

NEWSLETTER OF THE WAGNER SOCIETY
141 DOWLING STREET,
WOOLLOOMOOLOO.
TELEPHONE: 358 1919 (Business hours only)

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NEWSLETTER

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COMING EVENTS

Sunday	29th September	Wagner Opera on
Sunday	13th October	Video - see page 4.
Saturday	2nd November	Seminar on "ELEKTRA" see page 4.
Saturday	23rd November	Concert performances of
Tuesday	26th November	"ELEKTRA" Booking form enclosed see page 8.
Friday	6th December	Group tour to Melbourne
	TO	for "Lohengrin" see page 5.
Sunday	8th December	
Sunday	15th December	Christmas Party see page 4.

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If a red dot appears on the front page, your 1985-86 subscription, due on April 1, is overdue, and if not paid in 30 days your membership will lapse.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To judge from the attendance and enthusiasm at "The Ring on Video" during July and August these functions have been a great success. Not only have many members had the opportunity to experience a full Ring Cycle for the first time, but they have been able to become better acquainted with their fellow members during the pleasant luncheon and tea breaks. Many requests were made for further screenings so, with the good grace of the director of the Goethe Institute we have been able to do just that. Details of the operas to be shown will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

We should soon be hearing from our lucky colleagues who have been attending the Bayreuth Festival. Among the travellers were the Co-editor of the Newsletter, the Secretary and Treasurer, so we can expect a very interesting December issue. Meanwhile a skeleton staff has tried to bring out an issue which will keep up your interest in the society's activities. Your attention is directed at the instructions on obtaining tickets for Bayreuth, so that next year a larger group may be able to attend.

Recommendations made at the last Annual General Meeting to up-grade the Newsletter while containing costs have been followed up, and this is our first attempt. Please let us know how you find it, and if you have any suggestions. Do come along to the films at the Goethe Institute, and talk to your committee members about it.

See you there!

Leonard Hansen

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BAYREUTH FESTIVAL TICKETS

In the March Newsletter you were advised that, on an individual basis, applications for festival tickets would be accepted at the Bayreuth Booking Office ONLY on the standard form issued by that office. The address to write to for a ticket application form is:-

BAYREUTH FESTSPIECE - KARTEN BURO
POST FACH 2320
8580 BAYREUTH2 W. Germany

In October you should receive your form which must then be completed and returned to the Box Office before the notified date - usually 14th November - to be considered in the allocation of tickets. The following advice is given to those of you who would consider attending Bayreuth next year in a group tour, and to those who are willing to apply for tickets, even if not able to attend the festival, and offer them for sale to other members.

When filling out your ticket request form it is suggested that the last Cycle of operas be applied for, which involved seven evenings if the Ring is being performed, or five single operas, occupying the last 6 to 9 days of the festival. The price group is optional, but A2, A3 and A4, are recommended for the most satisfying visual effect. The sound is excellent throughout the auditorium. The second cycle could be selected as alternative.

Sign the form, noting that immediate payment will be made for the tickets.

Please do not hesitate to telephone a committee member if you are doubtful of the procedure. The results of your application will be posted to you between the end of December to mid January if you have been successful. The December Newsletter will have a form for you to use, so that details of tickets can be collated.

Good luck!

MORE WAGNER ON VIDEO

Due to the successful showing of "The Ring" on video, two further screenings have been arranged. On 29th September the Wolfgang Wagner production of PARSIFAL will be shown, followed by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's TRISTAN and ISOLDE on the 13th October. Both are recent Bayreuth presentations.

The venue is once again the Goethe Institute, 90 Ocean St., Woollahra and the starting time 11.00 am in each case. Please bring your own lunches, and a good appetite to enjoy the by now famous afternoon teas provided by Jessie Anderson and her team of helpers.

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THE RING ON VIDEO: A REVIEWRHEINGOLD - WALKURE - SIEGFRIED - GOTTERDANNERUNG,

Well, how satisfying - at long last. Some of us have been fortunate enough to attend over a period of eight weeks, the 1979-1980 video version (graciously donated by our most esteemed RITA HUNTER) of the live performances of the above operas at Bayreuth of this most controversial of productions. If having been amongst the lucky ones that attended Bayreuth over the duration of the production or viewing it for the first time on video, one cannot but be amazed at the new dimensions that the ring takes on at each viewing, both musically and visually and whether one loves or hates this particular production, one cannot not be affected, if you have any sensitivity at all by this most humanising projection of the larger than life characters involved.

Bravo Boulez - Bravo Chereau and thank you again, dear Rita for letting us share of the absolute joy of hearing and seeing our Master's epic work. All performances were very well attended and a most congenial and friendly atmosphere was achieved at all lunch and afternoon tea breaks.

M. Arnould.

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1985 CHRISTMAS PARTY

By popular demand an end of year get-together is to be held on Sunday 15th December, at the Goethe Institute, 90 Ocean St., Woollahra, at 3 pm. The ladies' committee has volunteered to prepare a fine afternoon tea, and it is hoped to show a short film of a suitably festive nature. A raffle will allow two lucky people to get an exciting early Christmas present.

