



AGM - 20 May

The Wagner Society AGM is to be held on Sunday 20 May 2012 at the School of Music, 6 Symonds Street, Auckland at 7.30pm.

So far, Committee and Office-Bearer nominations have been received as follows:

President..... Chris Brodrick
Vice President..... Ken Tomkins
SecretaryMichael Sinclair
Treasurer..... Jeanette Miller
PR/LiaisonGloria Streat
Committee.....Lesley Kendall
..... Bob O'Hara
.....Les Holborow
..... Juliet Rowe

If you wish to make a nomination, phone Michael at 09-528 0776 to be sent a form, or email msinclair@extra.co.nz. Nominations can also be made from the floor of the meeting.

PARTY TIME!

With four months of the year gone, we move into our birthday month. On 20 May the Society will hold its 18th Annual General Meeting and at the same time celebrate the 199th birthday of Richard Wilhelm Wagner which takes place two days later on 22 May. Around the country events will take place to mark this occasion. Christchurch will hold a pot-luck dinner at Cynthia Hawes and Andy Buchanan's house in Cashmere, while in Dunedin their celebration will include a screening of the Kupfer/Bayreuth *Der Fliegende Holländer*. At the AGM in Auckland we plan to run things slightly differently this year. In the past the President's report has always been delivered at the AGM and then published in the following newsletter for those outside Auckland. This year the President's report is published in this issue of the newsletter (back page) so that everyone has an opportunity to consider it at the same time. This move will also allow more time to be spent on 'the second half' of the meeting.

This year's AGM will be followed by *The View from The Stage Part 2* in which



Plans are now well advanced for WSNZ packages to be offered to those attending the Melbourne *Ring*. The Society has appointed Renaissance Tours of Sydney to be our official agents and we are currently in the process of preparing a brochure for exclusive WSNZ packages to be made available to members in May 2012.

The Society will take a group to the second cycle (see dates above) and will offer a range of accommodation options to suit different budgets, some of which are within walking distance of the theatre. Members will be able to purchase *Ring* tickets in any of the price categories offered by Opera Australia. Additionally packages will include a pre *Rheingold* reception and buffet and we will also have an

our President Chris Brodrick will look at those who attended the Bayreuth Festivals from 1882 to 1914.

As 2013 approaches, bringing Wagner's 200th birthday, opera houses all over the world are beginning to announce their celebratory Wagner productions. Last time we published a list of *Ring* productions that are slated for 2012/13. This month we list the non-*Ring* productions for the same period. We have done our best to track them all down but some may have inadvertently slipped through or may have only just been announced. If you come across any obvious omissions or errors please do let us know.

MELBOURNE *Ring* DATES

First cycle:

18, 20, 22, 25 November 2013

Second cycle:

27, 29 November,
2, 4 December 2013

Third cycle:

6, 9, 11, 13 December 2013

exclusive WSNZ day excursion to the Mornington Peninsula during our stay in Melbourne. Flights to/from Melbourne are not included in the packages as it is too early to organise these. The WSNZ will assist in booking flights in early 2013 for those wishing us to do so.

In addition to the packages offered it will also be possible to purchase *Ring* tickets only (no accommodation and travel) through Renaissance Tours.

A brochure will be sent to all members in May 2012 outlining the package options and bookings will open at this time. Members are encouraged to book as early as possible as *Ring* tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

LOGE OR LOGO?

A sharp-eyed spy at a recent performance of *Die Walküre* at the Metropolitan noted that, while there were no malfunctions of the revolving plank staging per se, there was an unexpected moment of levity during the third act. In the midst of the Act II Wotan-Brünnhilde scene, the Microsoft logo made a guest appearance as a projection on the set. It appeared during a technical glitch that lasted about 1/2 a second. The informant adds that this brief, almost subliminal moment "won the evening's biggest laugh."

