

The Wagner Society

IN NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Registered Office: 141 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo 2011
Telephone enquiries: 358 1919 (Bus. Hours)



Newsletter

No. ²⁷~~26~~ JUNE, 1987.

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH5028

PATRON: SIR CHARLES MACKERRAS
HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mr WERNER BAER
Miss RITA HUNTER
Miss LEONIE RYSANEK
Professor MICHAEL EWANS

COMING EVENTS.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21st.	Goethe Institute 'Tristan and Isolde'.	1.00-5.00 p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 5th.	Goethe Institute. Reception for Michael Hampe.	3.00 p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 19th.	Goethe Institute. The Gurrelieder-Arnold Schoenberg. Guest Speaker-John Wregg.	1.00-5.00 p.m.
* SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th.	Goethe Institute. 'LOHENGRIN' Seminar with Michael Hampe & Stuart Challenger Concluding with reception for Elizabeth Connell.	9.30a.m.-5.00p.m.
* FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th.	'LOHENGRIN' Performance. Sydney Opera House.	7.00 p.m.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th.	Goethe Institute. 'Der Freischutz'- Carl Maria Von Weber.	1.00-5.00 p.m.
* SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th.	'LOHENGRIN' Performance. Sydney Opera House. Supper / Northern Foyer. -----oo00oo-----	7.00 p.m.
Further details of C.D. Sundays inside.		
* See BACK PAGE for necessary Application Forms.		

COMMITTEE.

President	Richard King	358 1919
Vice President & Editor	Janet Wayland	332 3926
Secretary	Judith Ferfaglia	938 2030
Treasurer	Judith Ferfaglia	938 2030
Immediate Past President	Dr Leonard Hansen	27 2969 (B) 326 1793 (H)
Co-Editor	Jessie Anderson	449 8801
Committee	Olive Coonan	33 4092 (B) 387 6403 (H)
	Murray Smith	358 2763
	Keith Anderson	449 8801
Functions	Dr Leonard Hansen	326 1793
Sub-Committee:	Olive Coonan	387 6403
	Keith Anderson	449 8801
	Jessie Anderson	449 8801
	Michel Arnould	326 1793

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 un-
conditionally. 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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NEW MEMBERS.

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members, and may we
express the hope that the new Corporate Membership of The Richard Wagner
Society of South Australia Inc. will forge even stronger links between us.

Mr Robert Leys, Miss Ruth Cron, Mr Rudolf C. H. Meth, Miss Judith Sheppard,
Mrs D. Perko, Mr Anthony Patis, Richard Wagner Society of South Australia Inc.,
Mr H. Halvorson, Miss Virginia Lamb, Mr Reiner Diel.

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COMING EVENTS.

RECEPTION FOR MICHAEL HAMPE.

Sunday July 5 at the Goethe Institute starting at 3.00 p.m.

Michael Hampe, from Cologne Opera, is here to direct the production of La
Cenerentola for the Australian Opera, and is well known for his Wagner productions.
He will direct Die Meistersingers here in 1988.

He has kindly accepted our invitation to talk to us on matters Wagnerian.

Admission \$5 includes afternoon tea. An application form is at the end of this
Newsletter.

LOHENGRIN SEMINAR.

Sunday August 9 at the Goethe Institute. 9.30 a.m.

So that we can have a greater understanding of Lohengrin before we attend the Opera performance in August-September, the Society will hold this seminar in conjunction with a "welcome home" reception for Elizabeth Connell. The programme is as follows:

