

# Switzerland in Britain's cultural life

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# SWITZERLAND IN BRITAIN'S CULTURAL LIFE

**Manola Asensio** dances leading roles, including the title role in Ronald Hynd's "Rosalinda" and the principal role in "The Sleeping Beauty" in London Festival Ballet's Spring Season at The London Coliseum, from Tuesday, 4th March to Saturday, 5th April.

Saturday, 15th March at 2.30 p.m. and Tuesday, 18th March at 7.30 p.m. — "Rosalinda".  
Wednesday, 26th March at 7.30 p.m. — "The Sleeping Beauty".

**Silvio Varviso** conducts Wagner's "Lohengrin" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden:

Wednesday, 5th March, 6.30 p.m.  
Saturday, 8th March, 5.30 p.m.  
Tuesday, 11th March, 6.30 p.m.  
Friday, 14th March, 6.30 p.m.  
Monday, 17th March, 6.30 p.m.  
Thursday, 20th March, 6.30 p.m.

**Thomas Demenga**, cello, performs works by Bach, Kodaly and Ravel in recitals with Nigel Kennedy:

Tuesday, 11th March, 1.05 p.m. — City Music Society, Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Thursday, 13th March, 6.30 p.m. — City Music Society, Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, E.C.2.

**Lionel Rogg**, organ, plays at the Royal Festival Hall:  
Wednesday, 12th March, 5.55 p.m.

**Charles Dutoit** conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra:

Tuesday, 25th March, 8.00 p.m. at the Royal Festival Hall;  
and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra:

Thursday 27th March at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

Monday, 31st March at 8 p.m. at the Royal Festival Hall.

Thursday, 3rd April, at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

**Erich Schmid** conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra:  
Thursday, 3rd April, 7.30 p.m. — Birmingham Town Hall.

**Karl Anton Rickenbacher** conducts the B.B.C. Scottish Symphony Orchestra:

Tuesday, 4th March, 7.30 p.m. — City Hall, Glasgow.

Wednesday, 12th March, 12.15 p.m. — City Hall, Glasgow.

Tuesday, 1st April, 7.30 p.m. — City Hall, Glasgow.

**Photography in Switzerland from 1840 until Today**

5th–25th March — Fermoy Centre, King's Lynn.

**"Swiss Tapestries, Artists of Today"**

Friday 29th February — Tuesday, 8th April — The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester.

Academy of Arts — Post-Impressionism, an exhibition which includes paintings by **Ferdinand Hodler** and **Cuno Amiet**, as well as works from Swiss collections and museums.

Until 16th March.

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## SILVIO VARVISO

Born in 1924 in Zurich, Silvio Varviso studied at the Zurich School of Music. He was appointed conductor at the St. Gallen Stadttheater in 1946 and made his first public appearance in Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte". In 1950 he became a resident conductor at the Basle Opera House and in 1957 was appointed music director. For the following six years he conducted everything in the operatic repertory, including performances of works such as Prokofiev's "Fiery Angel".

From 1965 until 1971 Silvio Varviso was music director of the Royal Opera, Stockholm, and in 1970 he was appointed Court Conductor by King Gustav VI. He is presently music director of the Stuttgart Opera and music director designate of the Paris Opera.

Silvio Varviso first conducted in England at the Glyndebourne Festival in 1962, and in the same year made his Covent Garden debut in Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier". Since then he has returned on several occasions, the last time in 1975 when he conducted a revival of "Der Rosenkavalier". He has appeared in the major opera houses all over the world.

**THOMAS DEMENGA** was born in Switzerland in 1954. At the age of six he studied with Walter Grimmer, later becoming a pupil of Antonio Janigro and, at the Juilliard School of Music, New York, with Leonard Rose. His London debut in 1976 was highly acclaimed and resulted in an immediate engagement from the B.B.C.

## SWISS TAPESTRIES — ARTISTS OF TODAY

While there is no tapestry tradition in Switzerland, she is now seeing an upsurge of this art, as Madame Claude Ritschard, General Secretary of the Centre international de la tapisserie ancienne et moderne, points out in the exhibition catalogue. Switzerland does have a long tradition of textile-making — indeed, she has become the world textile centre — so it was natural that the art of tapestry should eventually flourish, encouraged by the Lausanne Biennale de la Tapisserie.

It is now 50 years since Madame Elsi Giauque, until 1955 a teacher at the Kunstgewerbeschule (College of Arts and Crafts) in Zurich, made a break-through for the textile arts. Her merits are acknowledged in this exhibition. She trained many artists, who went on to develop their own style; others travelled to Poland or France to learn different techniques. In André Küenzi's book "La Nouvelle Tapisserie" Madame Giauque comments:

"A woven or knotted work, made from the most diverse materials, ranging from simple string to horse-hair, silk, wool or artificial fibres, is an expression of a personality. Tapestry is a visual manifestation of the creative genius which depends on a wide knowledge of materials and techniques, and on the ability to rearrange the basic textile elements."

In 1967 some friends founded the "Groupe de Cartoniers Lissiers Romands", whose aim was to promote tapestry in Switzerland. Ten years later the first exhibition of Swiss tapestry crossed the frontier to submit itself to inspection by other

countries, and it is in this sense that "Swiss" tapestry now exists.

It was at the suggestion of Monsieur René Berger, Conservator of the Cantonal Fine Arts Museum in Lausanne, that the Groupe de Cartoniers Lissiers Romands undertook to mount and catalogue an exhibition of Swiss Tapestry. The Centre international de la tapisserie ancienne et moderne appointed a jury to choose the exhibitors from among the many competing artists. This touring exhibition, under the patronage of the Pro Helvetia Foundation, was first shown in Zurich and has already been seen in many European countries.

In anticipation of the forthcoming State Visit by the Queen to Switzerland (29th April to 2nd May) the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with the Swiss National Tourist Office and Swissair are inviting 13 British journalists for a week-long introductory tour through Switzerland.

The press people who represent the most prestigious national and regional papers of Britain will visit major Swiss centres, talk to leading personalities of Swiss public life, among them the current president of the Confederation, Monsieur Georges-André Chevallaz. The tour will take place during the week of 17th March.

So watch out for detailed press coverage of our country between this date and the date of the State Visit.

## FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN SWITZERLAND DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 1980

- 2.-5.3. — Lausanne — SPISSO — Exhibitions of Toys, Souvenirs, Hobby, Christmas and Winter Articles.
- 4.-7.3 — Basle — POWTECH — 7th International Exhibition for Powder Technology.
- 4.-12.3. — Basle — IFM 80 — 5th International Fair for Mechanical Handling.
- 6.-16.3. — Geneva — 50th International Motor Show.
- 9.-12.3. — Lausanne — SERATEX — Buying Week for Ladies', Gentlemen's and Children's Wear.
- 11.-13.3. — Zurich — SEMICON EUROPA 80 — Specialised Trade Fair for Semi-Conductors.
- 15.23.3. — Basle — KAM — 21st Art and Antiques Fair of Switzerland.
- 15.-23.3 — Lausanne — International Tourist and Holidays Exhibition.
- 17.-23.3. — Zurich — Industrial Handling — International Exhibition for Mechanised and Automated Production.
- 29.-30.3 — St.-Gall — International Exhibition and Exchange of Minerals.