



Front row H.E.amb Zahedi

2nd row from left: H.E. amb.M. Mourad Bourehla & Mrs. Bourehla Mrs. Guendil, Mrs. Fassa, Mme. C. Schlupp.

3rd row: Mme.Gharibi, Mme.Amir Divan, H.E.amb. M.Moulay Mohammed Guendil. of Algeria , HerExc.amb. Rola Nouredin of Lebanon, & Dr.Cougn

MONTREUX MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Russian Edition, 2019

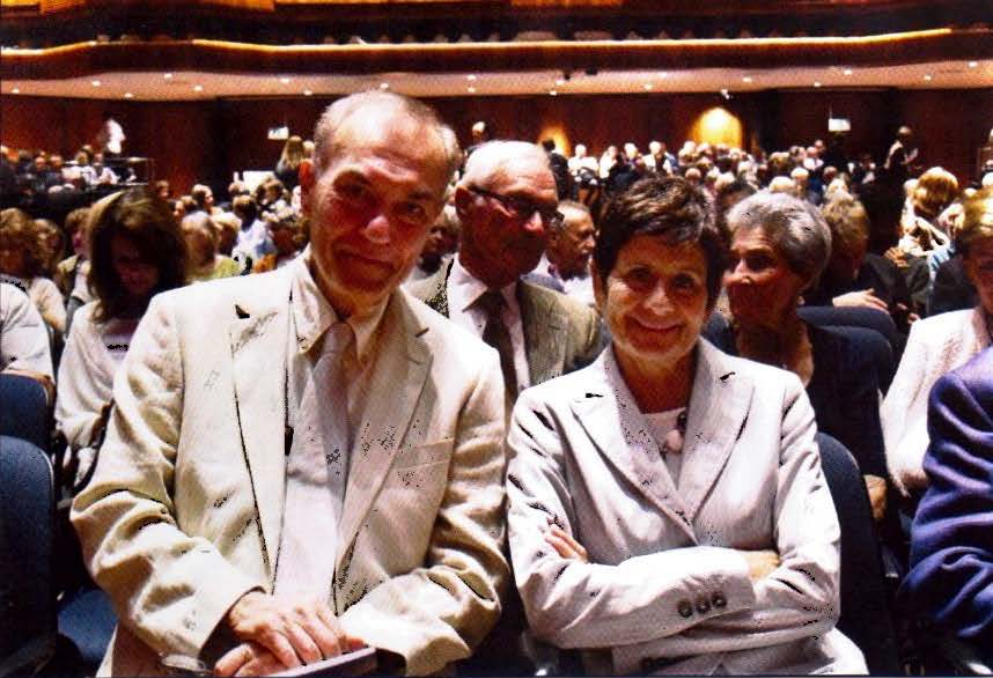


From left: H.E. Amb. M. Ilhan Saygili, H.E.Amb. M.Mourad Bourehla and his wife, H.E.Amb.M. Moulay Mohammed Guendil and wife, H.E. Amb.Ardeshir Zahedi

To many in Switzerland and especially in the Canton of Vaud, Ardeshir Zahedi, their recently nominated Ambassador of Peace, is also known as a true patron of art and lover of music. For the last decades that he lives in Montreux, he has never failed to participate in the world-famous Montreux summer festivals of jazz and classical music, the series of known concerts in the prestigious Stravinsky

Rah-e-Zendegi 51





Dr & Mme. Nicolas and Chantal Coman



*From left: His Excellency .Amb.Zahedi, ,Mr.Haddadd
Back row: Mrs and Mr.Mehdi Zahedi, Laetitia Roch,
Dr. Milani*



had heard about him. The festival was first held at Montreux Casino and featured exclusively the jazz musicians and artist like Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles and Frank Zappa. In an accidental fire in December 1971 during Frank Zappa

From left: Dr. A. Milani, ?, Mr. Haddad deputy of Kofi Annan's Foundation, Mme. Laetitia Roch, H.E. amb. Zahedi





From left: Mme Amb.Noureddin of Lebnon,H.E. Amb.Zahedi, Dr. Messikommer,



from left: Laetitia Roch, H.E. amb.Zahedi



from left:Mrs. Anne and Mr.Franz Blankart de Palezieux

concert in the Casino was reduced to ashes. Claude Nobs volunteered as a fireman and saved the lives of many. This inspired Deep Purple's classical song "Fume sur l'Eau" or "Smoke on the Water". The line Funky Claude was running in and out pulling kids out the ground is a reference to the heroic action of the "genius" Claude Nobs rescuing the kids from the flames of the fire.

