



The Wagner Society of Ireland

Founded 2002

President: Dr. Alexander Anissimov, Conductor



NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2015

Dear Member,

First a thank you to those who attended the recent AGM and elected your Committee. We will endeavour to work hard on your behalf and are already planning events for 2016–17. All suggestions are very welcome.

We are delighted that we were able to access tickets for the Bayreuth Festival this year, and congratulations to those who got tickets in our draw. As we mentioned at the AGM, we will ask members who are interested in visiting Bayreuth in 2017 to indicate their interest to towards the end of summer.

This Newsletter contains two very interesting items. The first is a letter we received from the President of our Society, and the second is the newsletter from the Richard Wagner Verband International who work hard on our behalf.

Regards

Anthony Linehan
Chair

Forthcoming Meetings

The next meetings of the Society, all at 8.00 p.m. in the United Arts Club, 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, are as follows:

Thursday, 10 March: Muiris O’Keeffe on *Ernest Reyer and the Other Siegfried*

Thursday, 14 April: Ian Fox on *Early Recordings of the Ring*

Thursday, 26 May: Anthony Linehan on *The Dutchman and Fafner's Gold*

Society Trip to Budapest

16–19 June: *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Hungarian State Opera, Budapest.

Election of Officers and Committee, 2016

At the Annual General meeting on 18 February, the following were elected:

Chair: Anthony Linehan

Vice-Chair: Stephen Mennell

Secretary: Helen O'Neill

Treasurer: Mary Spollen

Committee members:

Michael Marr

James McLoughlin

Paul Magnier

Veronica Donoghue

Brian Coffey

The Opera Platform

The Opera Platform, <http://www.theoperaplatform.eu/en>, is a website supported by the European Commission which broadcasts and makes available for some time performances from European opera houses. It is well worth a look, and at present one of the operas available is *The Valkyrie* from the Dutch National Opera in Pierre Audi's production.

Letter from the Society's President, Alexander Anissimov

Our President sent the following letter to members of the Society on the occasion of Joanna Crooks's talk on 13 January 2016, reminiscing about the great *Ring* cycle given under his baton in Limerick and Birmingham by the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland:

My dear friends,

I send you my warmest greetings, and will be with you in spirit on 13 January as you are all thinking back to that great event in the musical life of Ireland, the Wagner Ring Cycle of 2002. This project was unique and important not simply because the music of the complete scores of the Ring operas is an extraordinary phenomenon, but also because the project was carried out by the young musicians of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland.

To carry this project through to completion in a concert performance was immensely complex, and at the same time the period of rehearsal was very compact.

As we look back and evaluate the unique qualities of the performances, of course we remember the organizational aspect, but more importantly we can cherish what we retain in our memory and in the recordings made at the time. This is the result of our work, and it is a result of which we can be proud.

I took part in the last period of rehearsal and preparation. It was a joyful time of hard work, with short periods to sleep! During all that time I had some feelings which are difficult to express in words, but I had a strong feeling of the presence of Wagner in our rehearsals and performances – not a feeling which gave rise to anxiety or fear of doing something wrong, but a feeling of inspiration and of approval of our work.

In the final stages of preparation, we had only one full week or eight days rehearsal with the singers. All these wonderful and talented singers, accustomed to their usual lengthy rehearsal periods and preparation, instead gave a master class to our young musicians in the orchestra, helping them to overcome difficulties in the interpretation of the music of Wagner.

Today as we look back on that fantastic experience, it is impossible not to mention one other aspect of the project. Around the world the extraordinary phenomenon of the Ring requires an army of managers and office workers. In this case a remarkably small team in the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, with volunteers during the working period in residence, led by General Manager Joanna Crooks, steered the project into being.

For myself this work and the eight performances in the two cycles of the Ring remain one of the most significant and important moments in my creative life. This is not just because Wagner was one of the priorities in my repertoire, but also because this way of working, planning and implementing a musical idea with mad courage and with young musicians – this continues to be how I most like to work!

