

Photos of Hermann Ritter circa 1905

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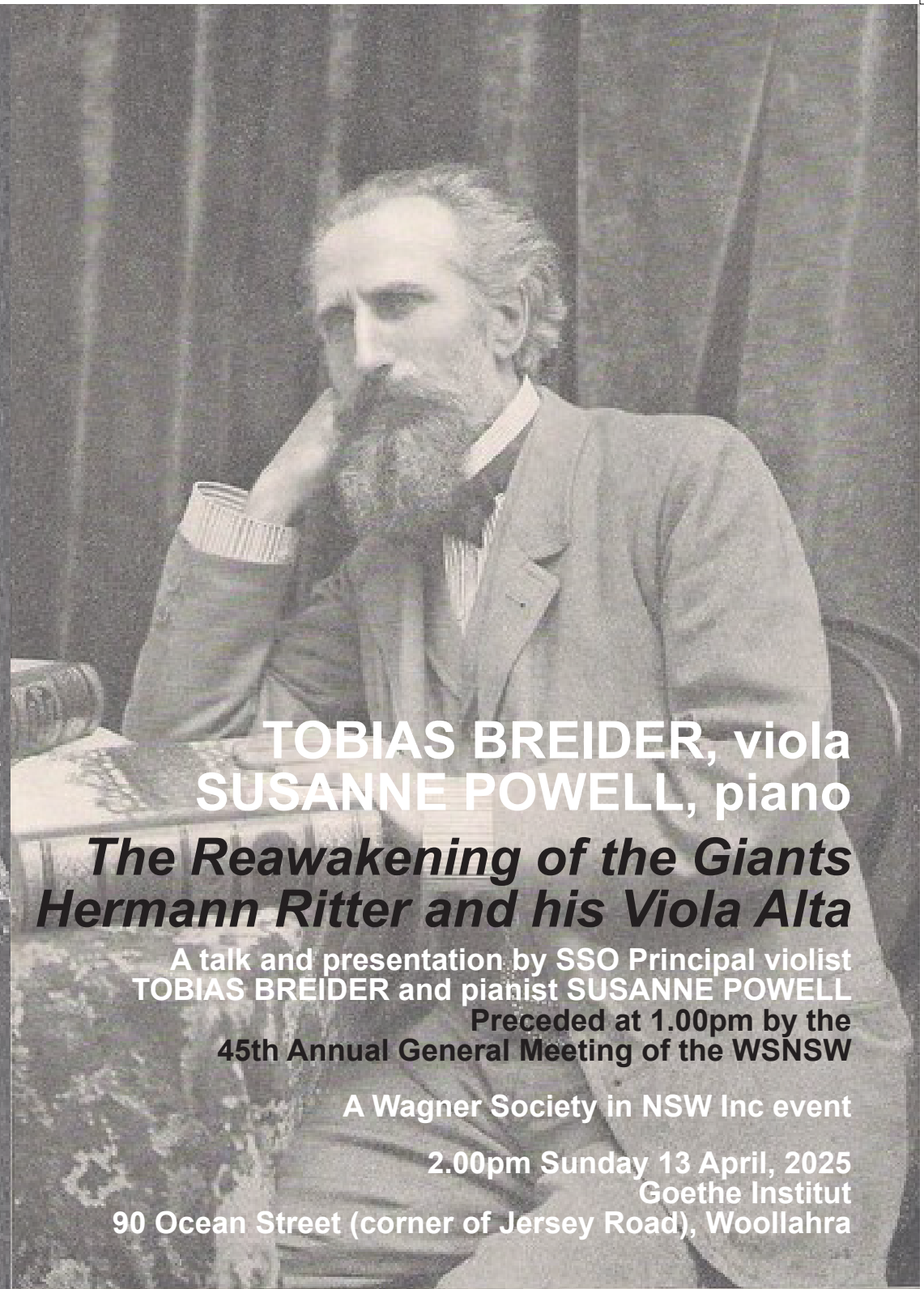


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**TOBIAS BREIDER, viola**  
**SUSANNE POWELL, piano**

***The Reawakening of the Giants***  
***Hermann Ritter and his Viola Alta***

A talk and presentation by SSO Principal violist  
**TOBIAS BREIDER** and pianist **SUSANNE POWELL**

**Preceded at 1.00pm by the**  
**45th Annual General Meeting of the WSNSW**

**A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event**

**2.00pm Sunday 13 April, 2025**  
**Goethe Institut**

**90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra**



Wagner Society in NSW Inc.  
established 1980



## PROGRAMME

1.00 pm  
**45th AGM of the WSNSW**

Short break

2.00pm  
**'The Reawakening of the Giants – Hermann Ritter and his Viola Alta'**  
- Talk & presentation by SSO Principal violist **TOBIAS BREIDER** and  
pianist **SUSANNE POWELL**

### ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Tobias' presentation will feature Hermann Ritter's oversized viola alta. In February 1876, Ritter met Wagner in Haus Wahnfried in Bayreuth, where Ritter presented his new viola alta, playing the song *Lied an den Abendstern* from *Tannhäuser*. Wagner, pointing towards Ritter's viola alta, said: "The right alto instrument!" Wagner had always been on the lookout for new instrumental colours, especially in the mid register. He immediately hired Ritter as solo violist for the Bayreuth's Festival Orchestra and commissioned several of his instruments for the premiere of *Götterdämmerung*. Two of these historically significant violas live with Tobias - No 12 made in 1876, and No 132 (!) from 1881, they are named Fasolt & Fafner. Tobias is in the process of collecting more data and opinions about these sonorous sounding violas.



