

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A happy 1982 to you all! After much indecision and agonizing by the A.B.C. and Australian Opera Board, there is still a chance the concert performances of Tristan and Isolde will go on as planned in Sydney on August 12th and 14th, and Melbourne, August 5th and 7th. So that members may derive as much pleasure from this mature work as possible, the year's activities have mainly been planned with this opera in mind. Hence we have Mr. Wolfgang Baer M.B.E. talking to us on Monday 15th March, at 6.00 p.m. in the A.M.P. Theatre, Circular Quay. His talk will describe how Wagner's affair with Mathilde Wesendonk influenced the musical development of the opera. Most of you will know how enjoyable Mr. Baer's lectures can be, especially as he illustrates his points so effectively on piano and tape recording.

Shortly after on March 28th, the full recording will be heard at Jean-Louis Sturrop's Sunday afternoon Hi-Fi sessions. It is also hoped to hear "Tristan & Isolde" played on 2MBS-FM on Saturday, May 22nd, as part of a special Wagner birthday radio program. Incidentally, members who listen to the fine music on 2MBS-FM should be pleased to know that a regular "Wagner Society Programme" is soon to be established, on a monthly basis. Our member Arthur Carter is to be thanked for his work in getting this programme to air, and congratulated on compiling the music for the first broadcast. Any member who would like to put together two hours of music for a future programme should contact the undersigned on Tel. No. 326-1793 (evngs). The first programme will be broadcast on Sunday April 18th at 3.00 p.m.

On December 2nd last year, in the local newspapers it was announced by Mr. Patrick Vietch, General Manager of the Australian Opera, that a fully staged version of the "Ring of the NIBELUNGEN" would be part of the repertoire in future years, after being built up, one opera a year. Mr. Vietch certainly is overcoming established patterns in musical direction of the opera. On May 21st we will have the opportunity to show him our appreciation as he will be our guest of honour at the Annual Dinner. I, for one, will be looking forward to hearing more from him about the plans for the new Ring and it will be your opportunity to ask and learn more of the future of Wagner in the Australian opera.

Mr Veitch will be accompanied by his wife, Kathleen Norris. Also at the Annual Dinner, the Guessing Competition prizes will be drawn, so please support this raffle, returning the ticket butts and money as soon as possible. Proceeds will be towards the cost of presenting a recital later in the year.

Foundation members are especially urged to attend the dinner, to receive a small gift, in appreciation of the financial support they have given the Society in its infancy. (Some foundation members have already received theirs at last years' dinner).

The venue for this years' Dinner and celebration of Wagners' birth is the Sebel Town House, Elizabeth Bay. (Use the Function Centre entrance). The cost of \$18.50 per person will cover a three course meal, but wine and pre-dinner drinks can be purchased separately. Pre-dinner drinks commence at 8.00 pm, with every-one being seated by 8.30 p.m. The Annual General Meeting, for which there is no charge to attend, and to which all members are welcome even if not stopping on for the dinner, will be held in the Library on the ground floor of the Function Centre, at 7.00 p.m., the same evening.

Our member Nicholai von Tonslamann who had an exhibition of his "Rin inspired" paintings in Sydney last November, has donated \$50.00 to the Society. This was a pledge he made on the proceed of the sale of his paintings and we appreciate his gift very much. It is hoped that those who missed seeing Nicholai's work due to the brief showing will have opportunity to view them in the future. In the meantime, Nicholai has written an article entitled "Painting Wagner's Music", which will appear in the next newsletter.

Please read the details of the coming activities carefully, and give our committee some idea of your support by returning the coupons at an early date, with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

TOP PRESS:

Leonard Hansen

The Wagner Society satisfies the requirements of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust to receive grants, and unconditional donations made to the Trust, with preference to the Wagner Society, will be allowed as taxable deductions from your assessable income.

Please contact the Secretary for the correct forms to use before sending your cheque.