

**Richard-Wagner-Verband International**  
**International Association of the Wagner Societies**  
**Association internationale des cercles Richard Wagner**

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Der Präsident des Richard-Wagner-Verbandes International  
Richard-Wagner-Platz 1 – 04109 Leipzig

Richard Wagner Societies

Leipzig, der 15.07.2014

Ladies and Gentlement,

On the 30 May 2014, the delegates' meeting of our Societies, on the occasion of the annual international Richard Wagner Congress that took place in Graz, elected a new executive committee. The path that led there over the previous few months proved rocky, as those who were part of the election campaign and of the election itself can testify.

However, our Verband now has a new executive committee at its head, and I extend to you my heartfelt greetings as the new President of our Verband, the federation of our societies.

I should have liked to have written to you earlier, but I wanted to take this opportunity to send to you all the minutes of the delegates' meeting. My sincere thanks go to our new Secretary, Finn Elkjaer, who took the minutes from the outset of the meeting, even though he did not know whether he would be elected by the delegates later on.

Our work has already begun. You can see this in the minutes and also in the first news item displayed on our website homepage. I should at this point also like to thank Marcus-Johannes Heinz for the responsible and loyal way in which he fulfilled his responsibilities to the website over the period of change. You might also wish to visit our website more often. Your priority remains your own sites, that naturally contain links to that of the RWVI. If they do not, please can you put this right.

Important events and interesting news about your Societies should also find their way onto the international site. You are the pillars of the RWVI and it can only be as good as the sum of its individual members.

You have all read in my presidential candidate application my credo for the exercise of this important, honourable but also honorary position. I should like to emphasise this credo once again. Equally important to me are your opinions and I repeat my offer willingly – please stay in contact with me.

I intend to conduct my Presidency according to the following guiding principles:

- 1. Internationalism:** We must all work in this spirit. The composition of the Executive Committee demonstrates our determination in this direction.

**Richard-Wagner-Verband  
International e.V.**

Der Präsident  
Richard-Wagner-Platz 1  
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**Präsident**

Thomas Krakow

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2. **Transparency:** You will be regularly and promptly informed about the activities of the Executive Committee. As there is a long gap before the next scheduled meeting in October, there will be a meeting held on 27/28 July in Schloss Ermlitz, near Leipzig, the costs of which will be borne by the participants. The majority of Executive Committee members have willingly agreed to this.
3. **Respect:** Previous delegates assemblies in 2008 in Genf, in 2011 in Breslau and in 2014 in Graz gave rise to instances of undignified behaviour, that should not occur again. This can not be our style. Mutual regard and respect for others and their efforts must define our dealings with one another. The Executive Committee has to set this example in this regard.
4. **Solidarity:** Each of you knows your neighbour in your region best of all. Regional co-operation between societies is already beginning. Let us work together constructively and develop this co-operation further. Let us help one another and rejoice in the successes of other societies.
5. **Attitude and Perception:** Apart from within our own community, we are only perceived as the RWVI through the means of the Bayreuth Festival. Let us raise our voices, be full of confidence and take a public position on ourselves, Richard Wagner and his work. We should become above all the essential part of the network of our societies. Some of our societies are already setting an example in this way.

I wholeheartedly repeat my closing remarks in Graz: Let us talk to more to one another than about one another. I am always delighted to meet with you and I hope that I shall have the pleasure of doing so at the Bayreuth Festival. If we take ourselves seriously, then we will be taken seriously by others. Please be assured of my great esteem for the work that you have done.

With my best wishes



Thomas Krakow  
President