

# 10 February 2019 - 'My passion for Wagner' by Anthony Negus

12.30pm: DVD: Act 1, Barrie Kosky's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*  
2.00pm: Anthony Negus, renowned British (and International) Wagner conductor  
Followed by: Afternoon tea  
Goethe Institut, 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra



[Anthony Negus](#) studied clarinet and piano at the Royal College of Music London, and gained a music degree at Oxford University. He has worked with many opera companies and has a wide opera and concert repertoire. Working with the legendary Wagnerian conductor and coach Sir Reginald Goodall in the 1970s and 80s was a formative and highly influential period which led to his conducting *Parsifal* and *Tristan und Isolde*; and then assisting Sir Richard Armstrong, *Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*. He has conducted *Parsifal* for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in Wellington, and in Luebeck, Germany; after working with Vladimir Jurowski, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for Glyndebourne. Over many years as Music Director of Longborough Festival Opera, he has established himself as one of the most perceptive and original conductors of the Wagner repertoire, culminating in the highly acclaimed Ring Cycle in 2013, followed by *Tristan und Isolde*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Die Zauberflöte*. The 2017 revival of *Tristan und Isolde* prompted unprecedented critical and audience acclaim.

## **Presentation to the Wagner Society**

On 10 February 2019, our first guest was the British conductor Anthony Negus, who came to us fresh from conducting Melbourne Opera's 'The Flying Dutchman' at the Regent Theatre in Melbourne, 3-7 February 2019.

Anthony gave a very stimulating talk to our members and guests, full of amusing anecdotes and musical illustrations. He included a detailed analysis of the subtle melodic shifts in Senta's ballad. His insight into Wagner's use of 'pulse' and silence in his preludes and the great influence that Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony had on Wagner's use of rhythm was especially interesting.

His tales of his early experiences as a schoolboy sitting in the Bayreuth orchestra pit were fascinating as were his descriptions of working closely with Reginald Goodall and Charles Mackerras in London and Wales. He gave us an outline of his career, commencing with his early experience as an assistant to Reginald Goodall in path-breaking performances of *The Ring* in English for the ENO.



President Colleen Chesterman and Anthony Negus

He used the piano a number of times to illustrate most effectively what he was saying.

Anthony finished by talking about his experience working at Longborough Opera, in the Cotswolds, and encouraging members to attend his new Ring Cycle there.