miss Huggenberg as well as the courageous Wembley Symphony Orchestra. epd.

HENRI HONEGGER.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to three recitals of the distinguished Swiss cellist, Henri Honegger.

He will be appearing at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on Sunday evening, March 27th, 1955, with the Halle Orchestra, when he will play the Khachaturian Cello concerto.

His other appearances are two recitals in the Recital Room the Royal Festival Hall, on March 30th and April 5th, where he will play all six unaccompanied cello suites by J. S. Bach.

Henri Honegger was born in Geneva, began his studies at the Geneva Conservatory, then went to Leipzig to study with Julius Klengel, after which he studied with Diran Alexanian at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris (then under personal supervision of Pablo Casals), and later with Emanuel Feuermann. At the Edinburgh Festival in 1949 he played his first performance in Great Britain of the *Sonata da Camera* for Cello and Orchestra by Bohuslav Martinu, under the direction of E. Ansermet. This work, which is dedicated to Mr. Honegger, was executed by him also at the Biennial Festival in Venice, Italy in 1946, at the Festival of contemporary music in Frankfurt, Germany, at the concert series of the Tschechoslovac Radio in Prague (Salle Smetana) as well as in Geneva. He has appeared as soloist with orchestra in the principal cities of Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, France and Germany. He has also played the six unaccompanied Bach suites in Paris, London, Berlin, Milan, The Hague, Amsterdam, Geneva, Zurich and New York.

We sincerely hope that many of our readers will attend at least one of these recitals of our distinguished and talented compatriot.

Nouvelle Société Helvétique

(LONDON GROUP)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday, March 15th, 1955, at 6.15 p.m.

at the

"Schweizerbund" 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

7.15 Reception 7.30 Dinner

The Swiss Minister and Madame Armin Daeniker will be our Guests of Honour.

All Members and friends are cordially invited. Dress informal.

Those intending to be present at the dinner should inform Mr. Caluori the Steward of the "Schweizerbund" 74, Charlotte Street, W.1. (Tel. MUSEUM 2660)

CITY SWISS CLUB

A SOIRÉE FAMILIALE

at which Ladies are heartily welcome, has been arranged for Tuesday, 22nd March, 1955,

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL, Park Lane, W.1.

(6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.)

After Dinner, the famed guide and explorer Monsieur RAYMOND LAMBERT, who has but recently returned from the Himalayas, will give us a talk — illustrated by lantern slides and film — on his experiences amongst the giant peaks of this unique mountain-range.

THE COMMITTEE.