

RWVI WAGNER NEWS

No. 1
September 2015
German - **English** - French

Dear Presidents of Wagner Societies, dear Wagner friends,

This new RWVI newsletter appears so late, so very late in our Wagner world, although it aims to bring to an end the reign of silence between our societies, and the very limited exchange of productive ideas towards our common goals.

Many of you – Presidents of Wagner Societies throughout the world, acting in a voluntary capacity, expressed your desire to consign to oblivion the deeply unfortunate exchange of emails that have flooded our inboxes in the recent past.

Let's consider this to be finally over and let's look firmly into the future.

The Board of the RWVI agreed to the proposal brought by Andrea Buchanan, Selma Gudmundsdottir and Karl Russwurm to report to you all on a regular basis news about international Wagner events, with a particular focus on the activities of local societies.

The text of this newsletter will be kept relatively short, and will feature links to existing websites and press releases, which will form the core of our news.

Please give us the chance to bring this project to life in the first place and then, together with you all, we can develop and evolve this newsletter. Whether it will turn out to be a success or a failure, time alone will tell.

Suggestions and contributions from you will be highly appreciated and most welcome. Given the many activities taking place in the Wagner world, it should not be too difficult to keep finding new and exciting topics that eminently suited for global dissemination and give rise to constructive and substantive discussion without losing sight of the benchmark of scientific accuracy.

The contents of our newsletter are as follows:

- 1) RWVI news
- 2) News from Bayreuth
- 3) Local society events & initiatives
- 4) New books, CDs, DVDs
- 5) News about forthcoming Wagner performances

1) RWVI news

International Competition for Wagner Voices, Karlsruhe, October 1-3 2015

Following auditions in Bayreuth in August, the judging panel have now announced the names of 17 semi-finalists – a truly international group, with representatives from France, USA, UK, Australia, Korea and of course Germany, among others.

Follow the link below to find out who they are and for further information on how to get tickets for what promises to be a very exciting few days in Karlsruhe. We understand that tickets are still available.

<http://www.wagnerstimmen.de/index.php/start.html>

RWVI Website

Members of the RWVI website development team, comprising Andrea Buchanan, Christian Ducor, Simon Empson (WS London), Arabella Hellmann (RWV Ammersee) and Tobias Langmeyer, (web developer and RWV Bayreuth) held their first online meeting on Sunday August 30.

Tobias has developed some exciting plans and a lively discussion took place. A large number of suggestions and wishes had been expressed and we evaluated these in order to define what was realistic, possible and affordable for the initial version of the site, aiming to go-live by the end of 2015.

We are looking to create a site that will do much more than simply publish RWVI news, and will include content about Wagner himself, along with news from the member societies, notification about society events all over the world, and listings of Wagner performances. It will amplify and expand on what we can do with this newsletter and will bring everything together into one space.

To make this website successful, we would like, and indeed we NEED, your help. We want this site to truly belong to our members and therefore we require your input. So please contact us from mid-October onwards with your news, your events, articles on Wagner and his works, details of Wagner performances that you know about, news from your Stipendiaten - indeed anything that you think is relevant.

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Giornate Wagneriane/Wagner Days in Venice – from 22 November 2015

This year's theme is Wagner and Mozart "Mostri e Miti"

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband.de/Giornate-Wagneriane-2015.pdf>

2) News from Bayreuth

In addition to the premiere of the new Tristan, the Scholars' concert this year was one of the highlights of the season and was considered a great success. http://www.nordbayerischer-kurier.de/nachrichten/besser-gehts-nicht_177490
Why not invite some of these talented young artists - carefully selected by Prof. Märtson, Eva Wagner-Pasquier and Dr. Specht and their team – to perform for your local society? This is unlikely to cost you a great deal. As a first example, the societies of Bamberg and Munich subsequently agreed to invite Felix Uttenreuther, who gave such a great performance of Furore on the marimbas, to perform at the forthcoming young artists' concert in Munich (19 September 2015, at 15:00, in Munich, at the small concert hall in the Gasteig)

Something new from Bayreuth?

The Vienna "Kurier" published an extensive piece online on the future orientation and casting policy of the Bayreuth Festival under the following title: "The Bayreuth artists carousel Who sings what role in the coming years - and who retires and why from the Green Hill." Decide for yourself what can be taken seriously and what is more likely to be mere speculation. http://kurier.at/kultur/buehne/das-kuenstler-karussell-bei-den-bayreuther-festspielen/149.389.918?utm_source=KURIER.at+Daily&utm_campaign=b33473e1c3-newsletter_kurier_at_daily&utm_medium=email

3) Local Wagner Society events & initiatives

France, Switzerland and Belgium

On Saturday 26 September 2015 at 4 p.m., the **Richard Wagner Museum in Tribtschen**, Lucerne, Switzerland, will present a musical evening (in French and German) with Sascha Michon, baritone and Anne Boëls, piano, entitled **Wagner and France, a History of Dreams**, organized by the **Cercle Romand Richard Wagner of Geneva**, which will be followed by a meeting with colleagues from the **Schweizerische Wagner Gesellschaft**.