In 2004 the canton of VAUD offered him the Tourism Prize of Salz & Pfeffer and the "Prix du Rayonnement" for his contributions to music. Later on, in commemoration of his death, UNESCO decided to inscribe 5,000 hours of the Montreux Jazz Festival audio-visual collection in its international Memory of the World Register a part of the "World Heritage".
***** Since 1970 the festival has widened the scope and includes a great diversity of musical talents from all over the world. Together with jazz, soul, blues and rock music have been introduced. The festival attracts more than 300.000 visitors a year and completely changes the rhythm of life in this lovely and peaceful Swiss resort. In 1993, the festival moved to the larger Congress and Convention Centre of Montreux known as Stravinsky Auditorium with a capacity of 3.500, and then to other places like the Miles Da-



Charlie Chaplin, James Mason, Audrey Hepburn, David Niven were amongst the addicted audience of Le Petit Palais where the concerts were held in the 50's and early 60's. Later it was associated with the Montreux Jazz Festival to broaden the scope of Montreux Summer Music. *****

It has now a four-decade old tradition for Ambassador Zahedi to invite a group of heads of diplomatic missions and distinguished personalities of the region to join him on this occasion and participate in some of the major musical



From left: Mme. Christine Chevalley, Mr. Franz Blankart de Palezieux, H.E. amb. Zahedi, Mrs. Anne Blankart de Palezieux



the 74th was devoted to Russian music. Mischa Damev who succeeded Tobias Richter as the artistic director of the festival organised the September Musical Festival with great talent and new energy, determined to assure its success. On Monday, September 2nd, Ambassador Zahedi had invited the US Ambassador, H.E. and Mrs. Edward Thomas McMullen Jr. and a number of Swiss and Iranian personalities in Stravinsky Hall where the Orchestra of Mariinsky Theatre from Moscow was performing the elegant Concerto Number 2 of Prokofiev, Romeo and Juliet of Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky inspired by Shakespeare's famous play and op.35 of Scheherazade of Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov from Mille et Une nuits,

هزار و یک شب

or One Thousand and One Night. Valery Gergiev, the well-known Maestro conducted the performance with his special and much appreciated talent. The star of the night was the 18-year old Danie LOZAKOVICH who had his first official performance at the age of 9 in 2009 under the direction of Vladimir Spivakov. The young soloist amazed the audience by his genius and career of exceptional artistic achievements. The admiration was universal. *****



Mohammed Guendil, the ambassador of Algeria and recently the Dean of Ambassadors to Switzerland. In presence of ambassadors from Lebanon, Tunisia and dignitaries from Switzerland and several other nationalities, Ambassador Zahedi spoke of the human qualities, diplomatic talents and services of Ambassador Guendil who after 5 successful years in Switzerland had arrived at the end of his mission and was to leave Switzerland on September 9th. He explained why everyone regretted this departure including the ambassador himself who always had said Switzerland is a unique country that one always leaves reluctantly. The Algerian

Ambassador praised Mr Zahedi for all the services he had done, his achievements in promoting peace and understanding between nations and his love for art and music and called him a legendary figure of good will and great heart. That night, Mikhail Pletnev directed the Russian National Orchestra, the wellknown soloist, Alexandra Couunova was at the violin and the Glinka Chorus accompanied. Pianist, conductor, and composer Mikhail Pletnev was the Gold Medal and First Prize winner of the 1978 Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition when he was 21, a prize that earned him

early recognition worldwide. An invitation to perform at the 1988 superpower summit in Washington led to a friendship with Mikhail Gorbachev and offered him the historic opportunity to make music in artistic freedom. In 1990 Pletnev formed the first independent orchestra in Russia's history. Many of the country's finest musicians joined Pletnev in launching the Russian National Orchestra. Pletnev's performances and recordings have shown him to be an outstanding interpreter of an extensive repertoire, both as pianist and conductor. The London Telegraph remarked, "from Pletnev's fingers and brain come ideas





that vitalise the music and make it teem with freshness and wit. [He] made the music positively leap for joy." The Times describes his playing as "born of a prodigious virtuosity of imagination outrageous in its beauty." For the Russian Edition of Montreux Festival, Pletnev had chosen Concerto for Violin of Tchaikovsky not by coincidence but as a deliberate return to the source of the concerto which Tchaikovsky had composed on the romantic banks of the Geneva Lake. The Violin Concerto was written in 1878 during a sad period immediately after

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