

The ruins of Gurre Castle in Denmark from the air.

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SIMON O'NEILL

Talks about his life with Wagner

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc Event

3.00pm Sunday 10 March, 2024

Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra



1980 - 2024

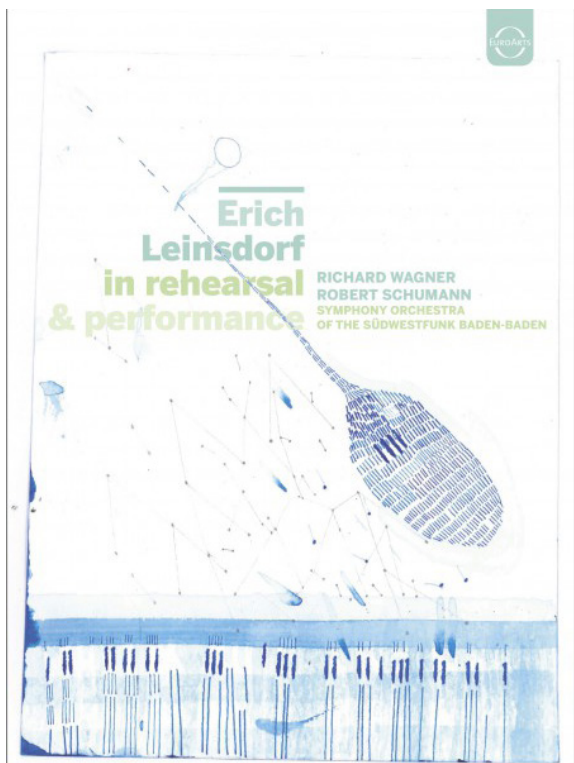


WAGNER
SOCIETY
nsw

PROGRAMME

1.30pm DVD

ERICH LEINSDORF IN REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE



SHORT BREAK

3.00pm **SIMON O'NEILL** talks about his life with Wagner

4.00pm approximately **REFRESHMENTS**

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Elizabeth Campbell



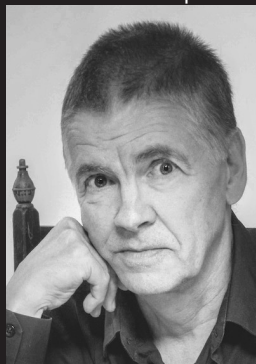
John Wegner



Bernadette Cullen



Daniel Sumegi



David Stanhope



Marilyn Richardson



Stuart Skelton



Jennifer Condon



Lisa Gasteen



Warwick Fyfe



Tabatha McFadyen



Samuel Sakker

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Simon O'Neill as Walther von Stolzing in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at The Metropolitan in New York.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Zoom talk by broadcaster **CHRISTOPHER COOK** on **Wednesday 21 March** at 7pm Sydney time.

Film of Carl Maria von Weber's **EURYANTHE** on **21 April** starting at 12.30pm at **The Goethe Institut**.

Join us for the Society's **WAGNER'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT** with **VALDA WILSON, EUGENE RAGGIO** and **KATHERINE DAY**, on **19 May** starting at 12.30pm at **The Goethe Institut**.

An afternoon with baritone **SIMON MEADOWS** on **14 July** at 2pm preceded by a DVD (TBA), **The Goethe Institut**.

WSSA President **GEOFFREY SEIDEL** talks to us on **Lola Montez** on **29 September** at 2pm preceded by a DVD (TBA), **The Goethe Institut**.

Friend of the Society **ROBERT GAY** returns on **20 October** at 2pm to talk about **Cosima Wagner**, **The Goethe Institut**.

DIE WALKÜRE SYMPOSIUM join us for the continuing series on *The Ring* in the week of the SSO-Simone Young performances on **10 November** starting at 10.30am, **The Goethe Institut**.