On 10 October 2015, the **Cercle Richard Wagner of Nice, Côte d'Azur** will celebrate its 30 anniversary with a **piano recital by Daniel Propper**.

The outstanding event of the season 2015/2016 in **Belgium** promises to be the new production from 19 September to 19 October 2015 of "Tannhäuser" at the Opéra de Flandre (Anvers et Gand). This co-production with the Teatro de la Fenice in Venice, is directed by Calixto Bieito. To mark the occasion, the Cercle Belge Francophone will hold a special evening with Aviel Cahn, the director of the Opéra de Flandre and Dmitri Jurowski, the conductor. **This will take place on 16.October 2015 at 19:00** at the Fondation Bruno Lussato (Avenue de la Sapinière 50-52, B-1070 Bruxelles. This evening is open to all

members of Wagner societies, although you are requested to reserve a place by contacting the "Cercle Belge Francophone".

On 08 November 2015, at the Sofitel Hotel in **Lyon**, the **annual seminar of the local Wagner Society** will take place. This event provides participants with the opportunity to present a personal contribution on a Wagner theme of their choice. All lectures are published every year although *Wagneriana Acta* is currently only available in French. This seminar is open to all members of Wagner societies, but once again you are requested to reserve your place with the Wagner Society of Lyon.

Wagner Congress 2016 in Strasbourg

The next **RWVI international conference** will be held from **5 to 8 May 2016**. The organisers have put together a comprehensive and original program for attendees. Reservations should be submitted before 1 December 2015. You can find full information on the website of the Cercle Wagner de Strasbourg: <http://www.cercle-richard-wagner.fr/>

A comprehensive listing of all the events taking place in **France, Belgium and Switzerland** over the coming few months can be found here:

http://www.rwv-muenchen.de/RWVI_saison_2015-2016_conferences_enfrancais_SEPT_JANV.pdf

South Africa – an open letter

We are delighted to have received an open letter from Jilly Cohen, Events Organiser of the Wagner Society of South Africa. She writes to tell us of the great success in the recent **Belvedere and Operalia singing competitions** of some of the young, black singers that have been supported in part by this Wagner Society based in Cape Town. This is an extraordinary achievement for these youngsters and the WSSA is to be admired and congratulated for their efforts. You can read the full letter on the Wagner Society UK website <https://www.wagnersociety.org/articles/an-open-letter-from-the-wagner-society-of-south-africa> Please note also that the Belvedere Singing Competition will be held in Cape Town in 2016, which sounds like a wonderful excuse to visit this lovely city.

UK

The Wagner Society will once again hold its prestigious annual **Singing Competition in London on 22 November 2015 at 14:00 at the Royal Academy of Music**. Applicants should be under 35 and resident in the UK. The finals are open to the public and we urge all Wagner societies whose members might be in London at the time to come along and hear the Wagner stars of the future – previous winners include Bryn Terfel, Simon O'Neill and the very impressive young **Andrew Dickinson**, whom many of you heard performing David at the Scholars' concert in Bayreuth this summer.

<https://www.wagnersociety.org/event/> or contact secretary@wagnersociety.org

Germany

The Ring in Minden

"**Das Wunder von Minden**" moves to the next round. Dr. Jutta Winckler along with her local Wagner society through tireless personal commitment has already achieved an incredible and resounding national success. Now comes the beginning of probably **the greatest Wagner event ever to take place in Minden**.

