

Forging Meaning Out of Music: Heritage, Complexity and Vision of the Ring

Dr Antony Ernst

Wagner Society In NSW Workshop

Even If You Have Heard Antony Speak In Other Locations, This Series Will Be Entirely New Content.

Location: Willoughby Uniting Church Conference Centre
10-14 Clanwilliam Street, Willoughby
off Penshurst St, between Church and Forsyth Streets.

PROGRAM

Saturday

9.00-12.00:

WAGNER'S TIME AND MUSICAL HERITAGE

(coffee break of 30 mins during session)

This first session will look at what it actually meant to grow up in the time and place Wagner did, how this shaped his thought and his music, and how he came to the Ring.

12.00-1.00 Lunch

1.00-2.45:

DAS RHEINGOLD - MEANING MADE PHYSICAL

The first part of the Ring is as much about laying the musical groundwork as it is about establishing the dramatic framework of the Ring. We'll examine how Wagner establishes his revolutionary system of motifs, and look at why they work so uniquely in the Ring. We'll also look at how the events of Rheingold shape the drama to come.

coffee break of 30 mins

3.15-5.00:

DIE WALKÜRE – THE DARK HEART OF THE RING

As the Ring unfolds, Wagner establishes the conflict of attachment, self-interest and morality in a work which is both a powerful drama and a critique of the nature of power.

Sunday

12.30-2.30:

SIEGFRIED – WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

This is a useful juncture to reassess the way Wagner uses his system of leitmotifs - there are very rich depths of meaning to be found in looking at them in a new way; and Siegfried gives us a wonderful opportunity to look at this and also the ideas of humanity and regeneration which it portrays.

coffee break of 30 mins

3.00-5.30:

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG – THE REASON FOR IT ALL

The final work of the Ring is in itself one of the most substantial works of European culture, and the masterly way in which Wagner draws all his threads together makes it a fitting culmination of the cycle. Exactly what Wagner sets out to achieve, and how he uses all his resources to do it, will be the focus of this final session.

Price: Non-members: \$120 Members: \$95; Early Bird booking: \$95 (cut-off date for early bird booking 14 January 2013)

Registration (includes lunch and coffee/tea): See registration form at end of Newsletter

Transport: Ample Parking in streets

Parking/Trains/Buses - Nearest train station: Chatswood

There is parking on site for 22 cars with 2 mobility parking spots. There is ample parking in surrounding streets. The venue can also be accessed from Forsyth St. We are using the ground floor venue.

Buses 273 from Wynyard and M40 from Park St (near Pitt) travel along Penshurst St. Bus stop going north is (2068) 87, and south is 53.

The venue is on the ground floor – wheelchair accessible.

DR ANTONY ERNST

Antony Ernst is a dramaturg, director, writer, lecturer, translator and arts administrator. He has worked for companies such as Opera Australia, Staatsoper Dresden, Bell Shakespeare Company, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Sydney Symphony, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Opera Frankfurt and the Teatro Maestranza in Seville. After spending five years as Manager of Artistic Planning at the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in New Zealand, he returned to Sydney as CEO of Sydney Youth Orchestras. He is now Manager of Artistic Planning with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg.