My dear friends, I hope that you have a very enjoyable evening on which occasion you have my very warmest best wishes, as you devote some very special hours together to look back on what was ‘our’ Ring.

Alexander Anissimov

Introduction from our Editor, Karl Russwurm, President of The Wagner Society of Munich

Dear Wagner Societies world-wide,

All beginnings are easy, in the words of a German proverb (*Aller Anfang is leicht*), however the follow-up to such a project can be somewhat stressful and can easily get out of hand. Notwithstanding, we now have the second RWVI newsletter for you – and in the knowledge that it would be difficult for us to move on to regular news items after the recent shocking events in Paris.

We could not act as though nothing had happened, when one of the major civilised nations of Europe was cut to the quick by miscreants, who had lost all sense, all humanity and clearly all standards. Naturally, the whole civilised world is in mourning, but France and Germany in particular have a great deal in common: not only on the political front, as evidenced with the Franco-German reconciliation after World War 2, but also in the field of art. France so frequently produced some of the greatest literary works, while the Germans for so long set the tone in the music world, not least but especially with reference to the works of Richard Wagner, which gathered their greatest fan base among the Germans and the French. Therefore let us respond to the appeals from our friend and newsletter co-editor Christian Ducor, The Chairperson of the Paris Wagner Society Annie Benoit and our colleague Louis Oster from Strasbourg along with many other French colleagues. Paris will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Wagner Society in March this year. One of the highlights of the Strasbourg Congress this year will be the opportunity to see Wagner's "Das Liebesverbot". The libretto was written by Wagner based on Shakespeare's comedy Measure for Measure and it will therefore be highly appropriate for the year of Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. www.cercle-richard-wagner.fr

Do come to France in 2016 - now more than ever there is so much on offer and the quality of the events is outstanding.

Overview:

- 1) News from the RWVI**
- 2) News from Bayreuth**
- 3) News from member societies**
- 4) Richard Wagner news in the press and online**
- 5) Opera magazines/Wagner productions in the Cinema and online**
- 6) New books, lectures, CDs, DVDs**
- 7) Perspectives on Wagner productions**
- 8) Travel notes**
- 9) Perspectives on the Websites of Wagner Societies**

1) News from the RWVI

Andrea Buchanan, member of the new RWVI **Website** development group, reports as follows:

The website team (Tobias Langmeyer - developer, Andrea Buchanan & Matthias Lachenmann - RWVI board members, Simon Empson and Arabella Hellman – website team members) have held several online meetings regarding development, which has resulted in a collaborative and truly international project. The result is we are nearly there. The site looks amazing, is well illustrated with colourful photographs, and is easy to navigate. While the structure is now all in place, we are still working on content, and this will be an ongoing project, even after we go live.

This is where we will need your help. Members will be able to upload their own events to the site in due course and this will be done by means of a very simple, easy-to-follow process. We will demonstrate this to members in Strasbourg at the Congress and of course we will ensure that every Board member is able to show the Wagner Societies under their care how to use this functionality. We will continue to upload news items and editorials centrally, and will advise you shortly on the best way to submit these.

So look out for an e-mail from our President Horst Eggers announcing the opening of the website for public view. The board will sign off the site at its next meeting on February 5th and you should receive the announcement shortly thereafter.

RWVI News

A very important year for the RWVI from a strategic perspective has just ended successfully and, with good reason, we can look to the future with confidence.

Instead of the resignations that we feared, we were able to welcome the Wagner Societies of Ammersee, Palm Beach and Oostende as new members. Furthermore the Wagner Societies of New York, Washington and Adelaide are re-joining us.

For me as President and for the rest of the Board, this positive development has been a motivation and an incentive to continue our successful work in 2016.

This year the planned changes for the Bayreuth Festival management will be effected. I am hopeful that I will be able to agree a substantial allocation of Festival tickets with the successor to Dr. Sense for 2017. I am also convinced that we can work to optimise the process of ticket ordering on the basis of our recent experience.

