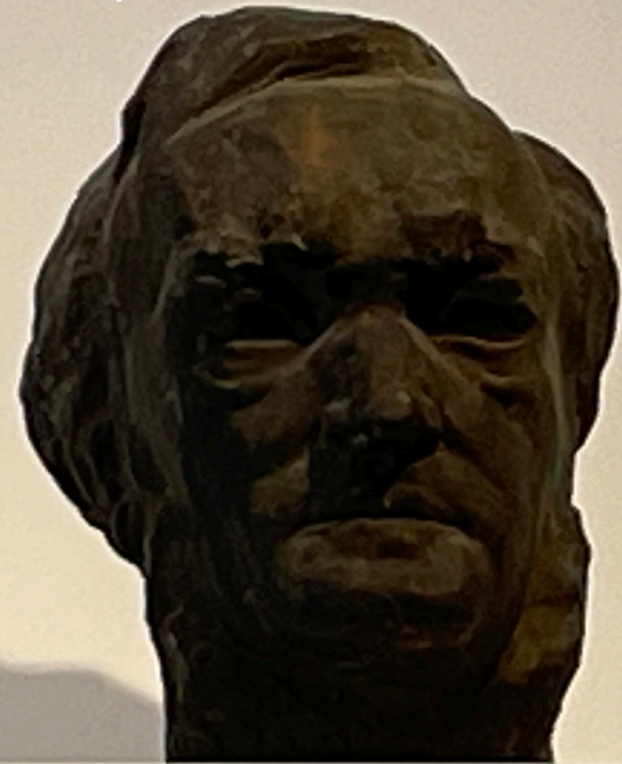


WSNSW AGM followed by a
CONCERT and WAGNER'S BIRTHDAY TOAST
a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

ELLEN McNEIL, soprano
OLIVIA SWAIN, soprano
KATHERINE DAY, piano

2.00PM Sunday 21 May 2023
Ampico Towers, 47 Station Street , Newtown



Portrait of Wagner, 1935, by Adolf Wamper (1901-1977). This bust of Wagner was shown as part of a major exhibition, *The Art of Society 1900-1945*, celebrating the reopening of the Neues Nationalgalerie, Berlin. Photo by Esteban Insausti taken in October 2022.

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

www.wagner.org.au



PROGRAMME

12.30pm 43rd **AGM** of the **WSNSW**

SHORT BREAK

2.00pm **CONCERT** by
ELLEN McNEIL (soprano) and **OLIVIA SWAIN** (soprano)

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Ich bin Euer Liebden sehr verbunden (The Presentation of the Rose)
from **Der Rosenkavalier**
Ellen McNeil

CARL MARIA VON WEBER (1786-1826)
Und ob die Wolke sie verhülle from **Der Freischütz**
Ellen McNeil

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Einsam in trüben Tagen (Elsas Traum) from **Lohengrin**
Olivia Swain

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Cäcilie Op.27 No.2
Olivia Swain

PAUSE

HUGO WOLF (1860-1903)
Elfenlied, Mörike-Lieder No.16
Ellen McNeil

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Standchen (Serenade), Op.17 No.2
Ellen McNeil

RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)
Es gibt ein Reich from **Ariadne auf Naxos**
Olivia Swain

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883)
Dich, teure Halle from **Tannhäuser**
Olivia Swain

3.15pm (approx) **WAGNER'S BIRTHDAY TOAST**

REFRESHMENTS



KATHERINE DAY, piano

One of the most versatile pianists of her generation, Melbourne based pianist Katherine Day is in demand as a soloist, orchestral pianist, chamber musician, arranger, répétiteur, and art song collaborator. Katherine Day is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts and Royal College of Music. In 1999, she won the VCA concerto competition and later in London was a finalist in the RCM's concerto trials.

In Australia, she appears regularly as a concerto soloist, performing the Grieg Concerto in A minor, Mozart Concerto in D minor, Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, Mozart Concerto in E flat and Beethoven Concerto in G Major. In 2020, she directed performances of Bach Keyboard Concerto in D Minor and Finzi Eclogue for Piano and Strings from the keyboard.

In 2007, Katherine won the Liederfest Accompanist Prize and travelled to the UK to tutor on an international master course for pianists. She has performed countless art song recitals, with singers like Margaret Haggart, Shu-Cheen Yu, Bradley Cooper, Michael Smallwood, David Hobson, and many more.

In 2016, Katherine curated and performed in Canberra's Satie Festival, organising ten pianists to perform the marathon work Vexations at the National Portrait Gallery. This performance received national coverage on ABC TV.

In 2017, she toured the Eastern seaboard and South Australia in Promac Production's Mikado and La Prima Opera's Encore, was soloist in Beethoven's Emperor Concerto with the National Capital Orchestra and with Melbourne New Orchestra. As an orchestral pianist, Katherine has been Principal Pianist with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra for three years, most recently performing in the Westlake Oboe Concerto with Diana Doherty.

