



Das Rheingold, Scene 3 in Nibelheim, Arnold Bezuyen as Mime and the children in the mine.
Current Bayreuth *Der Ring* directed by Valentin Schwarz. Children feature prominently. Wonder if Schwarz' dramaturgy has a correlation to Wagner's childhood?

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

www.wagner.org.au

A TALK BY Dr TERENCE WATSON
'Wagner's childhood and adolescence'
a Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

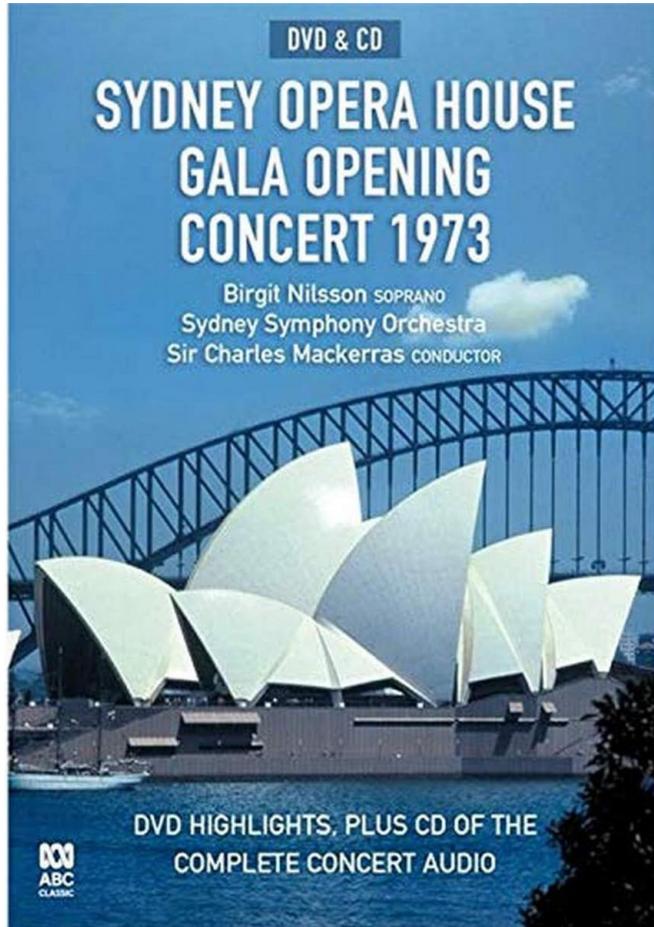
2.00PM Sunday 17 September, 2023
Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollarah



PROGRAMME

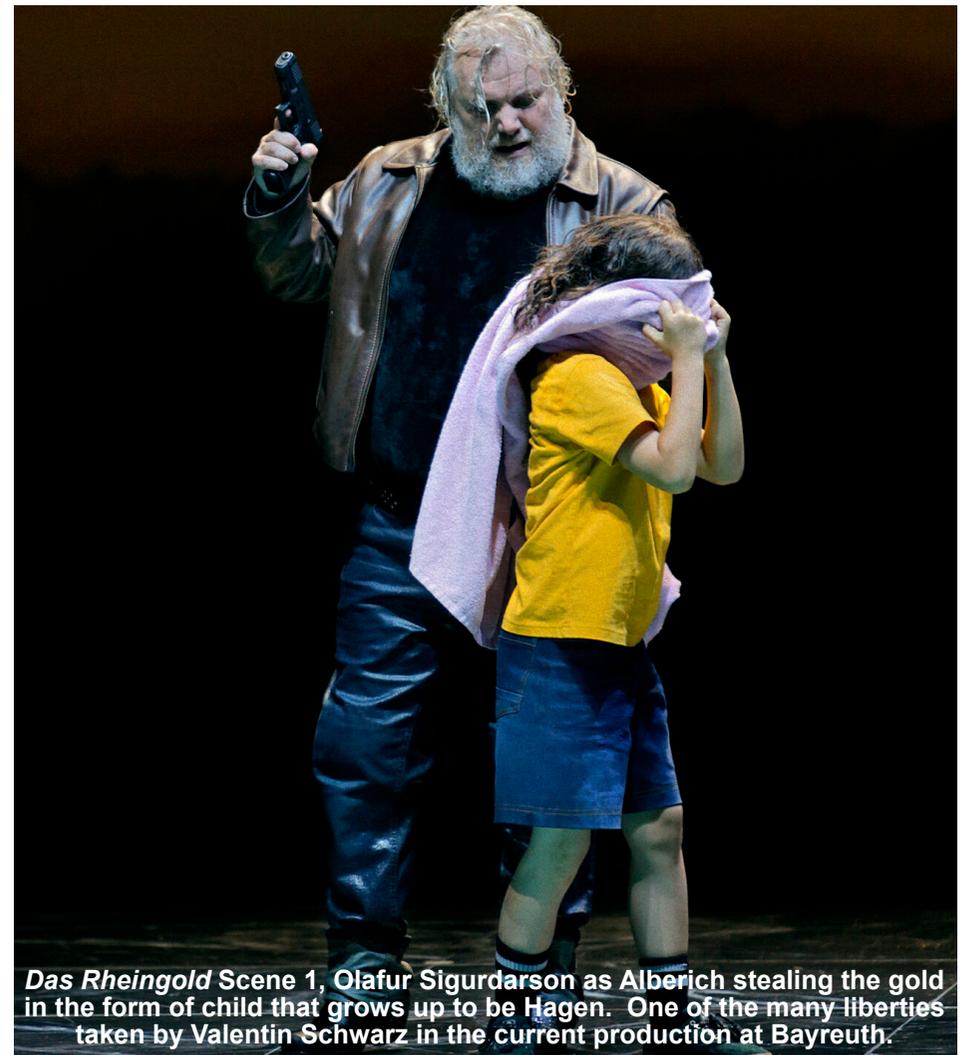
12.30pm DVD *SOH Opening Concert*
with Sir Charles Mackerras, Birgit Nilsson and the SSO