We have received thus far from Wagner Societies a total of €4,500 for the book project "A History of the Bayreuth Festival" by Dr. Bauer, for which I would like to thank sincerely all the donors.

I was able to agree with the Festival edition of the (Nordbayerischer) Kurier that it will provide detailed information on our association's activities. Thus, inter alia, the wonderful story of the founding of the Wagner Society of RWV Ammersee will be featured.

The RWVI Congresses in 2016 in Strasbourg and in Budapest in 2017 have been confirmed, and I will be able to make concrete proposals to the Delegates' Assembly in Strasbourg for the years 2018-2020.

The redesigned website of the RWVI will be available very soon and we will also be able to offer to all interested parties at a very reasonable cost, the opportunity to adapt this product for their own local societies.

Finally, I should particularly like to thank the newsletter team most sincerely for their exemplary commitment. Anyone who has been involved with publishing such items will know how much effort goes into it, in designing the structure and contents as well as collecting contributions on time. The fact that the extensive 2nd newsletter is appearing as planned is the result of a great deal of effort and creativity on the part of the newsletter team, which I appreciate very much.

In the confidence that you will find the new newsletter to be of great interest, I greet you all with our best wishes for a successful year in 2016

By the way: The judgment of the District Court in Bayreuth (26.11.15) which rejected the lawsuit of the Wagner Society of Magdeburg against the RWVI is now effective.

Yours, Horst Eggers

2) News from Bayreuth

Parsifal Bayreuth 2016 – First thoughts from the director, Uwe Laufenberg:

<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/kultur/bayreuther-festspiele-2016-laufenberg-will-religioese-seite-des-parsifal-betonen/12764364.html>

Online Festival ticket sales open to the general public on 31 January.

If you don't have tickets yet, this will be another opportunity to buy some.

Festspielkurier des Nordbayerischen Kuriers.

<http://www.nordbayerischer-kurier.de/bayreuther-festspiele>

3) News from member societies

Overseas

Bangkok The Wagner Society of Bangkok was founded 13 years ago, with the inauguration attended by Wolfgang and Gudrun Wagner. The indefatigable President and Artistic Director of Opera Siam, composer and conductor Somtow Sucharitkul has worked tirelessly to put on the Ring in Thailand, overcoming many obstacles en route including ups and downs with the casting of Siegfried (never an easy task) and finding the appropriate funding. Somtow has written a report on the history of the society's activities and outlined his plans for the future. We recommend that you read this lively and engaging piece.

http://rwv-muenchen.de/Report_Bangkok.php

Cape Town The Wagner Society of South Africa are proud to announce that Michelle Breedt has accepted the role of Patron of the Wagner Society of South Africa. Members will know Michelle from the many distinguished Wagner roles she has sung in Bayreuth, and internationally.

Singapore After taking the momentous decision to proceed with their 2016 production of The Flying Dutchman (Oct 2016), The Richard Wagner Association (Singapore) is auditioning the Singapore leads and chorus members on 24 and 26 Jan respectively. International leads have and are still being casted from past winners / finalists of the International Singing Competition for Wagner Voices and names will be released as soon as contracts are signed. Meanwhile the local press have started to take an interest. See the link below:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/the-flying-dutchman-opera-sails-into-town>

Europe

Bonn-Siegburg A series of events with films from H.J. Syberberg in cooperation with the University of Bonn-Siegburg

<http://rwv-bonn-siegburg.de/2016/01/01/winifred-wagner-und-die-geschichte-des-hauses-wahnfried-1914---1975-brorf-1975/>

<http://rwv-bonn-siegburg.de/2016/01/01/ludwig-requiem-fur-einen-jungfraulichen-koenig-d-1972/>

Karlsruhe Following the acclaimed productions of Tannhäuser in 2012/13, Die Meistersinger in 2014/15 and Parsifal in 2015, the Badische Staatstheater will present the premiere of its new Tristan und Isolde on 27 March 2016 and on 9 July the premiere of Das Rheingold will take place – the

beginning of the house's new Ring. Four production teams who have already produced successful works at the theatre, will take charge of the Ring. You can find out more about Das Rheingold at <http://www.staatstheater.karlsruhe.de/programm/info/2145/> and about Tristan at <http://www.staatstheater.karlsruhe.de/programm/info/2143/>

