

Cosima Wagner (1837-1930) in 1905. Photo by Jacob Hilsdorf (1872-1916).

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ROBERT GAY

***Guarding the legacy: Cosima in
Bayreuth 1883-1906***

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event
2.00pm Sunday 2 February, 2025
Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra



Wagner Society in NSW Inc.
established 1980



PROGRAMME

2.00pm
ROBERT GAY

GUARDING THE LEGACY - COSIMA IN BAYREUTH 1883-1906



Cosima and Wieland in 1917.

Wieland was Bayreuth Festival Director between 1951 and 1966.

3.30pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED THESE STARS



Elizabeth Campbell



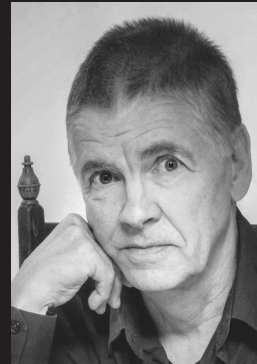
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These are some of the 100 ARTISTS the WSNSW has assisted OVER 40 YEARS.
We target \$20,000 annually towards supporting emerging Wagnerian performers from NSW.
Help continue to support our talented artists.

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Caricature of Cosima Wagner dressed as a character from Wagner's opera *Die Walküre* from the Ring of the Nibelungen Cycle. 'Frau Cosimas Walkürenritt' (Miss Cosima's Ride of the Valkeries) Cosima pictured as Brünnhilde, carrying Ernst van Dyck as Siegmund.



ROBERT GAY

Robert Gay has significant expertise as a music history educator and tour leader, having designed and led more than 100 tours to the great musical cities of Western and Central Europe and North America. Since 1987, Robert Gay has managed to combine his passion for music and his love of teaching with his enthusiasm for travel. Known for his popular music history courses, which have been offered at the University of Sydney's Centre for Continuing Education for more than 30 years, Robert's musical expertise extends from the Baroque period through to the great composers of the modern era. Robert trained

as a lyric baritone in London and Munich, and he was also President of the Sydney Schubert Society for eighteen years. He has been a guest lecturer for the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ACNC), and is regularly invited to present talks on opera and music history to organisations such as the Wagner Society in NSW.

ABOUT COSIMA WAGNER

Francesca Gaetana Cosima Wagner (née Liszt; 24 December 1837 – 1 April 1930) was the daughter of the Hungarian composer and pianist Franz Liszt and Franco-German romantic author Marie d'Agoult. She became the second wife of Richard Wagner, and with him founded the Bayreuth Festival as a showcase for his stage works; after his death she devoted the rest of her life to the promotion of his music and philosophy. Commentators have recognised Cosima as the principal inspiration for Wagner's later works, particularly *Parsifal*. She was Bayreuth Festival Director between 1883 and 1908 when she handed it over to Siegfried.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Talk by the Wagner Society of Southern California Chairman **Dr JOHN MASTROGIOVANNI** on *Parsifal* (part 2), a Zoom Event on **Wednesday 12 February at 12.00noon.**

Talk by German tenor **MIRKO ROSCHKOWSKI**, a Zoom Event on **Wednesday 12 March at 5.00pm.**

Prof COLIN MACKERRAS, Vice President of The Wagner Society in Queensland, delivers 'Parsifal Reanalysed' at **The Goethe Institut** on **Sunday 23 March at 2.00pm.**



Cosima and Siegfried out on a walk in Bayreuth near the Kriegerdenkmal circa 1920.

Cosima was Bayreuth Festival Director between 1883 and 1908. Siegfried ran the Festival between 1908 and 1930.