

Image from a rare production of Schumann's Genoveva at the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck directed by Johannes Reitmeier with sets and costumes by Michael D. Zimmermann in 2022. Photo: © Birgit Gufler

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**DR PETER ROENNFELDT on
SCHUMANN AND WAGNER
PARALLELS AND MUTUAL INFLUENCE**
A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

2.00pm Sunday 19 July 2026
Goethe Institut
90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra

PROGRAMME

12.00 noon
DVD TONY PALMER'S **WAGNER**
PART 3 Episode 4



Tony Palmer and Richard Burton on set.

2.00pm
DR PETER ROENNFELDT
on

SCHUMANN AND WAGNER - PARALLELS AND MUTUAL INFLUENCE

3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

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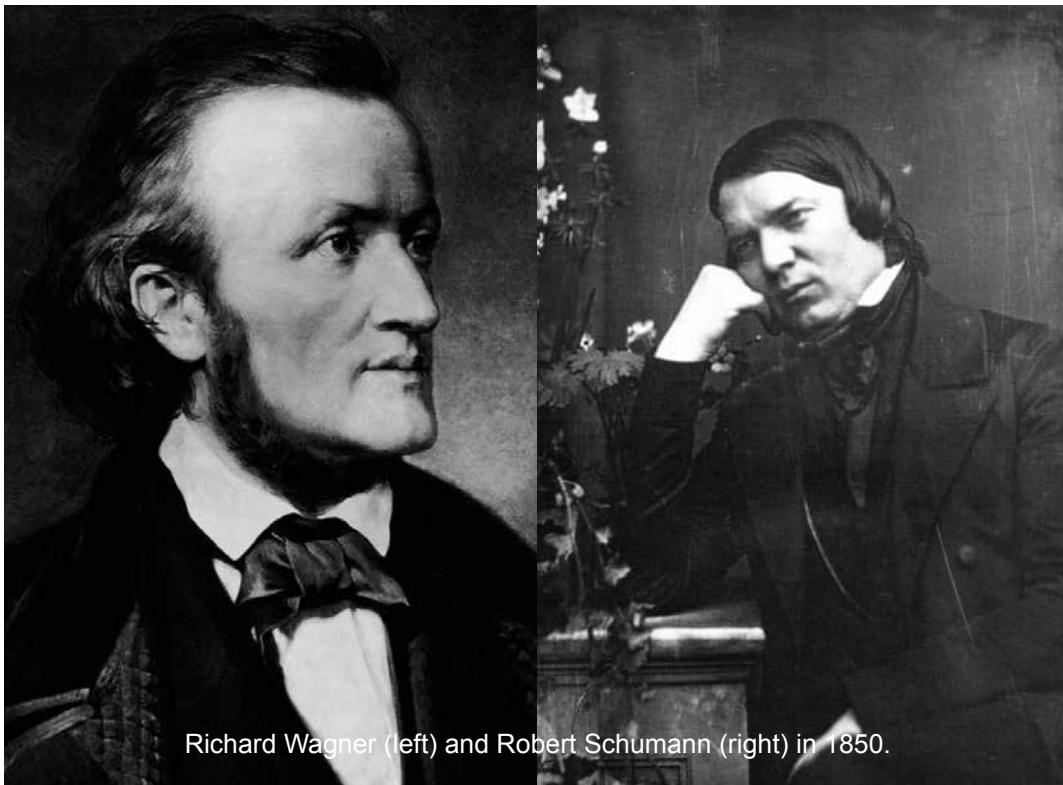


Samuel Sakker

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Richard Wagner (left) and Robert Schumann (right) in 1850.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Sunday 2 August, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: **LIFE LOVE AND OPERA** with **BRAD COOPER, JANE EDE, ELEANOR GREENWOOD, JESSICA HARPER, MICHAEL LAMPARD, KEN MCINTOSH, EUGENE RAGGIO** and **LAURA SCANDIZZO** all accompanied by **BRADLEY GILCHRIST** followed by refreshments and drinks

Sunday 16 August, Goethe Institut

12.00noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 4**

2.00pm: Talk by conductor **SARAH PENICKA-SMITH** on **The Future of Opera & what Wagner has to do with it**

Sunday 13 September, Goethe Institut

12.00noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 5**

2.00pm: Talk by Associate Professor **ROSS ANDERSON** on his book about visionary designer Adolphe Appia, **The Appian Way**

Sunday 11 October, St Columba Community Centre

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

Saturday 21 November, Goethe Institut

10.30am – 5.00pm: **SYMPOSIUM** on **GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG**

Sunday 13 December, St Columba Community Centre

2.00pm: **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and party

PETER ROENNFELDT

Emeritus Professor Peter Roennfeldt lectured in music history for over three decades at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, where for seven years he also served as its Director. He performs mostly with period instruments, including directing baroque vocal ensembles from the harpsichord, and chamber music of Schumann and contemporaries featuring his 1843 Streicher piano. The musical history of Queensland has been Peter's primary research focus since his Honours degree at the University of Queensland in the late 1970s. He also holds a Masters Degree from the University of Adelaide and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati where he studied piano with Béla Síki. Peter has published seven books and more than thirty articles and papers, and is also active as a guest speaker and presenter of historically-themed radio programs for Brisbane's 4MBS FM. He does not claim to be a Wagner expert, but as a lifelong admirer of Schumann's music, these composers' mutual connections have proved to be a fascinating detour from his usual lines of research. Today's talk was first presented in 2025 for the Wagner Society of Queensland.



ABSTRACT

The careers of Richard Wagner and Robert Schumann were remarkably interlinked during the 1840s. Due to Schumann's early death and Wagner's reticence to acknowledge their relationship, this connection has only recently been fully examined. There were mutual influences during the genesis of Schumann's *Genoveva* and Wagner's *Lohengrin*, both of which were completed in 1848 and premiered in 1850. There is also an afterglow of Schumann's influence in *Tristan und Isolde*, and Wagnerian tinges in some late Schumann works. Peter Roennfeldt will discuss the many crossover points and coincidences in the careers of Schumann and Wagner, and their mutual observations of each other's personality and output.





Scene from *Genoveva* at the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck in 2022.

Act 2 scene from *Genoveva* at the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck in 2022.



Wedding scene from *Lohengrin* in the David Alden production for the ROH 2017

Scene from *Lohengrin* in the 1998 Robert Wilson production for the Met.