1. ^{a.30} 10.00a.m. Introduction and Welcome.
10. ^{a.40-10.11} 10.10 to 11.15a.m. "Musical Analysis of Lohengrin".
Dennis Hennig from the Conservatorium of Music has been invited to lead this session.
3. 11.15 to 11.45a.m. Morning Tea.
4. 11.45 to 1.00p.m. "The Music You Won't Hear at The Opera House". A talk by Dr. Leonard Hansen, with musical illustrations about the music Wagner composed but did not use.
5. 1.00 to 2.00p.m. Lunch - participants to bring their own food, Tea and Coffee provided.
6. 2.00 to 3.00p.m. Talk by Professor Andrew Riemer on the mythology of the Holy Grail and other interesting insights into Wagner's texts.
7. 3.00 to 3.30p.m. Panel discussion by Conductor Stuart Challender, Elizabeth Connell and our guest speakers, on the subject of the Lohengrin production.
8. Champagne reception for Elizabeth Connell.
9. Vote of thanks.

Admission \$12 members.
\$15 non-members.

An application form is at the end of this Newsletter.

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'LOHENGRIN' SUPPER.

- After the curtain on the final performance of 'Lohengrin' on Saturday, 26th September, The Wagner Society will host a supper in the northern foyer. Invited guests will include the Conductor, Principals and Production staff, the General Manager and Musical Director of Australian Opera.

Members should return this application form with money no later than 30th JUNE.

Admission: \$15.00 NO CONCESSION.

An application form is at the end of this Newsletter.

C.D. SUNDAYS at the GOETHE INSTITUTE.SUNDAY, JUNE 21st.starting at 1.00p.m.

The opera 'Tristan and Isolde' with Peter Hoffman, Hildegard Behrens and Hans Sotin and conducted by Leonard Bernstein.

SUNDAY, JULY 19th.starting at 1.00p.m.

THE GURRELIEDER _ by Arnold Schoenberg.

The first performance in Australia of Schoenberg's vast cantata for voice, chorus and enormous orchestra will be heard in Melbourne in September with Rita Hunter and Alberto Remedios in the roles of Tove and Waldemar. Because of this we feel that hearing a recording of this work will be of special interest. In that most enlightening talk given to us by Stuart Challender on his method of reducing Wagner's score for the A.O. production of 'The Ring', you will remember he used excerpts from the Gurrelieder as an illustration of post-Wagnerian turn-of-the-century giantism. Until then not even Mahler's 8th, or his own mammoth stage work, 'Moses and Aaron' had ever drawn on such enormous musical resources. Composition began in 1900 and first performed in 1913.

JOHN WREGG will be attending and will tell us of his impressions of productions in Europe, gained during his study tour as our first scholarship winner.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th.starting at 1.00p.m.

The opera 'Die Freishutz' by Carl Maria Von Weber.

N.B. The starting time for all record afternoons is strictly 1.00p.m. and because The Wagner Society is responsible for the security of the Goethe Institute, the doors will be locked FIVE MINUTES before.

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SUNDAY RECORDINGS SURVEY.

A survey was conducted during one of the Sunday afternoons at the Goethe Institute. This asked members to express an opinion as to whether we also play music by composers who were contemporary with Wagner.

The opinions showed a majority wanting to listen to other music and asking for mainly Operas-particularly those of Richard Strauss. Many requests for the lesser known works by Wagner were made. Members are assured that we are just as anxious to hear these ourselves. As these become available on compact disc they will be programmed for inclusion. For example 'Die Feen' will be played this year at one of the afternoons.

We would like to see more members at these functions so please come along.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL DINNER.

For the first time in our seven years we celebrated the birthday of Richard Wagner on the actual day, and with much conviviality. One hundred and seven guests arrived at the Menzies Hotel at 7.30 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks and very soon that familiar and very happy sound of friends meeting again, filled the room.

A note of disappointment was heard at the news that Alberto Remedios was too ill to be with us. An attack of influenza two days prior to the Dinner made it not only impossible to sing but unwise to be out. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Alberto with a sincere hope that we can arrange for him to be with us on another such occasion, soon.