Kassel The Kassel opera and concert brochure with current information on events and news articles is available to download from the following link: http://www.wagner-verband-kassel.de/download/OuK_13.pdf

Konstanz - Liederabend with Idunna Münch <http://www.rwv-konstanz.de/veranstaltungen-1.html>

Linz The Wagner Society of Linz plans to confer honorary membership on KS René Kollo on 20.March 2016 on the occasion of a Sunday Foyer event at the Linz Musiktheater.

Lisbon - Círculo Richard Wagner It's always great to learn about a Wagner Society that has regenerated and revitalised itself. The Wagner Society of Lisbon is just such a society and the report from Maria Teresa Cochito, who became President of this Wagner Society at the end of 2014, makes for inspiring reading. After a few years of relatively low key activity, and very low membership, the newly elected Board under the leadership of Ms Cochito has galvanised the Society and they have leapt forward with a number of significant milestones.

A brand new and modern logo and image were commissioned and this has helped to raise the society's profile among the public. A programme of seven events was devised with the support of the Goethe-Institut Portugal for 2015 and these were well attended with very positive feedback. The society was invited to participate four times in radio programmes on the theme of "Richard Wagner's life and work", all of which proved to be excellent publicity. A new website is also under development.

And now, for the first time, the Círculo Richard Wagner will participate in the 2016 Stipendienstiftung in Bayreuth, sending as their first scholar a young Portuguese pianist. This is tremendously exciting and we look forward to welcoming Portugal to the joyful Stipendiatenwoche this August.

The crowning of the achievements was the foundation of a new Singing Competition Prize. The "Círculo Richard Wagner" has now associated itself with the Portuguese Rotary Foundation's Singing Competition. This is currently the only lyrical singing contest in Portugal. The Goethe-Institute Portugal has also joined the initiative. The "Prémio Círculo Richard Wagner" will comprise two scholarships - „Trip to Bayreuth" to attend 3 operas at the Bayreuth Festival and participate in the Richard-Wagner-Stipendienprogramm and „Goethe-Institut-Stipendium"- an intensive German language course in one of the Goethe-Institutes in Germany.

And finally, the number of members of the "Circulo Richard Wagner" has risen from 35 on 1 January 2015 to 55 on 1 January 2016 and is trending upwards. I am sure you will agree that this is a great achievement and congratulations to Maria Teresa on her enthusiasm, commitment and will to succeed.

The Wagner Society of Paris – 50th anniversary

Following an evening at Opera Bastille when many Wagner lovers will have enjoyed a performance of *Die Meistersinger*, on the 6 March 2016 Madame Annie Benoit, President of the Wagner Society of Paris, will host distinguished guests from around the world at an illustrious concert, followed by a gala lunch in the salon of the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée in Paris.

An interview with Madame Benoit and a review will be published after the event.

Madame Eva Wagner-Pasquier will be the honorary host of the event, which will also be attended by Horst Eggers, President of the RWVI and by its Honorary President, Josef Lienhart. Several members

of the board of the RWVI will also attend, coming from London, Berlin, Reykjavik and Karlsruhe among other places.

Several Wagner-lovers have also signed up for this unmissable event, at which around 180 people will be present. Germany is particularly well represented and notably, 70 participants from Leipzig and Frankfurt have registered. The Presidents of many other Wagner Societies from around the world will celebrate the first half-century of the Paris Society, the oldest non-German members of the RWVI. This will truly be a wonderful celebration that is absolutely not to be missed!

Rhein-Sieg Concert in cooperation with Theater Bonn, 14.06.2016 „BEAThoven meets Wagner. A Pilgrimage!“,

<http://www.rwv-region-rhein-sieg.de/aktivitaeten/termine/beethoven-meets-wagner-eine-pilgerfahrt/>

Ulm

Gala concert Wagner-Verdi-Strauss on 24 January, when Sabine Vinke will perform a Liederabend in the foyer of the Theater Ulm and will feature works by Wagner, Verdi and Strauss.

