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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

At the time of going to print I can happily report on the hugely successful concert performance of *Parsifal* in Brisbane. Some critiques are reprinted in this issue. Much of the excitement generated by this performance came from the Kundry of Isolde Elchlepp, who had arrived from Germany at very short notice (only four days prior to the performance) due to the cancellation of not one, but two Kundrys previously announced. The two Wagnerian veterans, Franz Mazura and Donald McIntyre gave, as expected, impeccable performances.

We hear that the Victoria State Opera is still planning to begin its *Ring* cycle in 1996 but not necessarily the long awaited 'Australian' cycle. This is very exciting of course, but State Opera of South Australia has just upstaged Melbourne and Sydney with its announcement of a full cycle to be performed in Adelaide in late 1998. Again, it won't be Australian as we had all hoped (the Théâtre du Châtelet production from Paris) but we must congratulate Bill Gillespie, the General Manager of State Opera SA for this astounding coup.

Our April afternoon of Wagnerian singers in Australia was very well received. The audience was delighted to be reacquainted, even surprised, with these recent and rare Wagnerian tapes of singers many of whom are still performing on our stages. Another source of great pride for us.

This month sees our continuing presentation of the Kupfer *Ring* at the Metcalfe with *Die Walküre*. We hope as many members as possible are able to attend. These performances have now, even after several critically hostile years at Bayreuth, attained a certain 'classic' status. Another exciting event just announced for Thursday 27 July: a Wagner Gala concert in the Melbourne Concert Hall with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simone Young (who is to give a talk to our Society on 30th July) The soloists are two great Wagnerians: Elizabeth Connell and Bruce Martin.

Finally, please do not forget our Annual General Meeting on 2nd July. Regrettably, business commitments all too often conflict with the responsibilities of the position of President and I shall not be seeking re-nomination. It has been a stimulating experience and the decision is taken reluctantly. All positions on the Committee become vacant each year and I strongly urge any member who would like to make a positive contribution to the Society to seek nomination. The relevant forms are located elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**Ray Josey**  
**President**