Find out more at <http://www.ring-in-minden.de/>

Wagner Days in Mannheim

The **Wagner-Days in Mannheim** will take place from 07 to 11 October 2015. The programme gives a promising indication of the new direction being taken by the local society. Read more at <http://www.richard-wagner-verband-mannheim.de/> Contact: Monika Kulczinski, phone: +49 621 893417

Wagner Society of Weimar

The Wagner Society of Weimar is celebrating its **25th anniversary over the weekend 6 to 8 November 2015**. Please contact Dr. Eberhard Lüdde for more details, Email c.luedde@apo-am-klinikum-we.de

Tanzhäuser in Cuba

The Wagner Society of Munich is putting together and supporting a performance of **Tannhäuser in Havana, Cuba**. If you would like to travel with the society's group to Cuba during Easter 2016, please contact karl.russwurm@gmx.de

4) New Publications, CDs & DVDs

Udo Bernbach - **Houston Stewart Chamberlain** (in German)

Perhaps the most important Wagner-related book of the year has recently been published by JB Metzler Verlag:

<https://www.metzlerverlag.de/index.php?mod=bookdetail&isbn=978-3-476-02565-4>

Houston Stewart Chamberlain was Wagner's son-in-law and a known precursor to Hitler. In this book's 636 pages, meticulously documented and undertaken without any prejudice, we learn everything there is to know about the son-in-law of Richard Wagner, who, as the most intelligent mind in the "Bayreuth circle" must be held partly responsible for the terrible and terrifying germination of a philosophy of racism and anti-semitism.

Christian Thielemann - **My Life With Wagner** - English edition translated by Anthea Bell, published in August 2015 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson (in the UK). Amazon price £19.99 or \$25.69.

Gunther Braam - **Richard Wagner in Contemporary Photography**

For the first time, all known photographs of Richard Wagner are reproduced in this book in colour in strict chronological order, and many rarities are included. You can find details on the RWVI website under the heading "News" <http://www.richard-wagner-verband.de/> or on the German Amazon site at <http://www.amazon.de/dp/3940768448>

Hendrik Nebelong - **Liebesverbot! - Sex and Antisex in Wagner's dramas**

Published by Edition Freiberg in a German translation of the original Danish. The author knows his Wagner well, and those with some expertise in the subject will find this book's 260 pages an easy read, although it does not come up with anything really new. The catchy title reveals a clue with its exhortation to "buy me"

<http://www.amazon.de/Liebesverbot-Sex-Antisex-Wagners-Dramen/dp/3943377466>

A reasonable review of this book can be found at

<http://operalounge.de/buch/biografien/sex-antisex-bei-wagner>

Wagner Spectrum - Review (in German)

Although strictly academic debate is occasionally somewhat hard to digest, we strongly recommend that you read this publication. There are few more recognized and better experts in the field of Richard Wagner research than the editors of this review: Udo Bermbach, Dieter Borchmeyer, Sven Friedrich, Hans-Joachim Hinrichsen, Arne Stollberg and Nicholas Vazsonyi and its scientific advisers, for example Werner Breig, Brian Coghlan, Sieghart Döhring, Saul Friedlander Lydia Goehr, Thomas Grey, Ulrich Konrad, Jean-Jacques Nattiez, Hannu Salmi, Egon Voss and **Stewart Spencer** (the latter of whom should ring a loud bell with English speaking readers....).

"*Verachtet mir die Meister nicht!*" ("Do not scorn the Masters")

<http://www.wagnerspectrum.de/>

Richard Wagner and Mathilde Wesendonck - a radio drama and audio book (CD). The Zurich liaison – a tribute to Otto Wesendonck for Wagner's 200th anniversary

<http://operalounge.de/cd/recitals-lieder/liaison-in-zuerich>

http://www.amazon.de/gp/product/B00N5ARS2A?keywords=Eine%20Liaison%20in%20Z%C3%BCrich&qid=1440667999&ref=sr_1_1&sr=8-1

Der Ring des Nibelungen, from the National Theatre of Mannheim, 2013

Arthaus (DVD) <http://operalounge.de/dvd/oper-dvd/und-noch-ring>

5) Future Wagner Performances

The next Wagner production coming up in France is somewhat original: the Atelier Lyrique de Tourcoing will be presenting on 4 February 2016 a concert version of "Tannhäuser" performed on period instruments, conducted by Jean- Claude Malgoire.

http://www.atelierlyriquedetourcoing.fr/15_16/spect/tannhauser.html

For a complete listing of future Wagner performances all over the world, click on the link below (Opera Base, filtered by composer) The link below gives performances in date order, but you can also arrange by city or by opera. Happy hunting!

<http://operabase.com/oplist.cgi?id=none&lang=en&adv=f&from=9+9+2015&to=&approx=0&is=&by=Richard+Wagner&sel=&loc=&near=0&full=N&sort=D>

THE END

So here we are with our first edition. We trust that you will agree that this is a better way to disseminate our news than by sending lots of unsolicited emails and we hope that these will now come to an end. We look forward to your suggestions and contributions of positive energy to our next newsletter, due in 3-4 months' time. Until then, we wish you all the best with your work in your societies on behalf of our common goals.

Please send all your future contributions to us with the title "**RWVI NEWSLETTER**".

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