

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am writing this issue's notes while sitting on cloud nine looking forward to my second visit to Bayreuth. There are fourteen others going as well and we should be in good company as the Southern Californian and New York Wagner Societies will be there as well.

We are going to a Dinner organised by Sherwin Sloan, Chairman of the Wagner Society of Southern California, at Bayreuth after *The Flying Dutchman*. The Wagner family, Festival and Bayreuth dignitaries and the Singers in the Festival will be attending.

The Committee has made two donations this year, one of \$5,000 to the Australian Opera for *Tristan und Isolde* and one of \$2,000 to Opera Foundation. This will help our young singers along their way.

Some of the Committee attended a Recital by Luigi Alva and a reception afterwards. A good way to keep the Wagner Society alive to other people.

The Bayreuth Scholarship has not been awarded again this year, due to the worldwide recession hitting the German cultural organisations. Our condolences are with David Stanhope, this year's winner.

I was also lucky enough to have coffee with Michael Hampe on his recent visit to Sydney as Director of *Die Meistersinger*. What a charming and very intellectual man. He was very happy with the present production as well as the singers. Unfortunately, most performances were undersold and it is a great pity that the cost of tickets seems to have reached a point where people cannot afford them.

I want to thank all the members for renewing because at the moment there are only about ten unfinancial members. This is most encouraging to the Committee.

All the best while I am away.

Olive Coonan
President