



Bust of Richard Wagner around 1880-83 by Lorenz Gedon (1843-1883).
Collection of the Alte National Gallerie Berlin.

Photo credit: Esteban Insausti

To find out more about the Wagner Society in NSW Inc.
please go to: www.wagner.org.au

RECITAL
Albumblätter aus Dresden
a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

JESSICA HARPER, soprano
JOSEPH EISINGER, cello
BRADLEY GILCHRIST, piano

2.00PM / Sunday 13 November 2022
St Columba Community Centre
53A Ocean Street, Woollahra



PROGRAMME



RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Dich teure Halle from **Tannhäuser**
Jessica Harper

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) arr **FIDELIO FRIEDRICH FINKE**
(1891-1968) and **CLEMENS SCHULTZE-BIESANTZ** (1876-1935)
Prelude (Vorspiel) from **Tristan und Isolde** WWV 90 (1856-9)
Joseph Eisinger

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) arr **CARL ARMBRUSTER** (1846-1917)
Closing scene (Isoldes Liebestod) from **Tristan und Isolde**
Joseph Eisinger

CARL MARIA von WEBER (1786-1826)
Wie nahte mir der Schlummer...Leise, leise, fromme Weise from **Der Freischütz**
Jessica Harper

FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)
La lugubre gondola (The funeral gondola) S.200 (1883)
Joseph Eisinger

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Vier letzte Lieder, AV 150:
Frühling
September
Beim Schlafengehen
Im Abendrot
Jessica Harper

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) arr **DAVID POPPER** (1843-1913)
In das Album der Fürstin Metternich WWV 94 (1861)
Joseph Eisinger

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949) with transcription for cello by
BART DUNN
Morgen, Op. 27, No 4
Jessica Harper and Joseph Eisinger



JOSEPH EISINGER cello
Joseph has studied in Canberra, Sydney and Dresden, and is currently finishing his Masters degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp under the tutelage of Olsi Leka.

Before relocating to Europe Joseph finished his Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and enjoyed working with the Opera Australia Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia.

He currently works as a casual member of the Belgian National Orchestra.



BRADLEY GILCHRIST piano
Completed undergraduate piano studies at the WAAPA, and post-graduate studies in accompaniment and piano performance in Sydney and Madrid. Bradley has numerous concerto performances to his name, winning The Concerto Award in 1996 to perform with the WASO. Other concerto appearances were with the Slovakia Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra. Bradley has given solo and chamber music recitals across Australia and NZ and in South Korea, Spain, Italy and the UK. Bradley broadcast solo programmes for the ABC Young Australia program. Bradley enjoys chamber music and has performed in a variety of ensembles. As

repetiteur, Bradley's early experience in ballet repertoire has extended to opera and has been repetiteur for Opera Australia and many of Sydney's chamber opera companies as well as being in demand as an accompanist and vocal coach. Bradley works extensively as a mentor for young vocal and instrumental artists. He is **Music Director of the Young Artist Program at Pacific Opera** and Music Director at Australia's oldest Music Club, Music at Manly, and has played the piano at numerous **Wagner Society in NSW** concerts.



JESSICA HARPER soprano
 Australian soprano Jessica Harper is currently completing a Postgraduate Concert Soloist Diploma at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp, and holds a Bachelor of Music with first class honours at the Australian National University School of Music. Jessica is a founding board member of the Apollo Opera Collective and was the inaugural Artist in Residence at St Andrew's College, Sydney University, in 2018. Jessica's honours thesis *Synaesthesia and the Creative Process* was published in 2013 after peer review.

Jessica made her debut at the Sächsische Staatsoper in September 2022 in the principal role of 'Schein'

Ego fluens, in the world premiere of Angus Lee's opera *chasing waterfalls*. Past operatic stage experience includes creating the title role in *Miss Brill* (World Premiere), *Donna Anna* (*Don Giovanni*), *Rosalinde* (*Die Fledermaus*), *Casilda* (*The Gondoliers*), *Lisa* (*La Sonnambula*) and *Pamina* (*Die Zauberflöte*). Jessica was the recipient of the Melba Alumni Scholarship (2021) and Dame Nellie Melba Scholarship (2018) with the Melba Opera Trust, and completed her second year as a **Young Artist with Pacific Opera** in 2015. Jessica attended the Accademia del Bel Canto Rodolfo Celletti in Martina Franca, Italy in 2018, and was the winner of the Opera Foundation for young Australians Dalwood-Wylie AIMS Graz Award and AIMS Sundell Study Award for 2019.

Internationally Jessica has represented Australia in several prestigious competitions, including the Éva Marton International Singing Competition (Budapest, 2021) as a semi finalist, the Glyndebourne Opera Cup (Lewes, 2020) as a semi finalist. Jessica has also been a finalist in the AIMS in Graz Meistersinger Competition (Graz, 2019) and the Schloss Rheinsberg Competition (Berlin, 2020), as well as a Semi Finalist in the 4th International Adam Didur Opera Singer's Competition in Katowice, Poland (2019). Jessica was Runner Up and winner of the Audience Choice Award for the Sydney Eisteddfod Opera Scholarship (2017), Runner Up for the Herald Sun Aria (2016), Runner Up for the Sydney Song Prize (2017), and has been a Finalist in the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship (2018) and the Opera Foundation for Young Australians Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship (2018). Jessica was also selected as one of three singers to partake in a Masterclass with Dame Emma Kirkby as part of the Sydney Opera House Awards (2017).



1849, Prussian and Saxon troops attack the revolutionary barricades in Dresden's Neumarkt (Stadtmuseum Dresden)

DONATIONS TO WSNSW

Your Society has a number of recurrent philanthropic projects for which we seek your help. One such project is the **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship**, named in honour of our former President, Justice Jane Mathews AO.

The Society joined with **PACIFIC OPERA** to establish a \$5,000 annual scholarship to help young potential Wagnerians. It also forges stronger ties between our two organisations.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

November 27 Christmas Party with treats including singing, food and sparkling, book sale, raffle and prizes at Robert Mitchell's house.

Remember we are having a debrief (REISEBERICHT) of all we've seen this year here and overseas. So if you want to have your say please contact the President.

The Semper Opera House in Dresden hosted the premieres of Wagner's *Rienzi*, *Der Fliegende Holländer* and *Tannhäuser* as well as many Richard Strauss operas including *Elektra*, *Salome* and *Der Rosenkavalier*. After Gottfried Semper's first theatre from 1841 burned down in 1869, the opera was opened in its present design in 1878. When this building was destroyed by the air raids of 1945, Saxon State Opera became "homeless" until the reconstructed Semperoper was officially opened in 1985. This photo shows the building in context with city life rather than as an isolated "palace" - it is important to understand how critical and embedded cultural life is to this city.