SHORT BREAK

2.00 pm Dr **TERENCE WATSON** on Wagner's childhood and adolescence

3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**



Das Rheingold Scene 1, Olafur Sigurdarson as Alberich stealing the gold in the form of child that grows up to be Hagen. One of the many liberties taken by Valentin Schwarz in the current production at Bayreuth.

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 on: 0412 282 070 or esteban24insausti@gmail.com.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

WSNSW EVENTS

A talk by **Mike Day** *A Tale of Three Houses - Paris, Bayreuth and Sydney*. Celebrating the SOH's 50th birthday. **October 22** at the Goethe Institut.

Das Rheingold Symposium, a select group of experts discuss aspects of the Ring's opening work before Simone Young AM conducts the SSO in a concert performance. **12 November** at the Goethe Institut.

Adrian Tamburini performs at our Christmas Party. **November 26** at Ampico Towers.

FOR YOUR DIARY

ROH **Das Rheingold** conducted by **Sir Anthony Pappano** and directed by **Barrie Kosky**. 14, 15 and 18 September, London and in cinemas **14, 15 and 18 October**.

Villains and Valkyries Sing-a-long. Willoughby Symphony Orchestra and Chorus with Wagner excerpts conducted by **Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith**. **October 14-15** at the Concourse, Chatswood.

Das Rheingold, **Simone Young AM** conducts the SSO and a stellar cast in concert. SOH, 16 and 18 November.

OA **Ring**, 3 cycles. **1-23 December**, Brisbane.

Dr TERENCE WATSON

Terence is a long standing member of WSNSW. He edited the Wagner Quarterly for many years, and regularly contributes reviews of Wagner productions. His academic background is in literary criticism with theses on Charles Dickens and Eugene O'Neill, which, he believes gives him some qualifications in delving into author's lives and the artworks they produced. He has also spent the last ten years exploring Wagner's life, speculative essays, and artworks with the aim of placing him as firmly as possible into the world into which he was born, so as to determine more accurately those aspects in which he can be genuinely considered a "genius" and those in which he was a child of his time. In this project, Terence is focusing on Wagner's views about religion, philosophy, history, politics, science, morality, and, of course, ART.



ABOUT THE TALK

If "The Child is Father of the Man," as Wordsworth asserted, and, perhaps, "Mother of the Artist" (Dr Terence Watson), what does Wagner's first 18 years or so tell us about his later views on ART, society, politics, economics, and the importance of big houses and good clothes?

Dr Terence Watson will offer twelve episodes from Wagner's life in Leipzig and Dresden to identify those family and historical factors that shaped his world view and then his artworks, and to try to answer some questions. What kind of education did he receive, and did it make much difference to his subsequent life? What kind of boy was he? What social "class" did Wagner and his family belong to and what effect did this have on his later life? How did he become so interested in the world of theatre? What did he do at Leipzig University, and why did he so desperately want to enter its halls? Did he fall in love and have sex during his adolescence? Where did Wagner pick up his habit of having "salons" in the many places he lived in during his later life? Who influenced him the most during these formative years? What conclusions about Wagner the Man and the Artist can we draw from any answers to these questions?





Das Rheingold, Scene 1, in the Rhine, actually in a shallow pool in what looked like a Canberra backyard. Olafur Sigurdson as Alberich, Lea-Ann Dunbar as Woglinde, Stephanie Houtzeel as Wellgunde and Katie Stevenson as Flosshilde, with children playing the role of tormentors. Valentin Schwarz directing at Bayreuth.