SIMON O'NEILL ONZM

SIMON O'NEILL, Helden Tenor

New Zealander, Simon O'Neill is one of the finest helden-tenors on the international stage. He has frequently performed with the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Berlin, Hamburg Vienna and Bayerische Staatsopern, Paris Opera, Teatro alla Scala and the Bayreuth, Salzburg, Edinburgh and BBC Proms Festivals, appearing with a number of illustrious conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Valery Gergiev, Sir Antonio Pappano, Pierre Boulez, Sir Mark Elder, Sir Colin Davis, Edo de Waart, Fabio Luisi, Sir Donald Runnicles, Christian Thielemann, Jaap van Zweden, Daniel Harding, Simone Young, Andris Nelsons, Pietari Inkinen, Esa Pekka Salonen and Gustavo Dudamel.

Simon's performances as Siegmund in **Die Walküre** at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with Pappano, Teatro alla Scala and Berlin Staatsoper with Barenboim, at the Metropolitan Opera with Runnicles in the celebrated Otto Schenk production returning with Luisi in the Lepage **Ring Cycle** and in the Götz Friedrich production at Deutsche Oper Berlin with Rattle were performed to wide critical acclaim. He was described in the international press as "an exemplary Siegmund, terrific of voice", "THE Wagnerian tenor of his generation" and "a turbo-charged tenor".

Most recently Simon made his debut at Opera National de Paris and returned to the Bayerische Staatsoper as the title role in **Parsifal**, he also appeared as Siegmund in **Die Walküre** for Oper Leipzig, and the title role in **Tristan und Isolde** at Santa Fe Opera and Gaffigan, Sydney Symphony as Florestan in **Fidelio** with Young, Boris in **Katya Kabanova** with the London Symphony Orchestra and **Siegfried** in concert with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk both with Rattle and then with Sinfonieorchester Basel and Elder. He appeared as soloist in the world premiere of Victoria Kelly's award winning **Requiem** with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra and in recital with NZTrio in Wānaka. The 2023/24 season includes a return to San Francisco Opera in the title role of **Lohengrin** under Eun Sun Kim, Mahler's **Das Lied von der Erde** and **Symphony No.8** in Bremen, Dunedin and Madrid, a role debut of Loge in **Das Rheingold** with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Dudamel and the Sydney Symphony with Young, he returns to the Sydney Symphony for **Gurrelieder** with Young, **Tannhäuser** in Tokyo and makes his debut with the Royal Danish Opera in the title role in **Tristan und Isolde**.

Notable debuts have included; the Royal Opera House (2005) Jenik in **The Bartered Bride** with Mackerras, the Salzburg Festival (2005) in **Die Zauberflöte** with Muti, the Metropolitan Opera (2006) as the Gran Sacerdote in **Idomeneo** with Levine, Opera Australia (2009) as Sergei in Shostakovich's **Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk** with Armstrong, Siegmund in **Die Walküre** at Teatro alla Scala (2010), the Staatsoper unter den Linden, Berlin with Barenboim and the Bayerische Staatsoper with Kent Nagano (2013), Chairman Mao in **Nixon in China** with Lawrence Renes with the San Francisco Opera (2012), and the Wiener Staatsoper (2012) in the title role of **Parsifal** with Thielemann.

Simon made his Bayreuth Festival debut in the title of **Lohengrin** in the new Hans Neuenfels production with Andris Nelsons and returned as **Parsifal** in the celebrated Stefan Herheim production with Daniele Gatti.

Notable engagements have included opening La Scala's season as Siegmund in **Die Walküre** with Barenboim and with the Wiener Staatsoper with Welser-Möst. He returned as Siegmund in the celebrated Keith Warner Royal Opera House, Covent Garden **Ring Cycle** where he also performed; **Lohengrin**, **Fidelio**, Stolzing in **Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg** and the title role in **Parsifal**. He made his debut with the Hallé Orchestra in the title role of Wagner's **Siegfried** in concert with Sir Mark Elder at the Edinburgh Festival and with Jaap van Zweden with the Hong Kong Philharmonic - both these performances have been released on CD. He made his debut as Der Kaiser in **Die Frau ohne Schatten**

at the Berlin Staatsoper with Simone Young and as the Tambourmajor in **Wozzeck** with Levine at the Metropolitan Opera.

