



The Wagner Society of Ireland

Founded 2002

President: Dr. Alexander Anissimov, Conductor



Newsletter

October 2009

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter!

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Member,

We have started our talks for this year and I very much appreciated those of you who turned up for my talk last month. This month we have the chance to hear Ian Fox on the very interesting subject of George Bernard Shaw and Wagner. Then in November we will have our talk from Derek Watson on the Ring and particularly Das Rheingold. This will be in the afternoon of the Saturday performance of Das Rheingold. The Merrion Hotel will offer a special rate to those members who wish to stay in Dublin for the night and it should be a very enjoyable day with the talk in the afternoon and a chance to appreciate the work itself that evening. We have tickets held for members who wish to attend and these are offered to us by Opera Ireland at a discount. Please contact me if you wish to attend as part of the group. It is very important that these Rheingold performances are a success so please get as many friends etc. to attend. The aim of the Society is to promote Wagner and performances of his work so this is our big opportunity.

We are hopeful again that this year we will have tickets for Bayreuth. The application has been sent so fingers crossed. Please read carefully the new rules, especially if you are not attending on the night of the ballot. Remember if you wish to apply with another member you can do so but then you should submit a joint application and you can only put in ONE application between you. Then if you are picked you will be offered two tickets. I know the process is a bit complex this year but we are trying to make it as fair as possible, and hopefully over time all members will get a chance to go to Bayreuth.

If you are still considering the trip to Berlin and have not already done so please contact me as we have only a limited number of places left.

Lastly we would like contributions to our final newsletter of the year which will be in December. We would like to carry reviews of performances of Wagner operas members attended this year and their experiences. Any other suggestions would also be welcome.

Kind regards,

Anthony Linehan

SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009/2010

Our Programme got off to a great start on September 17th, when the Chairman treated a packed room to a fascinating account of productions and performances of Wagner's operas in Ireland of yesteryear. The frequency with which major productions were toured and mounted puts current activity firmly in the shade, and details such as the varying responses of audiences and public transport providers to the perennial problem of catching the last tram/bus home after a long opera added interesting touches of colour to a comprehensive and enlightening tour of the past.

Please note that there have been some changes to the events planned, which are outlined in the updated list below.

October 13th	Ian Fox "The Imperfect Wagnerite": George Bernard Shaw's views and comments on Wagner and Wagnerian Performance in his day. Please note change of date.	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2.	8.00 pm
November 21st	Derek Watson A Brief Introduction to <i>Der Ring Des Nibelungen</i> and a Musical Description of <i>Das Rheingold</i> Programme 2.00pm The <i>Ring</i> Cycle its genesis and performance history 3.30pm Tea break 4.00pm A brief musical analysis of <i>Das Rheingold</i> (ends c. 5.30pm)	The Merrion Hotel Upper Merrion Street Dublin 2. This talk is open to the public and free to all comers. There will be time available for dinner before the opera and we are negotiating with the Merrion Hotel to put on a special dinner for us.	2.00 pm – 5.30 pm
December 17th	Supper and Ballot for Bayreuth Tickets Please note change of date.	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2.	8.00 pm
January 16th	Derek Watson Day long talk on Flying Dutchman	Herbert Park Hotel Ballsbridge Dublin 4.	All day
February 10th -15th	Trip to Berlin (See below)	Berlin	
February 25th	Annual General Meeting	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2	8.00 p.m.
March/April	John Allen Date and topic to be confirmed.	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2	8.00 p.m.
May 20th	Deirdre Tinney Wagner and French Symbolist Poets of the 19 th Century	United Arts Club 3, Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2	8.00 p.m.

TRIP TO BERLIN

There has been considerable interest in the planned trip to Berlin in February 2010, and quite a sizeable group has assembled. There are still some places available for members who would like to join.

The following are the details:

We 10.02. | 19.30 h

Rienzi: The Last of the Tribunes | Richard Wagner

Th 11.02. | 19.30 h

The Flying Dutchman | Richard Wagner

Fr 12.02. | 18.30 h

Tannhäuser and the Singers' Contest at Wartburg | Richard Wagner

Sa 13.02. | 18.00 h

Lohengrin | Richard Wagner

Su 14.02. | 16.00 h

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg | Richard Wagner

More details can be found on

<http://www.deutscheoperberlin.de/?page=kalendarium&monat=2&jahr=2010>

Both Aer Lingus and Ryanair fly to Berlin's Schönefeld Airport.

Aer Lingus fly as follows:

Out: 10th Feb EI 332 Departing Dublin 11.45 arriving Berlin 14.55

Return 15th Feb EI 333 Departing Berlin 15.30 arriving Dublin 16.50

Ryanair's flight to Berlin leaves earlier at 9.50 am so arrives in Berlin at 12.55.

We have tickets booked with the Opera House at the top price of €86 (€72 for Dutchman) and the next price level of €69 (€54 for Dutchman). We have at present 26 tickets for each night. We will try to get more tickets or cheaper tickets if members would like them. It should be noted that as this is a modern house there are good sightlines from most seats even the cheaper ones.

Please revert to ritaandanthony@eircom.net if you would like to come. Members should book their own flights. We are in the process of organising a special rate at a hotel near the opera, and will let members know when this has been arranged, so that they can make their own reservations.