3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

## YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED THESE STARS



Elizabeth Campbell



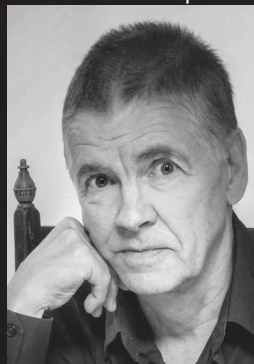
John Wegner



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David Stanhope



Marilyn Richardson



Stuart Skelton



Jennifer Condon



Lisa Gasteen



Warwick Fyfe



Tabatha McFadyen



Samuel Sakker

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.

## PLEASE DONATE

Go to [www.wagner.org.au](http://www.wagner.org.au) and follow the prompts for payment (EFT or PayPal).  
Or contact the President ([ei10wsnsw@gmail.com](mailto:ei10wsnsw@gmail.com)).





**SUSANNE POWELL piano**  
Pianist Susanne Powell is a well-known Australian performer who has shared the stage with some of the world's leading artists. Often performing at the Sydney Opera House on a wide variety of keyboard instruments including piano, celesta, synthesiser, harpsichord and occasionally a Mac computer, Susanne is an ACT Creative Arts Fellow and keen mentor of upcoming Australian talent.

Susanne has appeared with many artists including Cho Liang (Jimmy) Lin, Dimitri Ashkenazy, Peter Coleman-Wright, Dr G Yunupingu, Nick Cave and Ben Folds. She performs regularly with the Sydney Symphony, Australian Ballet and Gondwana Choirs.

Susanne has worked with the world's leading conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Valery Gergiev, Christoph

von Dohnányi and Simone Young. She has performed in world premieres of works by John Adams, Brett Dean and Thomas Adès and played piano in Nigel Westlake's award-winning Oboe Concerto on Diana Doherty's CD Spirit of the Wild.

After graduating with Honours from the Sydney Conservatorium, Susanne continued her studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna and also with Geoffrey Parsons in London. She has been a faculty member of ANU and tutors regularly for the Australian Youth Orchestra.

## WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

Talk by Australian mezzo soprano **MARGARET PLUMMER**, a Zoom Event on **Wednesday 7 May at 7.00pm.**

**WAGNER'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT** at The Goethe Institut on **Sunday 25 May at 2.00pm.**

**RICHARD KING MEMORIAL SERVICE** at Castlereagh Boutique Hotel on **Wednesday 30 April at 11.00am.**

Talk by **STEPHEN MOULD** on his new book about **Carlo Felice Cillario** on **Sunday 22 June at The Goethe Institut at 2.00pm.** Preceded by DVD of Act 2 of *Parsifal* starting at **12.00 noon.**



## TOBIAS BREIDER viola

German born violinist Tobias Breider was appointed Principal Violist of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in 2011. He previously held Principal positions in prestigious German orchestras such as the Hamburg State Opera under Simone Young, the Rhine Opera Düsseldorf and the Konzerthausorchester Berlin. As a guest Principal he performed with the Leipzig Gewandhausorchester, the Radio Orchestras of Vienna, Berlin and Cologne as well as the Qatar and Las Palmas Philharmonic and the Melbourne Symphony.

As a soloist with the Sydney Symphony Tobias has performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Domain, Parramatta Park and Sydney Town Hall. Further solo appearances include performances at City Recital Hall Sydney, the MRC Melbourne and Griffith University Brisbane. In recitals he has toured Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

Sought after as a chamber musician Tobias collaborates with Australia's finest musicians and ensembles such as the Australia Ensemble, Selby & Friends, Wilma & Friends, Ensemble Q and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. He performs every year at the Sanguine Estate and Bendigo Festivals and has appeared at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, the Coriole and Oberon Festivals and at UKARIA. Internationally Tobias was invited to Festivals in the US, Germany, Austria, the UK and South Africa. In 2024 he presented a duo program with Australian actor John Bell.

Tobias currently teaches privately in Sydney. Earlier engagements include the Britten/Pears School in Aldeburgh (UK), the Shanghai Academy, Stellenbosch University (S.A.), the Sydney Conservatorium and ANAM.



Ritter viola, Viola alta, Markneukirchen, circa 1910