Sorrow turned to joy when Sandra Hahn agreed at short notice to be our Guest of Honour. Here is a dramatic soprano reaching the full potential of her rich and powerful voice, whose Wagner repertoire is considerable. Accompanied by Mr Werner Baer, to whom much thanks for producing Miss Hahn in our hour of need, we were treated to a truly fine performance of the Dich theure Halle, from "Tannhauser", the Liebestod, and from "Lohengrin", Einsem in truben Tagen. Her final aria, Ritorna Vincitor, from "Aida", showed that she is equally at home in the Italian opera. Many will remember her performance in "Norma" with Dame Joan Sutherland. Despite unsympathetic acoustics we all knew we were in the presence of a true Wagnerian voice. The combination of such a vocal power-house with her dynamic personality and vigour points to a great Wagnerian career for Sandra Hahn.

The Menzies Hotel proved to be a happy choice of venue. An excellent meal was attractively served, the service was discreet and attentive, and without exception, all declared it to be the happiest atmosphere of any of the past dinners.

There was a generous response to the raffle this year which meant that for the first time the Society did not need to subsidise the dinner. Thankyou to everyone for their wonderful support. The Guessing Competition was drawn in turn by Mrs Margaret Whitlam, Mrs Sybil Baer, and one of our newest members, Mrs Barbara Brady, who tells us that she and her husband have joined The Wagner Society the better to prepare themselves for that first visit to Bayreuth.

All three prizes went to absent friends, which robbed the event of some of its thrills. Nonetheless, congratulations go to:

Mr Frank Theeman	First Prize.
Mr R. Hardy	Second Prize.
Mr C. Davidson	Third Prize.

Presentations in appreciation to Miss Sandra Hahn, Mr Werner Baer and Miss Dorothy McCormack, (who was to have been accompanist to Alberto Remedios), were made by the Vice President, Janet Wayland.

WHEN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Richard Wagner Society in South Australia Inc. has sent to us the names and addresses of their chairman and secretary and expressed the wish that any N.S.W. members who may be visiting Adelaide or planning to move there would contact the Society through either,

CHAIR: Ralph Middenway. 56 Cuming St. MILE END, 5031. PH: 352 8497

or

SECRETARY: Marian Frost. 36 Ormond Grove, TOORAK GARDENS, 5065.
PH: 31 8043

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

The Theatre Studies Service Unit and the Department of Germanic Studies with the assistance of the Goethe Institute are presenting "WOYZECK" by Georg Buchner at the Downstairs Theatre, Seymour Centre, in a new translation by Udo Borgert, et al. This is the play on which the opera "WOZZECK" (Berg) is based.

The play is directed by Phillip Keir and is being presented from Saturday, 13th June, 1987, to 20th June 1987 inclusive. On each Saturday there is a matinee performance commencing at 5.00p.m. and the evening performance commences at 8.00p.m.

Bookings are now open at the Seymour Centre (692 3511).

Tickets: \$14.00. Student Concession - \$8.00.

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SECOND HAND BOOKS & RECORDS.

If you have an addiction for the above you could indulge it by visiting the irresistible TYRRELL'S BOOK SHOP, AT 328 Pacific Highway Crows Nest, where you will find, among other assorted treasures, a boxed set of The Ring, conducted by Sir Georg Solti, on Decca Direct Metal Mastering in excellent condition, selling for \$120.00.

They also have a lovely half-leather French edition of "Tannhauser" for voice and piano for \$60.00.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WAGNER SOCIETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES INC. ON FRIDAY 15 MAY 1987.

Having separated the annual dinner from the Annual General Meeting last year for the first time, we will now keep that procedure into the foreseeable future.

With incorporation of the Society last year and the added technical complexities involved, I think it is better to do this rather than have the problem of having to fit all the business into a given period of time, i.e. an hour prior to the dinner.

Last year's annual dinner was again held at the Southern Cross Hotel and, by all accounts, much enjoyed by those who attended. Problems arising from the buffet style of serving food have been discussed by the Committee, and this year's dinner at the Menzies Hotel will be sit-down service at the table affair.

