



A talk by PETER BASSETT

a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

“A new look at the *Ring*”

2.00PM Sunday 12 March 2023

Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollarah

Epidauros, the quintessential Classical Greek theatre from the air. Sitting near the top of a hill amongst nature just like the Bayreuth Festspielhaus.

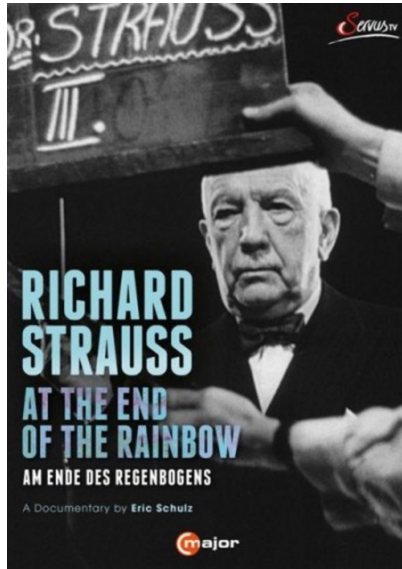
To find out more about the Wagner Society in NSW Inc. please go to:

www.wagner.org.au



PROGRAMME

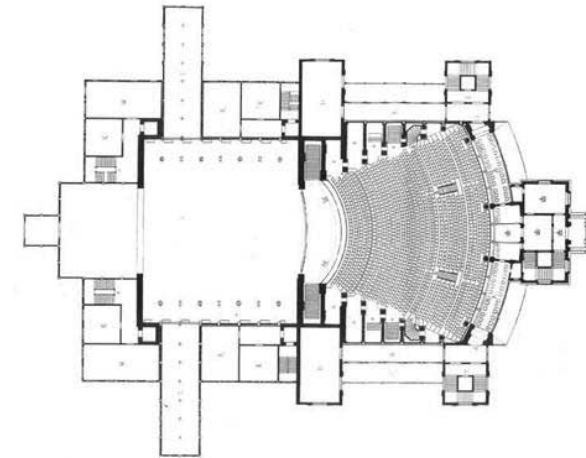
12.00pm [AEDT]: DVD - *Richard Strauss - At the End of the Rainbow*
- a Film by Eric Schulz



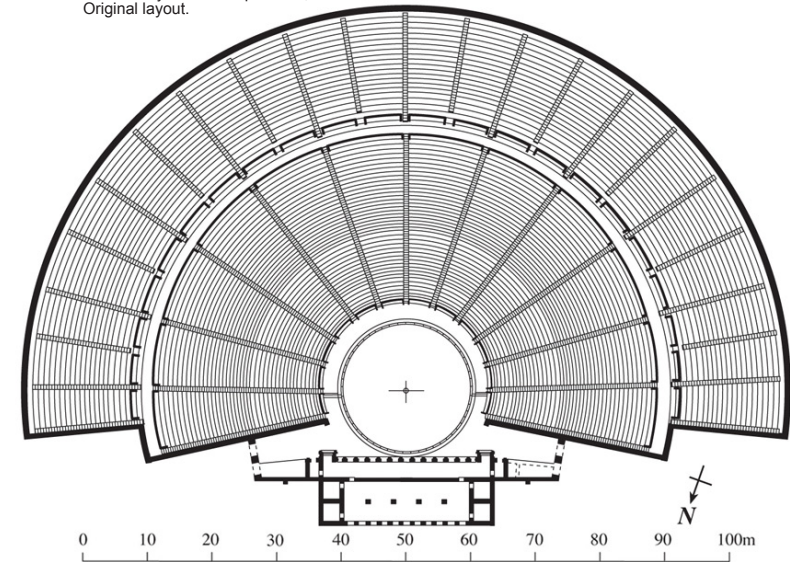
2.00pm [AEDT]: Talk by PETER BASSETT
A new look at the *Ring*

Dr Peter Bassett, Wagner scholar, writer, and Dramaturg and Artistic Administrator of the 2004 Adelaide Ring, will take a fresh look at some of the production challenges facing Ring performances in Australia this year. He'll examine the intentions of the conductor, director and costume designer for Opera Australia's Brisbane Ring, the management of huge Ring orchestras in ways that Wagner could only have dreamt of, Wagner's plans for open-air productions inspired by ancient Greek theatre, modern experimentation with 'green screen' digital techniques, the combination of professional and semi-professional resources, interpretations of characters (notably the Valkyries) and the alienating indulgences of Regietheater. Finally, Peter will offer some personal observations on the overarching meaning of Wagner's incomparable work.