Katherine is a recording artist with MOVE Records and is featured on albums with Shu-Cheen Yu and Peter Sheridan. She can be heard on recordings for ABC Classic FM and 3MBS FM.

Katherine maintains two busy teaching studios - one in Sydney, the other in Canberra.





OLIVIA SWAIN, soprano

Olivia Swain is a young Australian soprano, recently graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with a Masters of Music Studies (Opera Performance), under The John Holt Todd and Florence Todd Scholarship and the guidance of Soprano Dr. Rowena Cowley. Olivia's passion for singing was initially fostered by a strong association with choral singing in the St Mary's Cathedral Choir, Sydney, and was confirmed by seeing her first opera, *Madame Butterfly*.

Many performances and recitals during her Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the SCM commencing in 2017, culminated in solo performances on tour

at the Zhejiang Conservatory in China under the Global Mobility Scholarship awarded to Olivia by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2019.

Recent role studies include Iphigénie (*Iphigénie en Tauride*), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Recent role performances include Hippolyta for Sydney Conservatorium's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), creating the role of Rose Grainger for the world premiere of John Matthews' new operatic work *Percy Grainger – the Opera*, Erste Dame for the Sydney Conservatorium's production of *The Magic Flute*, and performing the role of Mimì (*La Bohème*) at the Mediterranean Opera Studio and Festival in Sicily, Italy. Olivia is thrilled to be working with Pacific Opera this year as a 2023 Young Artist, and is preparing for many performances coming up with Pacific Opera, including her debut as Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) and Berta (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*).

DONATIONS TO WSNSW

Your Society has a number of recurrent philanthropic projects for which we seek your help. One such project, which we would like to focus on is the **Jane Mathews AO Scholarship**, named in honour of our late 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.

There are a number of projects your WSNSW supports which would benefit from your help. If interested in contributing please contact the President.

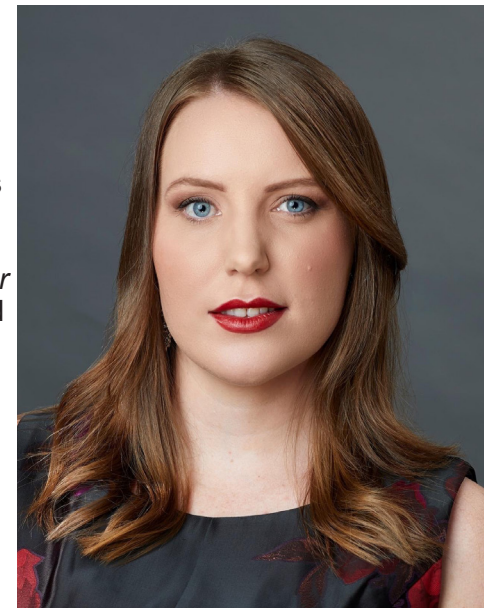
ELLEN MCNEIL, soprano

Ellen has a Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance) and a Bachelor of Music (Performance) from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Last year she had the privilege of joining Pacific Opera as a Young Artist, sponsored by the Wagner Society in NSW. As a Pacific Opera Young Artist, she appeared in the title roles of *Suor Angelica* and Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, and as Mrs Herring in *Albert Herring* and Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*.

Other opera roles have included Serpetta in *La finta giardiniera* (Con Opera), Le Rossignol in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) and Zweite Dame and Zweiter Knabe in *Die Zauberflöte* (Lyric Opera Studio Weimar).

She is also a very experienced chorus member having worked with Pacific Opera in *Dido and Aeneas*, *Madama Butterfly* and *L'elisir d'amore*, with Con Opera and Sydney Conservatorium in *Don Giovanni*, *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Così fan tutte*, and with Opera New England in *Susannah*.

Ellen has extensive experience in musical and theatre performance, including roles such as Anna Leonowens in *The King and I* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. This year, Ellen is delighted to be continuing with Pacific Opera and is looking forward to performing the roles of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Berta in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* later this year.



WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

A conversation with **Noel Staunton**, veteran of many Ring productions including the 2004 Adelaide Ring. **June 18** at the Goethe Institut.

Reception for our Patron **Simone Young AM** on **12 July** at St Columba. Please note that this is a special event on a Wednesday evening.

A recital by bass baritone **Chris Curcuruto** on **30 July** at St Columba.

Tahu Matheson, OA conductor talks to us about the Ring, **20 August** at the Goethe Institut.

We are also relaunching the **Wednesday Zoom series** from July with some very interesting speakers from overseas. Stay tuned.



Left: No.3 the Brühl (The House of the Red and White Lions) in the then Jewish quarter of Leipzig where Richard Wagner was born on 22 May 1813. Right: The Brühl house no longer exists (it is a modern commercial building, see inset) but there is a plaque commemorating the Master's birthplace.