

Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

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SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

Academy Cinema 3 — *Claude Goretta's The Lacemaker*

to 15th December

Bath Academy of Art — *Photography in Switzerland from 1840 until Today*.

Sunday, 2nd December

Royal Festival Hall, 7.30 p.m. — *Martha Argerich* is the soloist in Beethoven's Concerto No. 1 with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Monday, 3rd December

Royal Festival Hall, 8 p.m. — *Charles Dutoit* conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme of works by Ravel, Beethoven and Schumann.

Monday, 3rd December to Saturday, 8th December

Empire Theatre, Sunderland — *Manola Asensio* dances leading roles in Ronald Hynd's "The Nutcracker" with London Festival Ballet.

A DREAM COME TRUE

The Swiss ballerina, Manola Asensio, has been invited to perform in Russia as guest artist together with the Swiss dancer Hans Meister, ballet director of the Zurich Opera Company from 1975–78. Their one month visit which begins on 10th January, 1980, will include performances at the famous home of classical ballet, the Kirov in Leningrad, in the principal roles of the *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake* and *Giselle*. They will also perform in five other cities.

Manola Asensio's long cherished and seemingly impossible dream of dancing one day in Russia, has at last become a reality. She is the first Swiss ballerina, and one of the few Western ballerinas to be invited by the Russians to appear as an individual guest artist.

On behalf of its readers, the *Swiss Observer* extends its warmest congratulations to our two compatriots, in particular Manola Asensio who is already well-known to us thanks to the two interviews she kindly gave in 1976 and 1979. It also expresses its best wishes to them for a very successful tour.

Friday, 14th December

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 20th December

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 26th December

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Monday, 31st December

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 5th January

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m. (matinee 2 p.m.)

Tuesday, 8th January

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 12th January

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 16th January

Royal Opera House 7.30 p.m.

Peter Maag conducts J. Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" produced by *Leopold Lindtberg*.

PETER MAAG

Peter Maag was born at St. Gall in 1919 and studied literature and philosophy in Zurich and Geneva. He also studied music in Zurich. He was attracted to the theatre at an early age. Mozart's operas held a particular fascination for him, and while still a young man he spent a number of years conducting many Mozart operas at the tiny theatre of Bienne-Soleure. This little theatre has served as a "nursery" for many well-known artists of the present-day operatic stage.

Peter Maag's operatic career continued when he was appointed principal conductor at the Düsseldorf Opera, and in 1954 he became Musical Director at the Opera in Bonn. He left Bonn five years later to take up an appointment as Musical Director of the Netherlands Opera, Amsterdam. He pursued his operatic activities at the Zurich Opera and at the St. Charles Theatre in Naples. Since then he has toured the main centres of Europe and America and made many recordings.

Peter Maag made his début at Covent Garden in 1955 in "The Magic Flute" by Mozart. He has also conducted at Glyndebourne. He returned to Covent Garden to conduct Gounod's "Faust" in 1977 and a revival of Meyerbeer's "L'Africaine" in 1978.

As a symphonic conductor Peter Maag has appeared with many of the principal European and American orchestras.

From Wednesday, 26th December

Royal Festival Hall, matinee 3 p.m. evening 7.30 p.m. — *Manola Asensio* dances leading roles in Ronald Hynd's "The Nutcracker".

Thursday, 27th December

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Friday 28th December

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45 p.m. The *Camerata Lysy* perform orchestral works and chamber music with Yehudi Menuhin.

The Paris Pullman and the Phenix Cinemas (provisional) — *Rolf Lyssy's "The Swissmakers"* (for the final details see entertainment guides).

ROLF LYSSY

Born in 1936 in Zurich, Rolf Lyssy trained as photographer and as cameraman operator. He first became assistant cameraman and then cameraman for Alain Tanner's film "Les apprentis". From 1968, Rolf Lyssy produced his own films including "Konfrontation" which was shown at the London Film Festival in 1975. His latest feature film "The Swissmakers" is being presented at this year's Film Festival at the National Film Theatre.

"The Swissmakers" has been acclaimed as the most successful Swiss film of all times. It is an ironic-satirical comedy dealing with becoming a Swiss citizen and living as one. "Served by his own good script plus a hardtailored cast, he (Lyssy) has succeeded admirably. His discretion has the necessary light touch, without neglecting the more serious aspects . . . As to its quality, 'The Swissmakers' would deserve to be noticed abroad." (Variety).

The CAMERATA LYSY Gstaad is an ensemble composed of 16 virtuoso string players, who belong to the performing section of the International Menuhin Music Academy of Gstaad.

Its members alternate as soloists and are directed by Alberto Lysy, who founded the ensemble a few years ago.

The Camerata's repertoire embraces works from the 17th century to those of contemporary composers in numerous combination, from duos to full chamber orchestra.