**DR JOHN MASTROGIOVANNI,
 CHAIRMAN,
WAGNER SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,

ON ‘PARSIFAL’: THE WILL AND REDEMPTION**

**VIA ZOOM**

**AT 12.00PM [AEST] ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024**

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**ABOUT DR JOHN MASTROGIOVANNI**

Dr John Mastrogiovanni isChairman,Wagner Society of Southern California [<http://www.wagnersociety.us/>]

Dr. John has been a member of the WSSC since 1990 and has assisted the society in many areas. Since May 2010, Dr. John has taken the helm and continued the legacy afforded to him locally, and in particular taking members to the Bayreuth Festival yearly. One of the key mandates that Dr. Sloan, the previous President, gave him was to “continue the Gala Dinners at the Festival” which feature many of the performers of the Festival and members of the Wagner societies from around the world.

*[No doubt many of our WSNSW members will have attended a Bayreuth Gala Dinner which follows ‘Das Rheingold’.]*

As a young boy Dr. John, living in New York, was first exposed to Wagner by his father at the ripe old age of five. From that moment he began a passionate love for Wagner’s works. At nine he began marking the piano scores of the operas, outlining the leitmotifs. By the age of fifteen he experienced his first Ring at the MET with Jess Thomas as Siegfried and Birgit Nilsson as Brünnhilde. Being strongly influenced by Wagner’s music, at twelve he picked up the French Horn (he just had to play Siegfried’s horn call) and played for six years. Nevertheless, he perfected the craft enough that prior to finishing high school he participated in a special gathering at the University of Hartfort and had the privilege of playing with several hornists, including the famous Australian French horn player Barry Tuckwell. With the influence of Wagner’s message of redemption of the human condition, he became an ordained minister in 1983 and in 1985 founded Oasis of the Valley in Monrovia, California. He has also written and published six books including one on Wagner’s final musical treatise called, “[Parsifal: The Will and Redemption.](https://www.amazon.com/PARSIFAL-Redemption-Exploring-Richard-Treatise/dp/1503216284/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1541757479&sr=8-1&keywords=parsifal+the+will+and+redemption)”

Dr. John enthusiastically serves as the Chairman and loves gathering its members in the Los Angeles and San Diego area, as well as his home.

[from the WSSC website]

**ABOUT THE TALK**

Dr Mastrogiovanni has provided the following:

Wagner’s concluding treatise to the world is surmised in his final composition, ‘Parsifal’.
Unique, compared to all his other works and yet a culmination of them. Lecturing on an aspect of his book, “Parsifal: The Will and Redemption,” Dr. John, in Wagner’s own words, opens the philosophical and spiritual concepts communicated. Originally confined to the Bayreuth Festival, “…there alone may ‘Parsifal’ be presented now and always: never shall Parsifal be offered in any other theater as an amusement for its audience…” (Wagner, September 28, 1880) Wagner very pointedly addressed Religion, the Age of Enlightenment and his convictions for the redemption of the human soul.