Non - Ring OPERAS IN PERFORMANCE

MAY 2012
- JULY 2013

May 2012		
AACHEN	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	20, 26
BERLIN	<i>Lohengrin</i>	1
CARDIFF	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	19, 26; Jun 2
COLOGNE	<i>Holländer</i>	4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 26, 28
	<i>Meistersinger</i>	5; Jun 7
COPENHAGEN	<i>Parsifal</i>	4, 8, 13
EISENACH	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	26
FRANKFURT	<i>Liebesverbot</i>	2, 4
HALLE	<i>Siegfried</i>	1
HAMBURG	<i>Parsifal</i>	6
	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	28, 31; Jun 3
KARLSRUHE	<i>Lohengrin</i>	17; Jun 7, 2
KASSEL	<i>Parsifal</i>	6, 12
KIEL	<i>Lohengrin</i>	19, 27; Jun 9
KOBLENZ	<i>Lohengrin</i>	12, 24, 30
LONDON	<i>Dutchman</i>	1, 5, 12, 16, 18, 23
MADRID	<i>Rienzi</i>	21, 24, 27
MALMO	<i>Parsifal</i>	5, 11, 13, 18, 20
MEININGEN	<i>Liebesverbot</i>	13, 27
PRAGUE	<i>Parsifal</i>	18
STOCKHOLM	<i>Lohengrin</i>	2, 5, 8
WELS	<i>Parsifal</i>	31; Jun 3
VIENNA	<i>Holländer</i>	19, 22, 25
WÜRZBURG	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	6, 13, 19; Jun 3
June 2012		
AACHEN	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	1, 7, 17, 24
AMSTERDAM	<i>Parsifal</i>	9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16
AUGSBURG	<i>Holländer</i>	23
BERLIN	<i>Meistersinger</i>	10, 17, 24; Jul 8
HAMBURG	<i>Holländer</i>	9, 13
KOBLENZ	<i>Lohengrin</i>	8, 10, 12
MEININGEN	<i>Liebesverbot</i>	2, 21, 23
SAARBRÜCKEN	<i>Parsifal</i>	6
TOKYO	<i>Lohengrin</i>	1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16
TOULOUSE	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	17, 22, 24, 26, 29
WROCLAW	<i>Parsifal</i>	2
July 2012		
AACHEN	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	1, 7
AUGSBURG	<i>Holländer</i>	1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 28
BAYREUTH	<i>Holländer</i>	25, 31
	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	26
	<i>Lohengrin</i>	27
	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	28
	<i>Parsifal</i>	29
ERL	<i>Lohengrin</i>	6, 20, 28
	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	14
	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	27
	<i>Parsifal</i>	29
MEININGEN	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	1
	<i>Liebesverbot</i>	6
MOSCOW	<i>Liebesverbot</i>	5, 6, 7, 8
SAVONLINNA	<i>Holländer</i>	20, 23, 26, 28
August 2012		
AARHUS	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	19, 22, 26, 29
BAYREUTH	<i>Holländer</i>	6, 12, 18, 24
	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	1, 7, 14, 20, 26
	<i>Lohengrin</i>	2, 8, 13, 19, 25
	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	3, 9, 15, 21, 27
	<i>Parsifal</i>	5, 11, 16, 22, 28
HELSINKI	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	18, 21
SANTIAGO	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	5, 9, 13, 16
SEOUL	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	24



Toronto *Tristan & Isolde* (top),
Berlin *Lohengrin* (middle) and
Bayreuth *Tannhäuser* (bottom)

NEW MEMBERS

A big Wagnerian welcome to:
Sue Stewart Wellington
Patricia Crosswell Auckland
Helen Tidmarsh Dunedin

NZSO WALKÜRE CONCERTS APO DEBORAH VOIGT CONCERT

Just a reminder that the Society will **not** be selling tickets to any of the above concerts. Members should purchase their tickets through the normal channels.

