

# Heinz and Ursula Holliger

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Objektyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1968)**

Heft 1538

PDF erstellt am: **07.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687577>

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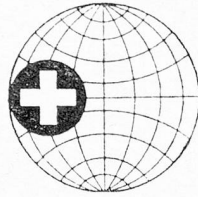
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## "FIFTH SWITZERLAND"



### A WELL DESERVED HONOUR

Our Colony's delegate to the Commission of the Swiss Abroad and Editress of the "Swiss Observer" has been appointed as a member of a new Study Group on Information searching for improvements in the arrangements of information between the homeland and the Swiss abroad. As the readers of the "S.O." know, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad has carried out an enquiry on this question, on how the Swiss abroad keep themselves informed on what is going on in the homeland and *vice-versa*. Mrs. Mariann Meier has contributed to this search most helpfully. It appears therefore only natural, that she was called upon to participate in person in the further studies of this problem the Commission regards as necessary and for which it has established this special study group. Its main task is to work out proposals for possible improvements in the processes of mutual information. It is never the less an honourable distinction and recognition of her sterling qualities that the Commission felt impelled to select Mrs. Meier to assist in this work from the point of view of the Swiss abroad.

Dr. H.W.E.

### HEINZ AND URSULA HOLLIGER

at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

15th December 1967

The English Chamber Orchestra under John Pritchard started the evening merrily with a refreshing interpretation of Boyce's 5th Symphony (18th century). There couldn't have been a greater contrast between this unassuming work and the subsequent "Doppio Concerto for Oboe, Harp and Strings" by Henze (born 1926). This modern composer does not only use to the full the potentialities of the instruments to their utmost playability (glissandos, double harmonics and fluttersong in the oboe), but he engages the hearer intensively for half an hour with abstruse spherical sounds. As always when Heinz Holliger performs a modern work, it is convincing even if one does not quite grasp it completely on hearing it for the first time. In his wife Ursula, the oboe player has an equal partner. One can well understand that Henze has composed this work for this ideal duo. Stormy applause rewarded the extraordinary achievement.

Heinz Holliger again proved his superior virtuosity in his rendering of "Adagio Theme and Variations for Oboe and Orchestra" by Hummel. As an encore he played a piece from Britten's "Methamorphoses". The concert finished with Beethoven's 4th Symphony which in contrast to the previous works somewhat lacked the expected excitement.

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To this we should like to add that the Holligers' performance was acclaimed as superb by the London music critics. William Mann in "The Times" said that Henze's concerto left no doubt that both Holligers were "exceptionally sensitive and imaginative interpretative

musicians as well as remarkable virtuosi of their instruments". As for Heinz Holliger, "he must, at 28, be the finest oboe player in the world and certainly one of the most dazzling musical executants, vocal or instrumental, that I (*William Mann*) have been privileged to hear".

### A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

On Saturday, 2nd December, **Lennart Rabes**, the Swedish pianist, impressively proved his skill during a piano recital at Wigmore Hall. He introduced his programme with a well-balanced rendering of a work from his native country: the *Suite in G minor* by Johan H. Roman ("the Swedish Bach"). The *Prélude, Choral et Fugue* by Franck displayed Mr. Rabes's ability successfully to blend virtuosity with a personal interpretation and sure creative power. The same can be said about *3 Etudes de Concert* by Liszt. We then heard Bartok's *Mikrokosmos* played with rhythmic clarity and tonal precision. The pianist concluded his recital by introducing us to Debussy's rich world of sound by playing the *Children's Corner Suite* and *L'Isle Joyeuse*. A full audience showed their appreciation of this achievement by enthusiastic applause. Three *encores* rewarded the listeners!

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Lennart Rabes's very nimble finger technique was praised in "The Times", and his rendering of Rohan, the Swedish composer's *Suite*, as well as most of the Debussy, was described as "played fluently and fancifully".

In the "Daily Telegraph", his rendering of Franck's *Prelude, Chorale and Fugue* was praised for his "ability to produce power when needed" and which was "in no way mealy-mouthed". "Mr. Rabes proved a performer who has given much care to the study of dynamics and who is not afraid to tackle difficult jobs".

The Swiss community in London are especially happy at the success of their friend who has many ties with Switzerland.

### N.S.H. ANNUAL FILM SHOW

As our Colony has grown used to over many years, the **Nouvelle Société Helvétique** is again devoting its January meeting of the 18th to a showing of a selected sequence of Swiss news reels on the events of 1967 by courtesy of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad in Berne. It offers us a splendid opportunity of refreshing and completing our knowledge of these events. The comments are in German, but there are subtitles in English. Also to be seen are two pleasant new publicity films of Switzerland: "Valais — Hot Summers and Fast Pistes" and "Do You Like Snow?". The show is at the Swiss Hostel for Girls and starts at 7.45 p.m. It costs nothing, and all Swiss and their friends are welcome.

(N.S.H.)

### SWISS BANK CORPORATION

Dr. Franz Aschinger, former editor of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", has been appointed Economic Adviser with the General Managers, Basle.

Retirements from the Zurich Office include Mr. W. Strohmeier, Manager, well known in the field of foreign exchange.

In London, Messrs. D. F. Easteal; A. Huber; H. K. Pelz and A. Suter have been appointed as *Fondés de Pouvoir* with effect from the 1st January 1968.