Note the date in your diary now, and if you can attend please notify the secretary - by 'phone or letter - to enable adequate catering arrangements to be made.

Reminder. Members interested in attending the International Richard Wagner Congress to be held in Vienna on 21-25 May 1986 should contact World Travel Headquarters, 33 Bligh St., Sydney for further details.

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ELEKTRA SEMINAR

The Wagner Society is to hold a seminar on the great Richard Strauss opera "Elektra", which is to have its first Sydney performance, in concert form, on 23rd November. The salient features of the opera's musical and dramatic form will be discussed by the most eminent academic and professional authorities on the subject.

Elektra Seminar Cont'd

The speakers and their topics are: Mr Richard Toop (NSW Conservatorium) "Richard Strauss - the man and his music".
 Professor Michael Ewans (University of Newcastle) - "aspects of Greek drama."
 Richard Armstrong - conductor - and Rita Hunter - soprano - "On performing Elektra".

As well a film version of the opera, with Leonie Rypanek in the title role, will be available for showing if time permits.

Details: Date: Saturday 2nd November
 Time: 9.30 am to 4.30 pm
 Place: The Goethe Institute.
 Cost: Members \$8.00
 Non-Members \$13.00
 (Included morning and afternoon teas. Participants should
 provide their own lunches)

Please use the booking form in this Newsletter.

'Lohengrin'

The Victorian State Opera will present this opera at the new State theatre, Melbourne on November 20th, 23rd, 26th, 29th and December 2nd, 5th and 7th.*
 Wagner Society members will be eligible for concession prices on A and B reserve tickets.

A group tour is being arranged for the performance on Saturday 7th December. A specially chartered air-conditioned luxury coach would leave Sydney at 8.00 pm Friday 6th, returning around 6.00 pm Sunday 8th. The tour package will include motel accommodation and transfers to and from the theatre.

Please indicate your preferences on the booking form.

* Subject to confirmation. If no performance on December 7th, the tour will be arranged for the performance of the 23rd. November 1985.

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FRIENDS OF BAYREUTH

The Association of the Friends of Bayreuth is aimed at directly supporting the Bayreuth Festival, mainly in a financial way. They do hold lectures and recitals during the festival for their members, who can be recognised by the small gold ring worn in the lapel of their jackets.

As our Wagner Society does not make the usual contribution to Bayreuth that most European societies do, it has instead taken out a membership in the Friends of Bayreuth, the annual subscription being around \$250. Occasionally tickets to performances at the Festival may be allocated to our society from the Friend's allotment and should that happen a ballot will be held amongst the membership to decide who will receive them. Any member interested in having a direct contact with Bayreuth and helping it financially may become a "Friend". Ask the secretary for an application form.

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GIFTS TO THE WAGNER SOCIETY LIBRARY

Recent donations were made to the Wagner Society Library of libretti, opera guides, piano-vocal scores and full orchestral scores of "THE RING CYCLE" - DUTCHMAN - LOHENGRIN - MEISTERSINGERS - PARSIFAL - TANNHAUSER - TRISTAN & ISOLDE. Also a selection of articles reviews and mostly souvenir programmes from Bayreuth and Munich opera houses of periods ranging from 1938 to 1975 and all are available to members and students who wish to further their knowledge musically, vocally and or are interested in reading the text for fuller comprehension as well as in the case of the programmes, reviews etc . . . for those interested in historical data. We thank those members who have donated these valuable items.

DONATIONS

The following members have made donations to the Wagner Society in the past three months. Our gratitude is extended to these generous people who we hope will accept this publication of their names as our grateful acknowledgement for their support of the Society.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. W. Baer | Mr. W. Hill |
| Mr. B. Campbell | Mr. A. Mackerras |
| Mr. P. Cousens | Mr. N. Mathews |
| Dr. C. Falconer | Miss. K. Metcalfe |
| Lady P. Galleggham | Miss. M. Millar |
| Dr. L. Hansen | Mr. M. Smith |
| | Mrs. J. Wayland |

Donations to the Wagner Society are Tax-Deductible if they are paid to the Elizabethan Theatre Trust and accompanied by the form below.

To: The General Manager,
The Elizabethan Theatre Trust, P.O Box 137, Kings Cross, 2011

Dear Sir,
Please find enclosed a cheque for \$ _____ representing my donation to The Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. This donation is given unconditionally. However, it would be appreciated if, when considering your appropriations to the performing companies, preference in the allocation of this donation could be given to The Wagner Society.

Signature.....
Name.....
Address.....

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BERNARD LEVIN

The noted British Commentator, Bernard Levin, was in Sydney recently for the International Piano Competition. As correspondent for the London "Times" he has penned many a knowledgeable and humorous article about Wagnerian performances, and the Bayreuth Festival in particular. Whilst in Sydney he restricted his ascerbic observations to some questionable aspects of the local judiciary system.