September 2012		
ASPENDOS	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	15
BARCELONA	<i>Holländer</i>	1, 4
	<i>Lohengrin</i>	2, 5
	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	6
BUCHAREST	<i>Lohengrin</i>	3, 6
MUNICH	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	23, 26, 29; 2 Oct
October 2012		
SAN FRANCISCO	<i>Lohengrin</i>	20, 24, 28, 31
November 2012		
MUNICH	<i>Lohengrin</i>	11, 14, 18
December 2012		
MILAN	<i>Lohengrin</i>	7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 27
January 2013		
MADRID	<i>Parsifal</i>	29, 31; 2 Feb
SAN FRANCISCO	<i>Lohengrin</i>	3, 6, 9
TOKYO	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	23, 26, 30
TORONTO	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	29
February 2013		
CHICAGO	<i>Meistersinger</i>	8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 27; 3 Mar
MILAN	<i>Holländer</i>	28
NEW YORK	<i>Parsifal</i>	15, 18, 21, 27
March 2013		
LOS ANGELES	<i>Holländer</i>	9, 17, 21, 24, 27, 30
MILAN	<i>Holländer</i>	3, 6, 9, 12, 15
MUNICH	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	3, 7, 10
	<i>Parsifal</i>	28, 31
NEW YORK	<i>Parsifal</i>	2, 5, 8
SALZBURG	<i>Parsifal</i>	23; 1 Apr
TOKYO	<i>Tannhäuser</i>	2, 5
TORONTO	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	2, 8, 14, 17, 20, 23
VIENNA	<i>Parsifal</i>	28, 31; 4 Apr
April 2013		
HOUSTON	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	18, 21, 24, 27
MUNICH	<i>Holländer</i>	14, 17, 20
May 2013		
CARDIFF	<i>Lohengrin</i>	23, 26, 29
HOUSTON	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	2, 5
June 2013		
AMSTERDAM	<i>Meistersinger</i>	4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 20, 23
BARCELONA	<i>Rienzi</i>	27, 30
CARDIFF	<i>Lohengrin</i>	1, 8
MUNICH	<i>Holländer</i>	28
VIENNA	<i>Tristan & Isolde</i>	13, 22
July 2013		
MUNICH	<i>Lohengrin</i>	3
	<i>Tristan und Isolde</i>	11
	<i>Parsifal</i>	31

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION COMPILED FROM WEBSITES www.theoperacritic.com AND www.operabase.com

MET OPERA TO BROADCAST *Ring Cycle*

The New York Times recently reported that the Metropolitan Opera has announced that it will begin broadcasting the complete *Ring Cycle* to movie theatres around the world, recycling the HD transmissions of the individual operas as they appeared over the last two seasons. Watch your local paper for details.

WAGNER SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND 2012 PROGRAMME DETAILS

Auckland

Sunday, 20 May 7.30pm

Venue: Music Theatre, School of Music, University of Auckland, 6 Symonds St
Annual General Meeting - followed by Christopher Brodrick's **The View from the Stage Part 2**.

Sunday, 8 July 7.30pm

Venue: Music Theatre, School of Music, University of Auckland, 6 Symonds St
A Retrospective of Deborah Voigt: Michael Sinclair looks at the life and career of dramatic soprano Deborah Voigt in anticipation of her appearance with the APO.

Thursday, 12 July 7.30pm

Venue: Auckland Town Hall

Deborah Voigt in New Zealand: APO concert that includes Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and the *Prelude & Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde* with Voigt as soloist.

Saturday 28 July 4.00pm

Venue: Auckland Town Hall

Die Walküre: Concert performance: Simon O'Neill, Edith Haller, Christine Goerke, John Wegner, Jonathan Lemalu & Margaret Medlyn with the NZSO conducted by Pietari Inkinen.

Sunday, 2 September 5.00pm

Venue: Music Theatre, School of Music, University of Auckland, 6 Symonds St

Lohengrin – DVD Screening:

Production from the Bavarian State Opera with Jonas Kaufmann and Anja Harteros.

NB This meeting will begin at 5.00pm

Sunday 9 December 7.30pm

Venue: Music Theatre, School of Music, University of Auckland, 6 Symonds St

Wagner's Early Operas: Terence Dennis presents *Die Feen* (The Fairies) and *Das Liebesverbot* (The Ban on Love) – plus Christmas festivities!

Wellington

Sunday 17 June 11.00am

Venue: TBC

Tristan & Isolde: Joint presentation with the Opera Society

Sunday 22 July 3.00pm

Venue: Michael Fowler Centre

Die Walküre: Concert performance

Simon O'Neill, Edith Haller, Christine Goerke, John Wegner, Jonathan Lemalu & Margaret Medlyn with the NZSO conducted by Pietari Inkinen.

Sunday 19 August 2.00pm (note time)

Venue: St Andrew's on the Terrace

Wagner & his Contemporaries: Farewell concert for Thomas Gaynor, piano with Isabella Moore, Soprano, and compered by Margaret Medlyn.

Christchurch

Friday 18 May 7.00pm

Venue: Cynthia Hawes & Andy Buchanan's house 74 Hackthorne Road
Our annual **Pot Luck dinner** to celebrate RW's 199th birthday (May 22).

Wednesday 25 July 5.00pm

Venue: CBS Canterbury Arena

Die Walküre: Concert performance

Simon O'Neill, Edith Haller, Christine Goerke, John Wegner, Jonathan Lemalu & Margaret Medlyn with the NZSO conducted by Pietari Inkinen.