Our guest of honour last year was the distinguished singer Ronald Dowd. Unfortunately we only received one aria by Wagner, but were regaled with a lengthy and amusing series of anecdotes and experiences by this much travelled artist.

Finding a suitable guest of honour is always a problem for the Committee as many we ask are happy to oblige but unavailable at the time.

On Sunday afternoon the 29th June, at the home of Maria Van Hove and David Parker in Forestville, the Committee organized a recital of songs by Wagner and Liszt. The function was reasonably well attended, but the numbers could have been better. When one takes into account the enormous amount of work which goes into the organizing, rehearsals, etc. it seems a little sad the response is so small.

Having purchased two superb sound speakers, and given the fine surroundings of the Goethe Institute for our Sunday Afternoon "Wagner on Compact Disc", we were treated to three consecutive months of beautiful music - "The Flying Dutchman", "Tannhauser" and finally "The Mastersingers". The hardware for these delightful winter afternoons is provided by Jessie and Keith Anderson, who supply the discs and the marvellous sound equipment. Jessie also provides, as her contribution to the Society, the feast which accompanies the music.

In October at the home of Dennis Condon in Newtown we were again brought into touch with the past in a marvellous though sometimes eerie way - piano rolls created by composers and musicians long dead were played in a "look Mum, no hands" way that no recording could hope to reproduce.

Those who have not attended such an evening and would like to do so in the future should make their wishes known to a member of the Committee as I am sure we can arrange it.

During one of the afternoon recording sessions at the Goethe Institute our special guest was Rita Hunter, who is also an honorary life member of the Society. Rita signed copies of her recently released autobiography and special copies of recordings. Her recital at Sydney Opera House took place later in the year, assisted by an anonymous donor. The Society had approached her earlier in the year with the aim of a similar concert but we decided instead to opt for a far larger recital accompanied by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra during the January-February 1988 Sydney Festival. We approached the Festival Committee, who liked the idea that we would guarantee Rita's fee, and they are at present considering the programme. We will be advised in the near future.

The Wagner Society Scholarship was awarded this year to Mr John Wregg, resident producer with the Australian Opera. His extensive study tour of Europe was assisted by the Society paying for his airfare, which we were able to negotiate through Neutral Bay Travel, with a good deal which saved the Society about \$700. Mr Wregg attended one of our recording afternoons at the Goethe Institute and outlined his plans. Hopefully his enthusiasm for the Master will have seen strengthened by his trip.

Continued.

The calendar year 1986 was brought to a close at the Goethe Institute with our annual Christmas party, which I am sure was enjoyed by all who attended. This fruitful co-operation of our Society and the Goethe Institute facilitates our need for a suitable and agreeable venue and at no cost to us. Hiring a hall of such quality would be prohibitive. However, there are hidden costs such as our public liability insurance - the equipment the Society is acquiring, and all the minor things that just add up. Although it is against the law to charge to hear these recordings, we would like those who can to give as much as possible in donations towards these expenses and so help the general revenue of the Society.

The recording afternoon in March this year of Strauss' Alpine Symphony and "Salome" brought the year's activities to a close.

With the creation of a Functions Sub-Committee last year, all these events can now be planned in even finer detail, and with experience, the more professional they will become.

This brings me to the Newsletter. We have had awful problems over the last few issues which were brought to a head with the March issue. Despite careful proof-reading by our Editor, Janet Wayland, and earlier delivery of copy many weeks prior to printing and despatch, there were numerous mistakes in spelling and layout. The cost of the Newsletter and postage on same eats into about 50 per cent of our subscription fees; so we need to get value for money. Other printers have been looked at, but we now have written assurance from Printmail that these problems will be a thing of the past since they have hired new staff and acquired a correct-spelling programme for their computer. I can assure members that under no circumstances can our Committee be blamed for errors such as spelling and layout. The problem was beyond our control.

