

The arts

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WITH Christmas comes the annual visit to London of the performing wing of the International Menuhin Music Academy in Gstaad.

This top-ranking chamber orchestra, the Camerata Lysy Gstaad, is a firm favourite with London audiences, who for the past six years have flocked each Christmas to the Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear these talented young people.

The Academy was founded by Yehudi Menuhin in the Bernese Oberland to provide an extension to the musical life of the region.

An interesting aspect of this year's group is the substantial contingent of Chinese players. Five talented young violinists from the Far East joined the Academy recently.

Two of them, Jia Hong-Guang and Chang Louis, are from Peking, and came to Switzerland after Yehudi Menuhin had visited China and offered places at the Academy to the Chinese Ministry of Culture for some of their



The Camerata Lysy Gstaad with founder Yehudi Menuhin

Firm favourites return

outstanding players. With the help of British Petroleum scholarships were provided.

At the same time, two violinists from Hong Kong, Leung Hung-Fai and Lawrence Chen, joined the group. From the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, where she was the leading soloist, came Tang Yun, who played the Mozart Violin Concerto in A at this year's Menuhin Festival and received outstanding reviews.

Fortunately, she has stayed on in Gstaad to study further,

and will be appearing in London with Yehudi Menuhin in the Vivaldi Concerto for Two Violins. This is the first time that violinists from the People's Republic of China will be heard on the London stage.

Alberto Lysy has put together two exceptionally interesting programmes, and Yehudi Menuhin will appear in both concerts.

The programmes are:

December 22:

Camerata Lysy Gstaad, soloists Yehudi Menuhin, Alberto Lysy, Antonio Lysy, Adelina Opreat, Paul Coletti, Tang Yun.

Vivaldi Concerto for two violins, cello obligato and strings in C minor, Fanna Series I/14. Soloists Yehudi Menuhin, Tang Yun, Antonio Lysy.

Bach Concerto for three violins and strings in D major, BWV 1064. Soloists Yehudi Menuhin, Alberto Lysy, Adelina Opreat.

Tauriello Impromptus for string orchestra (first performance).

Atterberg Suite for violin, viola and strings. Soloists Alberto Lysy, Paul Coletti.

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in D minor. Soloist Alberto Lysy.

December 23:

Camerata Lysy Gstaad, soloists Yehudi Menuhin, Alberto Lysy, Jeremy Menuhin, Antonio Lysy.

Mendelssohn Octet for strings in E flat, op. 20.

Bloch Prière for cello and string orchestra. Soloist Antonio Lysy.

Mozart Piano Concerto in E major, KV449. Soloist Jeremy Menuhin.

Mozart Divertimento for strings in D major, KV136.

Both concerts will be held in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, and start at 7.45pm.

Bookings can be made at the Festival Hall box office.

Other events this month are: *Ernest Bloch's sonata for violin and piano performed by Hideko Udagama (violin) and Frank Wibaut.* Sunday, December 14, 7.15pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Manola Asensio performs leading roles in London Festival Ballet's Christmas season of "The Nutcracker." Friday, December 26 to Saturday, January 3. Two performances daily at 3 and 7.30pm. Monday, January 5 to Saturday, January 14. Evenings at 7.30pm and Saturday matinée at 3pm.

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Seats are strictly limited, so book now and be sure.

NOTE: If you have friends in Switzerland who wish to visit you over Christmas, we can book them to fly Zurich-Gatwick on the 19th December returning on the 2nd January 1981.

01-650 5904

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