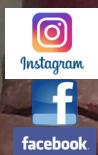




Photos by Esteban Insausti of Ottmar Hörl's sculpture of Wagner (2013) around the streets of Bayreuth.

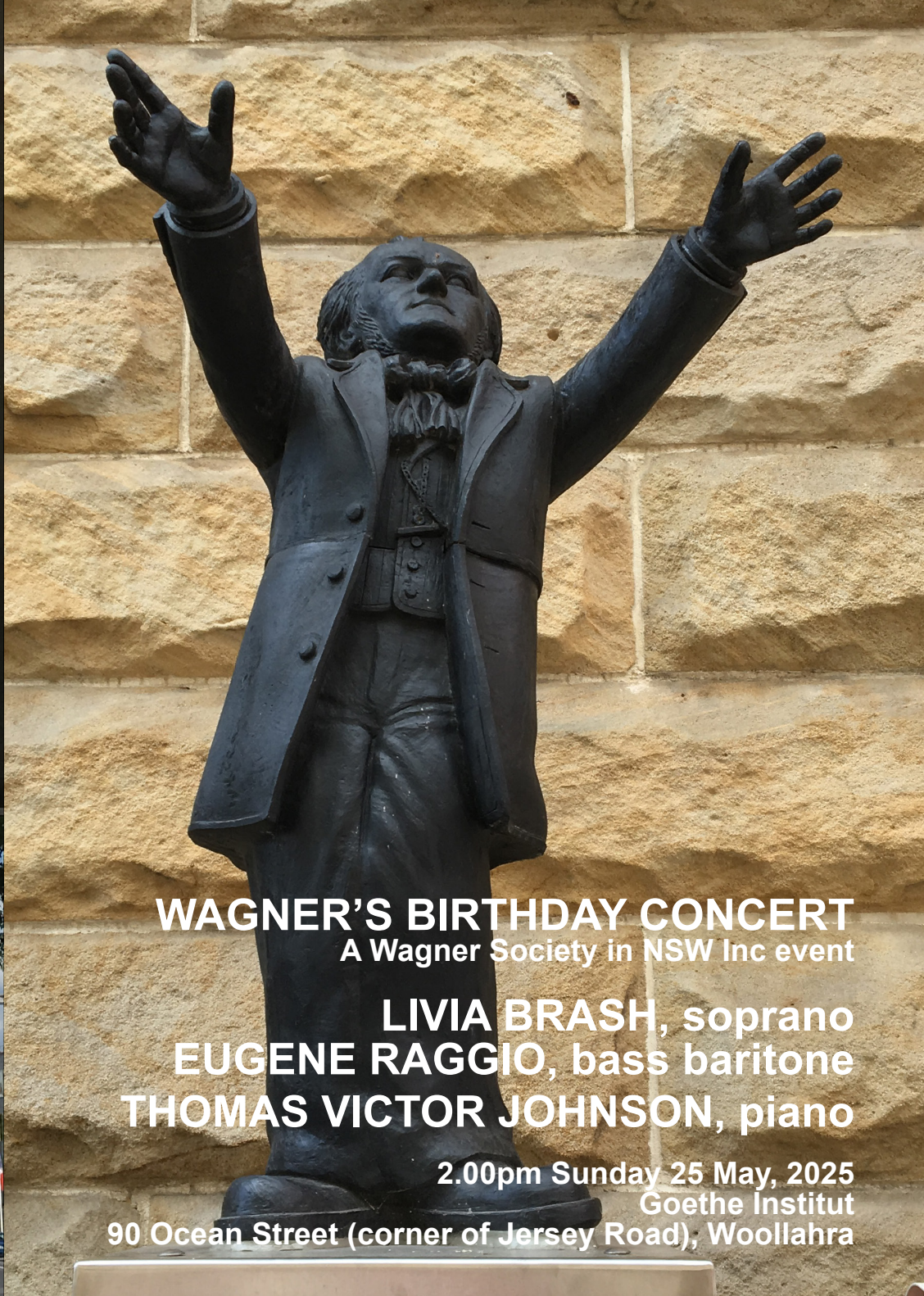
To find out more about the Wagner Society in NSW Inc please go to:

**[www.wagner.org.au](http://www.wagner.org.au)**



Follow us on:  
@WagnerSocietyNSW

@wagnernsw



## **WAGNER'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT**

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

**LIVIA BRASH**, soprano

**EUGENE RAGGIO**, bass baritone

**THOMAS VICTOR JOHNSON**, piano

**2.00pm Sunday 25 May, 2025**

**Goethe Institut**

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





Wagner Society in NSW Inc.  
established 1980



## PROGRAMME

2.00pm CONCERT by  
**LIVIA BRASH** (soprano) and **EUGENE RAGGIO** (bass baritone)  
accompanied by **THOMAS VICTOR JOHNSON** (piano)