BAYREUTH BALLOT

It is hoped to receive an allocation of tickets for the Ring and the other operas, (Meistersinger, Parsifal and Lohengrin) this year. Successful applicants may choose to take one, two, or three tickets for the three individual operas, but Ring tickets will be allocated as a complete Cycle.

Reminder – New Rules for this year’s Ballot for Bayreuth tickets for 2010

The July Newsletter outlined and explained the new rules which have been adopted for December’s Bayreuth Ballot. The Newsletter is available on the Society’s website, www.wagnersociety.ie.

One of the most important changes has been that **all applicants for, and recipients of, Bayreuth tickets must be members in good standing of the Wagner Society.**

The first two tickets drawn will be reserved for members who have not previously been to Bayreuth with the Society. Successful applicants can choose either Ring tickets or tickets for other operas. In the first instance, names will be drawn from a bowl containing only the names of members who have not previously been to Bayreuth with the Society. After these first two members have been allocated tickets, the other applicants’ names will be added to the bowl for the remaining rounds of the ballot.

Members cannot apply for any Society tickets for 2010 if they were allocated tickets for the 2009 Bayreuth Festspiele by the Society.

Members cannot apply for tickets from the Society for any production they attended heretofore with the Society.

After these rules have operated for a period, they will be reviewed and may be modified.

An application form is attached at the end of this Newsletter. Please ensure this reaches our Chairman, Anthony Linehan, by 1st December 2009.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Wesendonck Lieder

There are still tickets available at the box office of the National Concert Hall for the evening of Friday 16th October, 2009, when Patricia Bardon will join the RTE National Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Wagner’s *Wesendonck Lieder*. The programme also includes works by Grieg and Sibelius.

Das Rheingold

Opera Ireland will present two concert performances of Das Rheingold in the Gaiety Theatre, on 19th and 21st November 2009. Our Chairman, Anthony Linehan, has reserved some parterre tickets at a discount. Please contact him directly by email, ritaandanthony@eircom.net, if you would like to purchase any of these. A strong cast has been lined up, and support for the event, even though it has been scaled down to a concert performance, may encourage future productions of Wagnerian opera in Ireland.

COMMUNICATIONS

Wagner Society Website

The Committee is delighted to announce that the Society Website has settled down and is now readily accessible and navigable. Fresh information is posted on the site as quickly as it comes to our attention. Do check it out frequently at:

www.wagnersociety.ie

Newsletter

Circulation

The Newsletter is circulated by email unless members do not have an email address. The Committee would urge all members to consider opening an email account, as this is the most convenient and speedy way to keep members up to date on developments.

Contributions

The Committee would welcome any contributions members themselves might like to send us, whether brief reports on performances or recordings of Wagner's works or thoughts on aspects of his work that they would like to share with other members of the Society. Contributions can be sent by email to: info@wagnersociety.ie

Online Forum

The Committee was recently notified of the establishment of a new online forum devoted solely to the works of Richard Wagner. It's called The Wagner Group (TWG). While the Committee cannot endorse the forum, as we do not know the people behind it, such media can sometimes be of interest, and anyone who enjoys participating in online discussions may like to check it out for themselves, at: <http://wagner.freeforums.org/>

Information on the rationale behind the setting up of this specialized online forum, is available at:

<http://www.soundsandfury.com/soundsandfury/2009/10/of-some-possible-interest-to-wagnerians-present-and-future.html>

BAYREUTH BALLOT

In addition to the new Rules outlined in the Newsletter of July 2009, the following longstanding Rules also apply:

1. If a member is allocated tickets in the Ballot and then, for whatever reason, is unable to attend, *the tickets must be returned to the Wagner Society of Ireland.*
2. Those who are allocated tickets *must pay for them within one week* of the Ballot, which will take place at the buffet supper in the United Arts Club, on 17th December 2009.

APPLICATION FORM

I should like to apply for tickets for the 2010 Festspiele in Bayreuth.

I have / have not attended Bayreuth with the Society before. (Tick whichever applies.)

My preference, in order is for the following:

Ring

Meistersinger and/or Parsifal and/or Lohengrin

(Please number any of these which you wish to attend in order of preference and put an X in any which you do NOT wish to attend.)*

I am only interested in travelling if I can attend a minimum of two operas . (Tick if applicable.)

I wish to apply for ONE ticket / TWO (joint) tickets for my chosen performances. (Tick whichever applies.)

I shall / shall not attend the meeting on 17th December 2009, and stay for supper afterwards. (Tick whichever applies.)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE..... EMAIL

NAME OF JOINT APPLICANT, (if two tickets requested).....

Please return by post, on or before 1st December 2009, to: Chairman, Wagner Society of Ireland, 20, Belmont Green, Galloping Green, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

* On the evening of the Ballot, we will try to fulfil members' first choice but it is possible that the first choice may not be available, so please make your preferences as clear as possible. If you only wish to attend the Ring please place an X against the others, and likewise if you only wish to attend one of the other operas. Otherwise rank your preferences. If you will only go if you can attend at least two operas please state so. This really only applies to members who will not be there on the evening of the ballot. If you are present we will ask you your choice.