Friday 10 August 7.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre A6, University of Canterbury

On Singing Wagner: Otago University's Judy Bellingham with John Pattinson

Friday 26 October 7.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre A6, University of Canterbury

The View from the Stage - Part 3 (1924 -1944) Chris Brodrick continues his series on the Bayreuth Festival visitors.

Sunday 25 November 6.00pm

Venue: TBA Christmas Barbecue



GEARING UP FOR THE WAGNER BICENTENARY IN 2013

Past-President Heath Lees tells us he has become busier and busier with the approach of 2013 and a quickening of world interest in Wagner.

Heath is just back from Australia where he gave twenty lectures on musical subjects to some sixteen towns and cities from Dubbo (above) in North-west NSW, through Sydney and Melbourne, and on to Hobart in Tasmania. Six of the requested lectures were on Wagner.

At the start and end of his tour, Heath also included presentations to the Wagner Societies in Melbourne and Sydney. The members in Melbourne (The Richard Wagner Society of Victoria) have now formally invited Heath to be their Opera-Performance-Day speaker for all three of the 2013 *Ring Cycles* in Melbourne, an event promoted jointly with Opera Australia.

Heath says that 2013 will be a banner year in the Wagner world, and he

Dunedin

Sunday, 20 May 1.00pm

Venue: Barclay Theatre, Otago Museum
Der Fliegende Holländer – DVD Screening: Harry Kupfer's staging at Bayreuth (filmed 1985). One of the most acclaimed Wagner productions of the post-war period.

Sunday, 30 September 2.00pm

Venue: Sale-Black House, Department of Music, The University of Otago
The View from the Stage Part 2: Christopher Brodrick (WSNZ President) looks at those who attended the Bayreuth Festival between 1882 (the second Festival) and the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914.

Sunday, 4 November 2.00pm

Venue: Sale-Black House, Department of Music, The University of Otago
Women in Wagner's Life and Art: Some of Wagner's most intriguing operatic characters are women – often appearing as part-angel, part-demon – Elisabeth, Venus, Kundry . . . Heath Lees investigates.

Sunday, 2 December 12.00 noon

Venue: Carrington College, 57 Heriot Row, (Turn right at top of Pitt Street)

Christmas Luncheon: followed by the famous documentary *The Golden Ring* which offers insights into the Decca recording of *Götterdämmerung*, made in Vienna in the early 1960s.

relishes the opportunity to be part of it. He is on the organising committee working towards a bicentennial seminar in Paris, entitled *Wagner : 1913 et 2013 Consequences and Contrasts in European Music*. The seminar will begin on 22 May, the exact date of Wagner's birth.

Heath has also been asked to give a keynote address to the 2013 *Wagner and His World* conference in Leeds, mid-year. His subject will be on an aspect of Wagner and The French, which has always been one of his main research interests. Last month, his review of Paul du Quenoy's *Wagner and the French Muse: Music, Society, and Nation in Modern France* (Academica Press: Bethesda and London, 2011) was published in Barry Millington's *The Wagner Journal*.

Only a few days ago Heath went back to Melbourne to be the presenter for a TV film on music, using one of his own favourite presentation-titles *More to Music Than Meets the Ear*.

WAGNER SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012

Writing the President's report is a double edged sword. On the one hand it is a marvellous opportunity to go back over the previous twelve months and marvel at the wide range of events that we present but in doing so there is a danger that the reader can feel a sense of déjà vu! Whether or not you recognise some of the prose, the fact remains that when it comes down to the nitty-gritty we have a great deal for which we can be proud!

The highlight of 2011 was undoubtedly the Auckland Philharmonia's concert performance of *Das Rheingold* for which your society, through the Wagner New Zealand Foundation, provided financial support. As it was pointed out in the September newsletter the objectives for this project were 'more than' achieved and we can feel proud of our involvement. Soon after the performance of *Das Rheingold* we received word that the NZSO were to give three performances of *Die Walküre* during 2012 and that the APO would host a visit of Deborah Voigt (the current Met Brünnhilde) in July. The Society and Foundation were once again approached for financial support and, after due consideration, it was agreed that we would once again be involved. Both concerts lead us nicely into 2013, the bicentenary of Richard Wagner's birth, when a number of celebratory performances will take place around the world.

That being said, the Wagner Society of New Zealand is far more than a group attending performances of Richard Wagner's works. A quick glance at our programme over the last twelve months shows the depth of events that we offer.

