

# SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER AT ROBERT MITCHELL'S HOUSE

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our final event of the year was very well attended and had a delightful mix of music, talk, food and drink, held in Robert Mitchell's atmospheric and comfortable private concert salon in Newtown. President Esteban Insausti opened the proceedings with a brief summary of the past year's activities and a teaser of what is to come in 2023. We were very pleased to welcome some young singers to the event, including: mezzo Margaret Plummer, who thanked the society for our recent assistance; soprano Ellen McNeal, recipient of our Jane Mathews Scholarship; mezzo Cassandra Doyle; baritone Jeremy Bolton and tenor Sam Elmi.

Robert Mitchell provided musical entertainment on his piano roll player – historic records from the late Dennis Condon's

collection of performances of excerpts from the *Ring*. This was followed by several members sharing their thoughts on productions seen over the past year. Julie and Terry Clarke, with John Barrer, talked about the Leipzig Festival and the Deutsche Oper Berlin's *Die Meistersinger* and Esteban talked about the Bayreuth Festival and the Berlin *Ring*. Written reports are included in this Quarterly. Robert Mitchell shared some thoughtful insights about the seeming irrelevance of many of the Bayreuth productions – actions on stage having little to do with the libretto or music. Most members would agree with his thoughts. Everyone did agree on the generally excellent standard of singers and orchestras. The afternoon ended with a splendid spread of food supplied by members and the drawing of some wonderful raffle prizes.