**RICHARD WAGNER** (1813 -1883)  
*Dich, teure Halle* from **Act 2 Tannhäuser**  
Livia Brash

**RICHARD WAGNER** (1813 -1883)  
Scenes 3 and 4 from **Act 2 Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg**  
Livia Brash and Eugene Raggio

**RICHARD WAGNER** (1813 -1883)  
Scenes 4 (Sachs & Eva scene, ending with *O Sachs, mein Freund!*)  
from **Act 3 Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg**  
Livia Brash and Eugene Raggio

**RICHARD WAGNER** (1813 -1883)  
*Wahn! Wahn! Überall Wahn!* from **Act 2 Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg**  
Eugene Raggio

**RICHARD WAGNER** (1813 -1883)  
*Du bist die Lenz* from **Act 1 Die Walküre**  
Livia Brash

Drinks and BIRTHDAY CAKE\*!

\*Cake generously prepared and provided by **Barbara de Rome**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the repast this afternoon,  
as always, a NSW Society tradition and pleasure

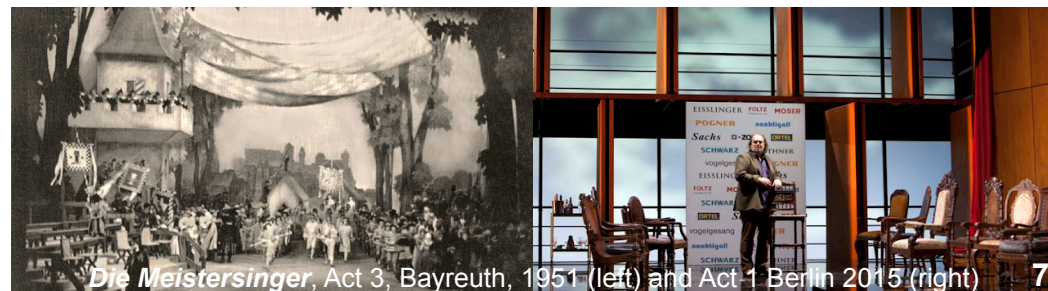
## THOMAS VICTOR JOHNSON piano

Thomas Victor Johnson is a vocal coach and pianist based in Sydney, where he is currently a répétiteur with Opera Australia and a vocal coach at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Together with his husband, Paull-Anthony Keightley, he is also the co-founder of *vioro.co* – a creative consultancy studio. The recipient of a study scholarship from the **Wagner Society in NSW** in 2019, and the winner of the Richard Bonyngé Accompanists Award at the 2018 Sydney International Song Prize, Thomas is in high demand as an insightful, refined and sympathetic collaborative artist. He is a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where he studied piano performance and accompaniment with Natalia Sheludiakova. Between 2019 – 2023 Thomas was on the music staff at Staatsoper Unter den Linden, where he also served as stellvertretender



Chordirektor during the 2021/2022 season. In November 2023, he was engaged as a guest répétiteur by **Simone Young AM** for Sydney Symphony Orchestra's concert performances of *Das Rheingold*, featuring Wolfgang Koch as Wotan, Michaela Schuster as Fricka, and Falk Struckmann as Alberich, and in 2024 in *Die Walküre*. He is also engaged to complete the cycle with Simone and the SSO, in *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*. Thomas has worked with and played for conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Christian Thielemann, Zubin Mehta, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Antonio Pappano, Simone Young AM, Philippe Auguin, Pietari Inkinen, Thomas Guggeis, Speranza Scappucci, Massimo Zanetti, Renato Palumbo, Carlo Montanaro, Guillaume Tourniaire, Patrick Lange, Andrea Battistoni, Anthony Legge, Tom Woods, Maxime Pascal, Giuseppe Montesano, Jonathan Darlington, Antony Walker, Kristiina Poska, Pietro Rizzo, Benjamin Northey, Tahu Matheson, and Christian Badea.

Thomas performed for the Wagner Society on 19 May 2024, in Wagner's Birthday Concert with Valda Wilson and Eugene Raggio.