A letter of welcome and offer of hospitality was presented to Mr. Levin by your committee, but due to his many commitments he was regretfully unable to accept any invitation. He thanked us warmly and wished the society well in its enterprises.

A WAGNER CONNECTION

The Wagner Society can now list among its members a relative of its namesake, Richard Wagner. In an interesting family tree Mr. Frank Keep of Wollongong can trace his ancestry through five generations to Carl Friedrich Wagner and his wife Johanna Rosina (nee Patz), the parents of Wilhelm Richard and - amongst others - Carl Albert. It is from this Albert - by 14 years Richard's elder brother - that Mr. Keep descends, being the great-great-grandson.

The lineage has been authenticated by the Bayreuth establishment and Wolfgang Wagner, the present head of the family, has himself acknowledged the connection in a personal letter.

Mr. Keep, now 68 years of age, had suspected a link with his illustrious forebear for many years, as his mother's middle name was "Wagner"; but it is only recently the vital proof of the interesting generations was confirmed. We give Frank a warm welcome to the Society.

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PARSIFAL

A PERSONAL VIEW

Is it that Wagner is hard to comprehend, or is it that only at times when one can relate personally to the emotions and experiences of which Wagner wrote that a clear understanding of his work evolves?

Personal interaction with Wagner's operas at various moments in our own development seem to expand the understanding and give a clear insight into our own lives.

Continued next page

Parsifal Cont'd

More than any other of Wagner's operas, Parsifal comes near to being the work best described as a masterly composition of richly powerful and moving effect. A suitable final statement of attainment from the lifelong development of a man towards understanding; and an expression of that which time and experience had nurtured and matured in his being.

Chronologically his final work, the one in which his musical expertise had reached an expressive eloquence that immediately absorbs the listener; from the opening bars of the prelude, engulfing and absorbing one deeply yet gently into a world of thought and subtle questioning as the journey of Parsifal unfolds; a microscopic view of a universal experience taken by many in their search for a truth and meaning to life.

Thus, philosophically it appears to be the work that draws together the thoughts and themes from so much of Wagner's early operas and deals with them all, not individually but collectively, showing that maturity of the man and his life where the separate realities of love, passion, lust, greed, envy and hate have all been surmounted, and a deeper truth beyond the realms of everyday existence is paramount. It must be considered that work of Wagner's requiring the greatest spiritual concentration on the part of the composer.

A piece of inspired beauty; entrancing, sustaining, absorbing music that reaches immediately to the emotions, one is engulfed as the opera increases in energies, stimulating beyond sensory excitement, one reaches a point where there is nothing but Parsifal, existing in a gentle world that even the harshness of Kundry's agonising torment, the hatefulness of Kilingsor's suppression of his being can destroy that feeling of wholeness and purity. The masterly skill of Wagner's development of passion and awe cradles one in a feeling of compassionate tenderness.

The Holy Grail, itself a symbol of a state of purity and honesty, is an excellent vehicle for the expression of a philosophy that is not however necessarily a Christian one but a more universal one.

Trevor O'Brien

ELEKTRA SEMINAR - BOOKING FORM

The Secretary,
The Wagner Society,
141 Dowling Street,
Woolloomooloo. NSW 2011.

Please enrol me/us in the Elektra Seminar being held on Saturday 2nd November at the Goethe Institute.

I will be accompanied by.....

and enclose payment for \$ _____, being for

* _____ member/s at \$ 8.00

* _____ non-members at \$13.00

*insert number.

NAME.....MEMBER NO.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE NO.....

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

"LOHENGRIN" IN VICTORIA

The Secretary,
The Wagner Society,
141 Dowling Street,
Woolloomooloo, 2011.

Please reserve me * _____ tickets for Lohengrin as follows:

* _____ A reserve tickets @ \$35.00 each for \$ _____

* _____ B reserve tickets @ \$28.00 each for \$ _____

I wish to reserve * _____ places on the group tour to Melbourne at \$120.00 per person which includes chartered luxury air conditioned coach travel, dinner, bed and breakfast motel accommodation and coach transfer to and from the theatre.

[] Twin accommodation [] Single room

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....Phone No.....

Names of accompanying persons

.....

.....

Note: Members who have already send it application need not re-apply.

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

*insert number required.

ELEKTRA CONCERT

The Secretary,
The Wagner Society,
141 Dowling Street,
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

Please reserve me * _____ tickets for "Elektra" in November, 1985 as follows:

* _____ A Reserve tickets @ \$29.00 each for Saturday 23rd \$ _____

* _____ A Reserve tickets @ \$29.00 each for Tuesday 26th \$ _____

* _____ B Reserve tickets @ \$19.00 each for Saturday 23rd \$ _____

* _____ B Reserve tickets @ \$19.00 each for Tuesday 26th \$ _____

I enclose Cheque/M.O./Cash for Total \$ _____

NAME.....MEMBER NO.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE NO.....

In order to obtain the best seats available please return your request form prior to September 30th.

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

* Insert number of tickets required.