



SWISS FRIENDS  
FREUNDESKREIS SCHWEIZ  
CERCLE D'AMIS SUISSE

**Letter of the President**

Hegnau, December 17, 2017

Dear Swiss Friends RCO,

The year 2017 will end soon, so please allow me to present you a short review of 2017 and an outlook for 2018 of the Freundeskreis / Friends / Cercle d'Amis activities.

Mr. David and Mrs. Ruth Koetser kindly hosted our annual general meeting on May 3, 2017 at their Koetser Gallery in the city of Zürich. Being surrounded by beautiful Old Master paintings gave the AGM a very special ambiance. In the AGM Mrs. Charlotte Meuli announced her resignation as Board Member and was thanked for all the work she did for the Freundeskreis. After the AGM, Elodie Thery, a student of the Musikhochschule Lucerne, played the Bach's cello sonata. The apéro riche was kindly offered by our main sponsor the Bank J. Safra Sarasin.

The next activity was the annual cultural trip to The Netherlands on the weekend of May 12 and 13, 2017. On the first day of our trip, the Freundeskreis Schweiz RCO/Cercle d'Amis/Swiss friend visited the Amsterdam City Archives in the building "De Bazel" of Amsterdam with historical information about i.e. former RCO-conductor Willem Mengelberg, followed by a lunch in the Bazel restaurant.

At 6.00 p.m. it was time for the traditional apéro and dinner in the restaurant Van Baerle. During the dinner Mr. Jan Raes thanked Mrs. Charlotte Meuli personally for her commitment to the Freundeskreis during the last four years. Further, Mr. Raes introduced the RCO-concert in the Concertgebouw with compositions by Britten, Knussen and Elgar, under the baton of conductor Ryan Wigglesworth.

On the second day of our excursion, we had a boat tour to the east part of Amsterdam's harbors. Ms. Elsbeth Gugger, the senior correspondent of Swiss radio in the Netherlands, gave her impressions on Amsterdam. With a lunch in the former Stork buildings the boat brought us back to the hotel.

Freundeskreis Schweiz / Swiss Friends / Cercle d'amis Suisse Royal Concertgebouworkest

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One of the cultural trip highlights is the annual visit to the residence of the Swiss ambassador in The Hague, where Dr. Urs Breiter kindly invited us for a delicious walking dinner. Part of this great tradition was a wonderful concert by three RCO-musicians.

On September 6, 2017 the Concertgebouw Orchestra was for his annual visit in Lucerne and played music of Hayden and Mahler's 4<sup>th</sup> symphony with the wonderful soprano Chen Reiss, singing "das himmlische Leben" in the final chorus.

After this beautiful concert we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the slogan: "Happy Birthday Freundeskreis" in the Palace Hotel with the traditional "cocktail dinatoire", generously sponsored by the Bank J. Safra Sarasin.

Further, we would like to inform you about the main events (please save the dates!) we are currently working on:

- **Event for Members, Family, and Friends on Sunday February 4, 2017 – 2.30 p.m.**  
In cooperation with the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHDK), department classical music, we will organize a classical concert with the conservatoria ensemble in the concert hall of the school. After the concert there is a get together drink and the possibility to get a guided tour thru the new music department. Please invite and bring your friends, colleagues etc. who are music lovers and might be interested to become a Freundeskreis member. More information will follow in December 2017 per e-mail.
- **Annual General Meeting 2018:** This meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday April 11, 2018**. We are very pleased to announce that Mrs. Ruth and Mr. David Koetser have agreed to host this event once again in their beautiful gallery. Cecilia Perfetti, one of the participants in the Master Class double bass in Lucerne, is contracted to play at the AGM. She will not only play for us but also tell us about her experiences in the Master Class and the audition in Amsterdam. Cecilia got during the Master Classes in Lucerne the recommendation from Dominic Seldis and Pierre-Emmanuelle De Maistre, both double bass players in the RCO Orchestra, to do audition for the Concertgebouworkest in Amsterdam.
- **Annual cultural trip 2018: May 12 to 14**, as already announced we are planning to follow the RCO orchestra to **Vienna**, where the orchestra is playing on Monday May 14, 2017 in the Konzerthaus. With Daniele Gatti as chief conductor and Daniil Trifonov, piano, the RCO will perform Sergej Prokofjev, Piano Concerto No. 3 and Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 'Titan'. For the excursion to Vienna we succeed to prepare an attractive cultural program. Detailed information has been sent to the members by e-mail on November 13, 2017.

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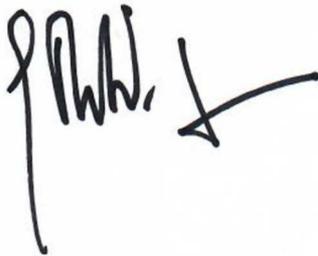
- **Lucerne Festival on September 5 and 6, 2018**

The RCO-orchestra will come for their annual visit to Lucerne. We are planning our main event on Thursday September 6, 2018 with e.g. the walking dinner after the concert where you can mingle with the musicians. Due to the renovation of the Lucerne Palace Hotel for the next two years, we will move 2018 to the RadissonBlue Hotel in Lucerne.

- For their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Swiss Friends underwrote the RCO's performance of Arthur Honegger's oratorio "Jeanne D'Arc au Buché" on **Friday September 28, 2018** in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. We are planning a "cultural framework program" to go with the Jeanne D'Arc performance from **September 28 to 29, 2018**. More information will follow in January 2018.
- **Watch list** for other cities the RCO is playing in: we asked the RCO to inform us about other attractive cities it will play in, such as Hamburg (Elb Philharmonie), St. Petersburg, Leipzig, Dresden etc. The RCO will inform us when the orchestra is playing in these cities, so we could organize our annual cultural trip accordingly.

With our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas, an excellent 2018, we look forward to meeting you on February 4, 2018 at our next event.

Kind regards,



Jop Wehmeijer  
President Swiss Friends RCO

Enclosures:

- CD Rachmaninoff's 2nd symphony

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