

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Firstly, I would like to thank our members Professor Michael Ewens and Associate Professor Andrew Riemer and the Australian Opera's Antony Ernst for the excellent seminar they presented on Rheingold. The hard work and effort they each put into their presentations was very much appreciated by all. I certainly enjoyed the concern performance more as a result of their comments.

After the SSO's Saturday performance of Rheingold a number of the committee and myself met with Bill Gillespie, Christine Rothauser and her husband, Charles. This trio had come from Adelaide especially for the performance. Bill is the artistic director for the Adelaide 1998 Ring Cycle, Christine is a language coach for the S.A. Opera and she and Charles are stalwarts of the Wagner Society in South Australia. We look forward to maintaining the strong friendships that developed at this meeting.

A reminder - if you have not returned your expression of interest in the Adelaide Ring (see our last newsletter) please do so as soon as possible. The results will be sent to Adelaide shortly.

On February 11 we celebrated our return to the Goethe Institut with an afternoon hosted by Richard Gill and two members of the Australian Opera Chorus. My thanks to Richard for his informative talk and also for his support (by so willingly accepting our request for a presentation) and my thanks also to the two singers who gave up the only day of the week they have off in order to perform for us. From what Richard said there is no such thing as a two-day weekend for singers of the A.O. Chorus. So what about an extra clap for the chorus at your next opera!

A further reminder of the July all-Wagner concert by the SSO to support its benevolent fund. I believe this is an excellent way to show our appreciation for the orchestra by being present at the performance. But if you can not be there, and you can spare a couple of dollars or more, why not send a donation to our public donations account and put in a request that your contribution be allocated to the benevolent fund. You can be sure your request will be honoured.

PAUL LEHMANN

**President**