

Deborah Humble as Erda in Melbourne Opera's production of
Der Ring des Nibelungen, Bendigo, 2022.

DEBORAH HUMBLE on HOW TO LEARN AN OPERA SCORE

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

2.00pm Sunday 8 February 2026
Goethe Institut
90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra

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

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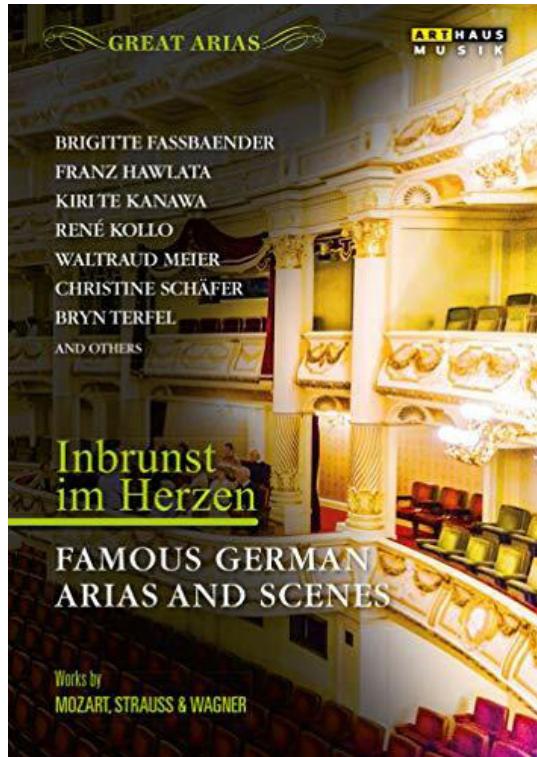
Wagner Society in NSW Inc.
established 1980



PROGRAMME

12.30pm

DVD INBRUST IM HERZEN: FAMOUS GERMAN ARIAS & SCENES



2.00pm

DEBORAH HUMBLE
HOW TO LEARN AN OPERA SCORE

3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

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WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2026?

Sunday 1 March, Goethe Institut

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's TV classic Wagner – Episodes 1+2**
2.00pm: Talk by **MIKE DAY** about Wagner's painter contemporaries

Sunday 29 March, Willoughby Uniting Church

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 3**
2.00pm: Talk by conductor **TOBY WONG** on Shaumet *Das Rheingold*

Sunday 19 April, Goethe Institut

1.00pm: **AGM**
2.00pm: Talk by TBA

Wednesday 22 April, via zoom

12.00 noon: Talk by **F. PETER PHILLIPS**, President of the Wagner Society of New York

Wednesday 6 May, via zoom

12.00 noon: Talk by Belgian Bass **TIJL FAVEYTS**

Sunday 17 May, Mosman Art Gallery

2.00pm: **Wagner's Birthday concert**, with heldenbaritone **WARWICK FYFE** & soprano **LEE ABRAHMS**EN with **GLENN AMER** at the piano

Sunday 21 June, Goethe Institut

12.00p noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 4**
2.00pm: Talk by **CHRIS SORRELL** about early Wagner recordings

Sunday 19 July, Goethe Institut

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 5**
2.00pm: Talk by TBA

Sunday 16 August, Goethe Institut

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 6**
2.00pm: Talk by conductor **SARAH PENICKA-SMITH**

Sunday 13 September, Goethe Institut

12.00 noon: DVD – TBA
2.00pm: Talk by Associate Professor **ROSS ANDERSON** on his book **The Appian Way**

Sunday 11 October, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: Concert with mezzo-soprano **DEBORAH HUMBLE** and **SHAROLYN KIMMORLEY** at the piano

Saturday 21 November, Goethe Institut

10.30 am – 4.00pm: **SYMPOSIUM** on **GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG**

Sunday 13 December, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and party

DEBORAH HUMBLE

Australian mezzo-soprano Deborah Humble is noted for her operatic & concert performances worldwide. The recipient of two Greenroom Award nominations, she has sung more than 70 operatic roles.

A former principal artist with both Opera Australia & the Hamburg State Opera, Humble was a recipient of the AOAC Joan Sutherland Award in 2004 & a finalist at the International Wagner Competition in Seattle in 2008.

Recordings include Erda in *Das Rheingold* & *Siegfried* (Naxos, Hong Kong Philharmonic conducted by Jaap van Zweden) Erda, First Norn & Schwertleite (Oehms, Hamburg State Opera conducted by Simone Young), Clarissa in *The Love For Three*

Oranges (Chandos, Opera Australia conducted by Sir Richard Hickox), *Marvellous Mezzo-sopranos and Contraltos* (Naxos) and *Mahler's Symphony No. 2* conducted by Simone Young, released by Deutsche Grammophon in 2025.

Recent opera engagements for Opera Australia include La Cieca in *La Gioconda* alongside Jonas Kaufmann conducted by Pinchas Steinberg & Waltraute & Fricka for three *Ring Cycles* in Brisbane conducted by Philippe Augin. She sang Erda & Waltruate for three *Ring Cycles* in Bendigo for Melbourne Opera conducted by Anthony Negus, & made two further role debuts with the company as Magdalena in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* & Dalila in Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*. For Victorian Opera she made two Strauss role debuts as Claior in *Capriccio* & Klytämnestra in *Elektra*. Earlier this year this year she made two significant role debuts in the UK; Herodias in Strauss's *Salomé* & as Madame de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Recent performances on the concert platform include Waldtaube in Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, Waltraute in Wagner's *Die Walküre* & Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Simone Young, Mahler's *8th Symphony* with the Western Australian Symphony conducted by Asher Fisch, Verdi's *Requiem* with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Umberto Clerici, Mahler's *3rd Symphony* with the Auckland Philharmonia conducted by Giordano Bellincampi, Mozart's *Requiem* with the London Chorus at Cadogan Hall & Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* for the New Zealand and Dunedin Symphony Orchestras.

Further performances in 2026 include Verdi's *Requiem* with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Waltraute in *Die Göttterdammerung* for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a solo recital for the Elder Hall Recital Series in Adelaide & multiple performances of the one woman opera *Bon Appetit!* by Lee Hoiby depicting the famous chef Julia Child.

Deborah has been included in the *Who's Who of Australian Women* since 2009 & is Patron of both the Wagner Society of South Australia & the Newcastle Music Festival. She is a Music Board member for the Tait Memorial Trust in London & a Mentor for the Dame Nellie Melba Young Artists' Programme. WSNSW recently assisted Deborah to undertake preliminary preparation for the role of Kundry.





A Fricka, an Erda and two Waltrautes. From top left: Deborah Humble as Erda with Daniel Sumegi as Wotan in *Das Rheingold*, OA, Brisbane Ring 2023. Top right Deborah Humble as Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung*, OA, Brisbane Ring 2023. Bottom left, as Erda, centre stage, in *Das Rheingold*, Melbourne Opera, Bendigo 2022. Bottom right as Waltraute in *Götterdämmerung* with Antoinette Halloran as Brünnhilde, Melbourne Opera, Bendigo 2022.