*Die Meistersinger*, Act 3, Bayreuth, 1951 (left) and Act 1 Berlin 2015 (right)





**EUGENE RAGGIO** bass baritone  
Australian-Maltese Bass Baritone, Eugene Raggio is a graduate of the Elder Conservatorium (Adelaide) and a graduate actor of the Adelaide Centre for the Arts and the International Film School Sydney. In 2014 Eugene was a young artist with Australian Contemporary Opera Co. He has appeared in the inaugural Nagambie Lakes Opera Festival, Vic and toured with Opera Australia in Victoria/NSW and nationally with Co-Opera. In the EU he has appeared with **Berliner Wagner Gruppe**, Berlin Opera Summer Festival, Berlin Dramatic Voices; Yorke Trust and Dei Gratia (UK). He has toured the German speaking world with *Das Phantom Der Oper* (Arndt/Gerber - ASA Events) in successive years. Eugene's repertoire includes: *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Lohengrin*, *Parsifal*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Gianni Schicchi*,

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *The Consul* and *Mozart y Salieri*. Eugene is the founding conductor and associate director of the Australian Remembrance Foundation. Eugene is shortly to tour for his second year with Opera Australia's new production of *La Bohème* in the roles of Benoit and Alcindoro. He has recently covered Warwick Fyfe in the role of Hans Sachs for Melbourne Opera's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

**Eugene is a Wagner Society in NSW sponsored artist, who last performed for the Wagner Society on 19 May 2024, in Wagner's Birthday Concert with Valda Wilson.**

## WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

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

Talk by **Prof CAROLE CUSACK** on *Parsifal* on **Sunday 20 July** at **The Goethe Institut** at **2.00 pm**. Preceded by DVD of Act 3 of *Parsifal* starting at **12.00 noon**.

Showing of **SYBERBERG'S PARSIFAL** on **Sunday 17 August** at **The Goethe Institut** starting at **12.00 noon**.

**WSNSW'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT** on **Sunday 14 September** at **St Columba** starting at **2.00 pm**.

## LIVIA BRASH soprano

Livia Brash is an Emerging Artist with Melbourne Opera, where this year she covered the role of Eva (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) with the company in their historic performance at the Royal Exhibition Building. WSNSW members may remember Livia from her talk, *Why Meistersingers? The Politics of Richard Wagner*, at the **Wagner Symposium** in February.

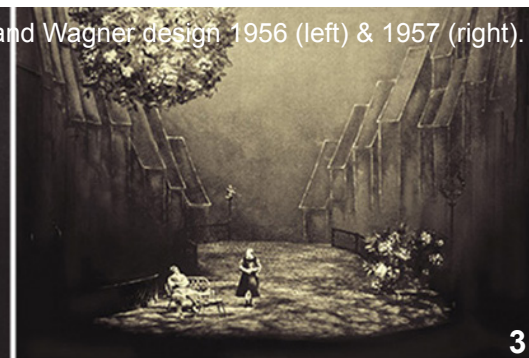
This year she made her debut in the title role of *Rusalka* for Boroondara Art's Opera in the Park and gave the world premiere of Kevin March's *Songs for Dark Days* for Lyric Opera of Melbourne. She also recorded the roles of Rheinmaiden, Erda, Sieglinde, Woodbird, Guttrune and Brunnhilde in the condensed *Ring Cycle*, *Brünnhilde*, which will soon be released on Spotify, and receive a live performance at the Melbourne Recital Centre in June. Her next appearances on the opera stage will be in the role of Musetta (*La Bohème*), for both Melbourne Opera and BK Opera in July.

In 2024, she covered Helena Dix's Musetta for Melbourne Opera, and was praised for her "full, rich rounded soprano" (Classic Melbourne) singing the role of La Zelartrice in *Suor Angelica*.

Livia attended the Georg Solti Accademia in Italy, under the tutelage of mentors such as Richard Bonyngne, with whom she prepared the title role of Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda* for her debut with the London City Philharmonic Orchestra. Other roles include Sieglinde (**kindly sponsored by WSNSW**), *Tosca*, *Alcina* (USA), *Mimi*, *Rosina* (Australia tour), *Donna Elvira* and *Fiordiligi*, among others. She has also appeared as a soloist with the Canberra Symphony, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Lake Macquarie Philharmonic, Willoughby Symphony and Central Coast Philharmonic.



*Die Meistersinger*, Act 2, Bayreuth, Wieland Wagner design 1956 (left) & 1957 (right).





Richard Wagner and family in 1881 on the back steps at Wahnfried.

Left to right, top row: Blandine von Bülow, Heinrich Stein (Siegfried's tutor), Cosima Wagner, Richard Wagner, Paul von Joukowsky (scenic designer and family friend); bottom row: Isolde, Daniela von Bülow, Eva, Siegfried.

Photo in the Bayreuth Archives