Last year we approached Bayreuth direct for the first time as a Society, requesting a block booking. This was reinforced by the personal approach of our founding President Leonard Hansen when he was there last year. We were rewarded with twelve sets of tickets for the second cycle, and a further two sets through our membership of the "Friends of Bayreuth". These latter two sets were put up for ballot. In the case of the twelve sets, we had twelve applications, so there was no need for a draw. This year we will again submit an application and if successful any tickets allocated will be shared by ballot. This is the fairest method.

During his visit to Europe last year, Dr Hansen attended and represented us at the International Wagner Congress in Stuttgart. He made many useful contacts and certainly put our Society on the international map. His generosity both in time and money to our Society is an example to us all.

The Society has donated \$5000 towards the Australian Opera's forthcoming production of "Lohengrin". This sum was matched by Dr Hansen and he insisted all credit be given in publicity etc. to the Society. This very generous donation enabled the Society to be given star billing in all newspaper advertisements, programmes and promotional material. A "seat drop" of brochures setting out the aims of the Society and inviting membership will be undertaken by staff of the Sydney Opera House during the performances of "Lohengrin". This will no doubt reach many who do not know of our existence. The printing of the brochure will be at our expense. Hopefully our plea for donations as in the March Newsletter will be answered.

Many of the functions and programmes for members are in the pipeline. Two highlights will be the seminar on "Lohengrin" and the hoped-for recital by Rita Hunter during the Sydney Festival.

From all I have said tonight you can see your Committee has been and continues to be extremely busy on your behalf. We must never forget that nobody receives any financial payment for the work.

Continued.

Before I close I would like to say "thank you" on your behalf to the following: Judy Ferfaglia for her untiring work as Secretary, typing letters, minutes, membership cards, mailing lists, and all the other duties of a Secretary; Joseph Ferfaglia, our Treasurer, whose profession as an accountant has proved invaluable, especially since the Society was incorporated last year and the complexities of the office have mushroomed. His financial report to members, of which you have a copy, is excellent; Janet Wayland for her work as Editor of the Newsletter and the liaison work as Vice President proved invaluable throughout a frustrating year; Olive Coonan and Murray Smith for their duties such as organizing the annual dinner, rounding up late bookers, liaising with hotel management and the myriad of tasks successfully undertaken; Jessie and Keith Anderson for their assistance at the recording afternoons, providing food for both soul and body; and to Jessie for her cataloguing the Society's books and music, and all the other chores so faithfully done; Dr Leonard Hansen, our roving ambassador both here and abroad, whose expertise and knowledge of just who to speak to to foster good relations and furthering the aims of the Society is inestimable, and again for his financial support; Michel Arnold and David McCulloch for their work on the Functions Sub-Committee, on which I might add several others serve and which involves many long hours of intense discussion and planning.

Michel will not be standing for re-election this year, but he did say he was still happy to be seconded when required. Also David McCulloch, who is retiring from his job and returning to live in the U.K. We thank him, and wish him well in the future; Arthur Carter for his lone work on our behalf on 2MBSFM. He is always asking for programme ideas and help, but seems to be able to fish up many different angles to keep "The Wagner Society Presents" interesting and enjoyable.

Many other members have assisted the Committee with donations of books, food, translations, extra typing etc. Those I thank on your behalf. And we must not forget our honorary auditor, Reg Maloney, who not only audits but conducts a courier service between the registered office of the Society and the home office of our Treasurer and Secretary. If I have left anyone out I ask your indulgence.

And finally I thank those of you who took the trouble to be here tonight.

Richard King.
PRESIDENT.

THE WAGNER SOCIETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES INC.TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 1987.

