

# Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

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# SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

From 19th September – Art & Design Centre, Northern Ireland Polytechnic, Belfast – *Award-Winning Books and Posters from Switzerland*.

29th September to 5th November – Scottish Arts Council Gallery, Edinburgh – Art Brut: *Aloise, Wölflli and Müller* exhibition.

Wednesday, 4th October and Friday, 6th October – Snape Maltings – The pianist *Tamas Vasary* plays chamber music by Mozart and Rachmaninoff with other distinguished musicians.

Friday, 6th October – Folkestone – Sunday, 8th October – Old Vic Theatre, London – Concert by the *Berne Píromusica Youth Orchestra*.

Friday, 6th October – Wigmore Hall, 7.30 p.m. – *Marianne Clément* (flute) and Raúl Sanchez (guitar) play works by Swiss and other composers.

Sunday, 8th October – Royal Albert Hall – The *Feldmusikgesellschaft Frohsinn Schotz* competes in the European Brass Band Championship.

Monday, 9th October – St John's, Smith Square, 1 p.m. – Recital by the soprano *Edith Mathis*.

13th October to 11th November – Collins Exhibition Hall, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow – *Photography in Switzerland from 1840 until Today*.

23rd – 28th October – Norwich Theatre Royal / 30th October – 4th November – Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre – *Manola Asensio* dances leading roles with the London Festival Ballet.

Wednesday, 25th October – Royal Festival Hall, 5.55 p.m. – Organ recital by *Lionel Rogg*.

EDITH MATHIS studied at the Lucerne and Zürich Conservatoires. She made her debut in 1956 at the Lucerne State Opera in *Magic Flute*, and at the Zürich Opera in *Marriage of Figaro*. In 1959 she sang in Cologne, and later with the Berlin State Opera, where she is now a permanent member of the company and with whom she has appeared in Japan. She has also guest contracts with the Vienna State Opera and the Hamburg State Opera. With the latter she has sung in New York. 1970 saw her debut both with the Metropolitan Opera in New York (*Pamina*) and with Covent Garden (*Susanna*). She returned to the Royal Opera House in 1972 for *Così fan Tutte* conducted by her husband, Bernhard Klee. She appears regularly at the major international music festivals, and records exclusively for DGG.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

*Manola Asensio*, the Swiss ballerina, will again dance leading roles including *Odette/Odile*, "Swan Lake", in the London Festival Ballet's summer season at the Royal Festival Hall. She will have returned from the United States where she performed with London Festival Ballet in New York and Washington. Besides dancing leading roles in "Romeo and Juliet" and "Giselle", she was chosen by Rudolf Nureyev as his partner in his first performance of "Scheherazade". *Manola Asensio* also appeared in Salzburg in June with Rudolf Nureyev in "Le Corsaire".

*Heinz Holliger* was born in Langenthal in 1939. He began to play the recorder at four, followed two years later by piano lessons and his first attempts at composition. He showed interest in the oboe at an early age but was not able to start lessons until the age of eleven. Up to the age of nineteen, while still at grammar school, *Holliger* studied simultaneously at the Berne Conservatoire, specialising in the oboe and composition. He spent a year at the Paris Conservatoire, where he first met Messiaen, and at the same time began to study composition with Pierre Boulez in Basle. Shortly after leaving the Conservatoire in 1959 he won first prize in the Geneva competition, subsequently

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*Art Brut* – or outsider art – consists of works produced by people who for various reasons have not been culturally indoctrinated or socially conditioned. They are recluses, maladjusted persons, psychiatric patients, prison inmates. They have produced, from the depths of their own personalities and for themselves and no one else, works of outstanding originality in concept, subject and technique – works which owe nothing to tradition or fashion.

Of the three artists featured in the exhibition to be shown in Glasgow, Edinburgh and other places in Britain, only ALOISE (Aloyse Corbaz) was an educated person. Born in Lausanne in 1886, she became a governess upon graduating, was certified insane in 1918, and died in 1964 at the age of 78, still a mental patient in her native city.

After an underprivileged childhood ADOLF WOLFLI (1864–1930) was jailed, at the age of 25, for assaulting young girls. A year later he was committed to an asylum for similar offences. Having become violent he was kept in solitary confinement for 20 years.

Nothing is known about the personal life of HEINRICH ANTON MULLER beyond the fact that he was "institutionalised" since childhood.

joining the Basle Orchestra, of which he remained a member until 1963. His career as an international soloist developed rapidly after he won the Munich competition in 1961, with annual visits to Japan and engagements throughout Europe, the U.K., U.S.A. and Scandinavia. *Holliger* is one of the most progressive musicians alive today and is arguably the world's leading exponent of the oboe. He is an avid experimenter with both the technique of the oboe and in his own compositions but is equally interested in the repertoire and styles of the baroque and classical periods. Many leading contemporary composers have been attracted to write books for him and for the oboe and harp duo which he has with his wife, Ursula.

*Heinz Holliger* has appeared frequently in recent years in Britain and was soloist at two Promenade Concerts in 1976.

*Karl Anton Rickenbacher* was appointed in October 1977 principal conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He took up his post on 1st January, 1978 and has conducted the orchestra on many occasions in Scotland. Several lunch-hour concerts were broadcast live on Radio 3. The two concerts at the Promenade Concerts are his débuts in London with the orchestra.

*HENRI HONEGGER* was born in Geneva, where he began his musical studies. They then took him to Leipzig and to Paris, where he worked with Pablo Casals. Before embarking on a soloist career he was first cellist in the Orchestre de la Suisse romande, under Ernest Ansermet. He has appeared with leading orchestras in Europe, America and Japan. His wide repertoire includes such contemporary works as Martinù's *Sonata da Camera*, which he commissioned and of which he gave the first performance. But it is as interpreter of Bach's unaccompanied Suites that he has achieved worldwide fame.

Born in Vevey, *Pierre Colombo* took a science degree at Lausanne University before studying for a conductor's diploma at the Basle Conservatoire. He has conducted orchestras in many European countries – including the USSR – in South America and in Africa. He is now Head of the Symphonic Department of Radio Suisse Romande, in Geneva. The concert he is giving with the London Mozart Players on 22nd September will mark his first appearance in this country.