2 3.00pm [AEDT]: Refreshments / drinks / afternoon tea



Plan of Bayreuth Festspielhaus, 1876
Original layout.



Epidauros (modern Epidauros, Greece)
Cavea width: 119 m, orchestra width: 24.65 m, capacity: 11,750-14,700; ca. 300-340 BC..
Plan (T.H. after Gerkan)

PLAN COMPARISON OF EPIDAURUS AND BAYREUTH TO SCALE

DONATIONS TO WSNSW

Your Society has a number of recurrent philanthropic projects for which we seek your help. One such project, which we would like to focus on in the first half of 2022, is the **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship**, named in honour of our former President Justice Jane Mathews AO.

The Society joined with **PACIFIC OPERA** to establish a \$5,000 annual scholarship to help young potential Wagnerians. It also forges stronger ties between our two organisations. The first Scholarship has been awarded to **Ellen McNeil**.

If interested in contributing please contact the President.

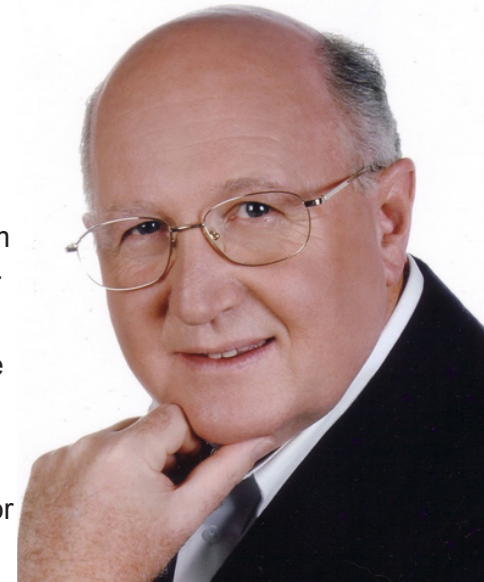


Wieland Wagner at Bayreuth a decade apart: *Das Rheingold*, Scene 2, 1956 (top) and 1966 (below).



PETER BASSETT

Peter Bassett graduated BA (Hons), MA, LLB from Queensland University (and was admitted to the Queensland and Commonwealth Bars), and PhD from the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. He was a Guest Lecturer in the 2021 Lisa Gasteen National Opera Program and a Sessional Lecturer at QCGU in 2010. In association with the Conservatorium, he coordinated a symposium on *Das Rheingold* in 2012 during a visit to Brisbane by Hamburg State Opera and the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Simone Young.



He was Dramaturg and Artistic Administrator for the 2004 Adelaide production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (for which he was awarded a Centenary Medal) and was closely involved with SOSA productions of the *Ring* of 1998, *Parsifal* of 2001 and *Der fliegende Holländer* of 2009. He gave twelve pre-performance talks for each of the 1998 and 2004 *Rings* and organised *Ring* conferences in 1997 and 2003 in Adelaide and 2016 in Melbourne. He contributes regularly to program booklets for opera and record companies in Australia and abroad (on the works of numerous composers), has published widely on Wagner's works, has recorded talks on the *Ring* for Decca, and has lectured in Europe, North America and throughout Australia and New Zealand. Since 2001 he has led some 40 international opera tours for the Sydney-based company Renaissance Tours. He is President of the Wagner Society in Queensland and an Honorary Member of the Finnish Wagner Society, one of the largest in the world.

For two decades Peter served in the Australian Diplomatic Service in West and East Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, including as High Commissioner, and was Deputy Legal Adviser in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. He was appointed Official Secretary (Chief of Staff) to two Governors of South Australia between 1992 and 1999.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Late March through April, 3 cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* by Melbourne Opera at the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo.

AGM and concert to celebrate **Richard Wagner's birthday** at Robert Mitchell's Ampico Towers on **May 21**

June and July events TBA.