Analysis of the past financial year has shown an overall deficiency of \$3796, derived from:

- (a) a small surplus in the difference between subscriptions and administration costs of \$290 compared with \$1168 of the previous year. This decrease is mainly due to the new cost of Insurance, increased cost of postage, telephone charges following the inclusion of the Society's name in the Telephone Book, and increased depreciation due to the purchasing of the set of speakers and a typewriter. (These two items are of 'CAPITAL EXPENDITURE' nature, and the amounts are shown in the Balance Sheet).
- (b) a deficiency of \$375 between Revenue and cost of all the other current activities. This year, unfortunately, the overall cost of the functions has been approximately \$600 above the revenue for the same. Although there have been regular contributions at the door towards the cost of functions, nevertheless the figures show a decline of over \$400 in respect of the previous year.

The level of extraordinary expenditure has been much the same as the previous year (\$6867), but the donations have dropped considerably, from \$5000 the previous year to \$1200 received this year.

For the past two financial years the Committee has endeavoured to maintain annual subscriptions at the same level, but it feels that from now on for the new members, and from the next financial year for existing members, annual subscriptions should be increased as follows:

Ordinary Membership	\$20.00
Joint Membership	\$32.00
Pensioners and Students	\$10.00

As can be seen, the increase has been kept to a minimum, and the Committee relies on the voluntary generosity of the members via donations and contributions.

Hereunder is a simple graphic of the -

SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>APPLICATION</u>
Membership Subscriptions	Newsletters, insurance, postage, telephone, Friends of Bayreuth subscription, Opera Magazine subscriptions, partial funding of functions (refreshments etc.) from any surplus of this source.
Voluntary Contributions Received at Functions	This is a very welcome source to sustain our functions e.g. Christmas Party, CD Recordings, refreshments, etc.
Specific Contributions	To finance the cost of hiring of halls, performers, Block booking tickets, annual dinners, etc.
Donations	Used exclusively to finance totally or partially the policies of the Society, such as scholarships, sponsorships, purchase of books and scores for library, sound equipment, etc.
Qualified Donations	To finance the particular wishes of the donor., e.g. a particular gift given by the donor to some artist through and in the name of the Society.

Joseph Ferfoggia, Honorary Treasurer

Total Membership for the year 1986/87 is 200 financial members, a drop of nine members in respect of the previous year.

ATTENTION

WE DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS FOR ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS. ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVENTS RELATED TO "LOHENGRIN" MUST BE FINALISED BY EARLY JULY, AND THE BOX OFFICE REQUIRES FINAL NUMBERS FOR OUR BLOCK BOOKINGS. ONE CHEQUE FOR YOUR TOTAL AMOUNT CAN BE SENT TO:

THE WAGNER SOCIETY in N.S.W. Inc., 141 Dowling St. Woolloomooloo 2011.

RECEPTION for MICHAEL HAMPE.

I/we wish to attend the Reception for Michael Hampe at the Goethe Institute on Sunday, July 5th, at 3.00 p.m.

ADMISSION: \$5.00 includes afternoon tea.

NAME..... AMOUNT \$.....

ADDRESS.....

TO BE RETURNED BY 30th JUNE

LOHENGRIN SEMINAR

I/we wish to attend the "Lohengrin" Seminar and reception for Elizabeth Connell at the Goethe Institute on August 9th, 9.30 - 5.00 p.m.

ADMISSION: \$12.00 (members). \$15.00 (non-members)
includes morning and afternoon tea.

NAME..... Number of Members.....
Number of non-members.....

ADDRESS.....

TO BE RETURNED BY 30th JUNE

LOHENGRIN PERFORMANCES

Please reserve.....tickets for "LOHENGRIN" on

FRIDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 1987

SATURDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 1987

[] A Res. \$39.00

[] A Res. \$49.00

[] B Res. \$29.00

[] B Res. \$35.00

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

AMOUNT \$.....

TO BE RETURNED BY 30th JUNE

LOHENGRIN SUPPER

I/we wish to attend the Supper after the final performance of Lohengrin on 26th September, in the Northern Foyer of the Opera House.

ADMISSION: \$15.00. No Concessions.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

AMOUNT \$.....

TO BE RETURNED BY 30th JUNE