At extremely short notice Simon made his role debut in the title role of Verdi's **Otello** in concert at the Barbican with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Colin Davis (2009). His performance was widely acclaimed by critics, who described his musical and dramatic portrayal of the infamous protagonist as "thrilling", "a triumph", "an immense performance" "a tremendous debut in the title-role, giving notice that he is the best heroic tenor to emerge over the last decade." He has gone on to perform the role on stage in Houston, Boston, Auckland and Sydney.

Simon has appeared in many of the world's leading concert halls including Carnegie Hall for **Das Lied von der Erde** with James Levine and The Met Orchestra and **Missa Solemnis** with the Boston Symphony, Florestan in **Fidelio** at both the Salzburg Festival and BBC Proms with Barenboim and with the National Symphony Orchestra and Eschenbach at the Kennedy Center, **Gurrelieder** in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and Edinburgh Festival, **Das Lied von der Erde**, **Fidelio** and **Parsifal** in concert at Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia with Pappano and Gatti, **Parsifal** Act 3 with Nelsons and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra at the Munich Herkulessaal, **Der Freischütz** with Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra, Janacek's **Glagolitic Mass** with Dutoit at Tokyo's NHK Hall and with Boulez in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, Mahler's **Symphony No.8** at the Sydney Opera House with Ashkenazy and Beethoven's **Symphony No.9** for the reopening of London's Royal Festival Hall. He also had the honour of touring Europe with Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra performing Act I **Die Walküre** in concert, performing complete the **Ring Cycle** with the Staatskapelle Berlin with Barenboim at the BBC Proms and Act 1 in concert with the Berlin Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle at the Philharmonie. Simon made his debut with the New York Philharmonic as Siegmund in **Die Walküre** Act 1 in concert with Jaap van Zweden.

His discography includes his 'Best Classical Tui' award winning lieder CD is titled **Distant Beloved** with pianist Terence Dennis and the Decca label; his debut solo award winning album; **Father and Son, Wagner Scenes and Arias (Lohengrin, Parsifal, Siegmund and Siegfried)** with Pietari Inkinen and the NZSO for EMI. He also appears in the title role of **Siegfried** in the Jaap van Zweden **Ring Cycle** recording for Naxos and with the Hallé Orchestra and Sir Mark Elder, **Die Walküre** on Blu-ray and DVD with Daniel Barenboim from La Scala, the title role of **Parsifal** on Blu-ray and DVD with Sir Antonio Pappano from Covent Garden, the title role of **Otello** and Max in **Der Freischütz** with Sir Colin Davis for LSO Live, **Die Zauberflöte** for the Salzburg Festival Mozart 25 DVD with Riccardo Muti, Mahler's **Symphony No.8** with Valery Gergiev and the Munich Philharmonic and with Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony, Beethoven **Symphony No.9** with Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and Paavo Järvi and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra with Kent Nagano, Frank Martin's **Der Sturm** with the Netherlands Radio Symphony and Thierry Fischer, Chausson's **Le Roi Arthus** with Leon Botstein and the BBC Symphony Orchestra and most recently Voices of German Opera from EMI. Simon contributed as tenor soloist to the Deutsche Grammophon recording of Mahler's **Symphony No.8** with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The recording won the Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance.

Simon became an Officer of New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours list, he is an alumnus and holds a Doctor of Music (Honoris Causa) from Victoria University of Wellington and is an alumnus of the University of Otago, the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard Opera Center. He is a Fulbright Scholar, was awarded the 2005 Arts Laureate of New Zealand and was a grand finalist in the 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Auditions returning as guest artist in 2007. He also appears on the 1998 New Zealand one-dollar performing arts postage stamp.