To begin with each of our four centres holds at least one 'social' event during the year, some hold two. Pot luck dinners, Christmas Cocktails and barbecues allow for a jolly good chin wag. For Christchurch members, for whom 2011 was as about as difficult as one could imagine, this was particularly important. With no venues there could be no formal meetings, so the WSNZ social events enabled us to meet as a group, catch up and talk about our experiences. The first 'formal' event in Christchurch during 2011 didn't take place until the last day of September, 11 months after the previous presentation.

For the record during the 2011/12 year there were a total of 23 meetings made up of 15 presentations, 3 opera screenings, 4 social and the AGM. Presentation subjects varied from *Stephen Fry's Wagner* to *Early Wagner operas* and *Wagner's Women*. Those presenting were once again

led by Terence Dennis (5) including a colloquium with philosopher and Wagner expert Bryan Magee, Chris Brodrick (4) and Heath Lees (2). Others to contribute were Michael Sinclair and John Davidson.

In support of those activities we produced six newsletters through the year. We also successfully implemented an option for members to receive the newsletter via email and the facility for members to pay the membership subscription by direct credit.

The Society is very grateful to all our presenters and newsletter contributors as, without their willingness to share their knowledge, we would have no Society.

There would also be no Society without a dedicated group to run all the meetings.

Terence Dennis and Lesley Kendall lead our Dunedin group; in Christchurch Gloria Streat is assisted by Jenny Lee, John Pattinson and Chris Brodrick. Les Holborow looks after Wellington with the assistance of John Morrison, Tibby & Adrian Simcock, Michael Ashdown, Anne Mallinson and George Risk who is retiring after long service to the Society at both national and local levels. In Auckland Michael Sinclair is ably assisted by his fellow Auckland committee members and also by David Colemore-Williams and Helen Kirkman, while Margaret Thomas and Liz Lees help Juliet Rowe with the dispatch of the newsletter.

Overseeing the four branches we have a national committee whose members also contribute to the well-being of the society. Meetings take place approximately every two months via telephone thanks to our honorary solicitor Peter Rowe who not only provides the meeting venue but the technology for those outside of Auckland to take part in the discussions. On the national committee we are honoured to have Juliet Rowe, Ken Tomkins, Bob O'Hara, Gloria Streat, Lesley Kendal, Les Holborow, Treasurer Jeanette Miller and Secretary Michael Sinclair. In addition we are supported by the fore-mentioned Peter Rowe and Auditor John Hambling.

Once again special mention must be made of the work Michael Sinclair undertakes on our behalf. Apart from the day-to-day running of the Society Michael plans and implements the Auckland programme. In addition he is currently organising all the travel, accommodation and ticketing arrangements for the 2013 Melbourne *Ring*.

Both Michael and I are beginning to dread the thought of Christmas. In December 2010 the crisis over the visit of Tony Palmer ruined the festive season and a year later a different but equally destructive issue arose. At the start of December 2011 we received a letter announcing that we, along with all the other Wagner Societies world-wide, would no longer receive an allocation of seats to the Bayreuth Festival. The timing of the announcement two months after the decision had been made and so close to the holiday season was cynical. As you can imagine, the Wagner Societies are distinctly unimpressed. The WSNZ joined with the Australian and New York Societies in sending our concerns to those behind the idea in the hope of a reconsideration.

The response to the letter gave no hope of any compromise with the result that the matter will be raised at the next meeting of the Verband (International Association of the Wagner Societies) which takes place during the Richard Wagner Congress which is being held in Prague during May. We await the result of that meeting with more than just a 'festival' interest as last year the Verband announced that they would be changing the way in which they levied fees from the Wagner Societies. Rather than a flat annual fee we are to be levied 2 Euros per member, which means in the case of the WSNZ we will see a doubling of our subscription. We successfully negotiated a 50% discount for the first year and, in order to avoid increasing our membership fees, planned a levy of \$50 on each set of Bayreuth tickets that were sold through the Society. Without those tickets we will need to find another way to make up the shortfall or reconsider our position as a member the Verband.

Maybe we have to forget the pull of Bayreuth and look further afield. After all the major opera houses of the world produce Wagner operas and most of them are of better quality than the current Bayreuth fare.

In the meantime the membership of the Wagner Society of New Zealand has a number of events to look forward to over the next couple of years that are closer to home.

So there it is – another President's report and another year gone! A big thank you to all who give their time for the Society and thanks to you, the membership, for making it all worthwhile!

Christopher Brodrick
President