A foray into the Bayreuth Festival on the radio from 1931 to 2016 on 16 April. Bernhard Neuhoff, Director of Programming at BR-Klassik radio, will give a history of the media at the Bayreuth Festival from 1931 to the present day. More information can be found at: <http://www.rwv-ulm.de/index.php/veranstaltungen/kalender2016>

Scandinavia/Nordic countries

The history of the performance of Wagner's operas in the Nordic countries goes back a long way in Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki. The first Wagner opera in Helsinki was Tannhäuser in 1852, in Copenhagen Die Meistersinger in 1872 and in Stockholm Der fliegende Holländer in 1872. These three cities were early to jump on the carousel of Wagner performances. Norway joined in rather later and with notably fewer performances. In Iceland the first staging of a Wagner opera took place with a shortened version of Der Ring des Nibelungen in 1994. This was considered to be the first staging of a shortened Ring in the world, and was performed with the cooperation of Wolfgang Wagner in Bayreuth. After that only Der fliegende Holländer was performed (2004). The following link gives access to the performance history of each of Wagner's operas from the beginning up to approximately the middle of the 20th century. <http://opera.stanford.edu/Wagner/>.

Wagner is still much loved in the Nordic countries. In late November ticket sales opened in Stockholm for two Ring Cycles in May 2017 (with Nina Stemme, Katharina Dalayman etc). All tickets were sold out in 20 minutes. For those interested in visiting the Nordic capitals or Goteborg during the next months, here is a brief overview of available Wagner performances.

Copenhagen: Lohengrin, Director - Nicola Raab, premiere on 22 January with further performances on 28 and 31 January, 7, 12 February, 1, 6, 9 and 13 March.

<https://kgltteater.dk/en/whats-on/season-2015-2016/opera/lohengrin>

Other operas in Copenhagen in February-March: Falstaff, Le Nozze di Figaro, Madame Butterfly.

Helsinki: Tristan und Isolde 14, 17, 20, 25. and 28 of May

http://www.opera.fi/en/productions/tristan_and_isolde/4260

Other operas in Helsinki February-May include: The Rake's Progress, The Magic Flute (Co-production with the Komische Oper, Berlin).

At the end of November Der fliegende Holländer will be staged. The Finnish Wagner Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary at the performance 26 November.

Stockholm: Parsifal

27 February, 5, 13, 17, 25 and 28 March.

<http://www.operan.se/sv/Var-repertoar/20152016/Parsifal/>

Other operas in Stockholm March-April: Così fan tutti, Don Giovanni, Falstaff, Pelleas and Mélisande.

Oslo: In 2015 the Norwegian Opera presented both Lohengrin and Der fliegende Holländer, however there will be no Wagner performances during the coming months. Performances February -May include The Return of Ulysses (Monteverdi), La Traviata, Turandot and Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk (Shostakovich). <http://operaen.no/en/>

Goteborg: In 2009/10 the relatively new opera house staged Die Meistersinger and in 2013 Tristan und Isolde. In the spring there will be no Wagner performances. From February -May productions will be Le Nozze di Figaro, Madame Butterfly, Hamlet (Ambroise Thomas) and Macbeth.

<http://en.opera.se/>

Reykjavik: The Icelandic Opera will be performing Don Giovanni 27 February and 5, 11 and 13. March. During October and November Evgeny Onegin will be performed. <http://www.opera.is/en>

4) News about Wagner in the press, on TV and online

Is opera an expensive hobby for the super-rich?

The UK newspaper The Guardian debunks the popular myth that operagoing is unaffordably elitist in this well-written article by a popular British radio broadcaster.

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/nov/03/opera-tickets-expensive-cliche-john-humphrys>

The Festival edition of the Nordbayerischen Kurier will tune into the mood of Wagner connoisseurs and culture-lovers during the 2016 summer Festival in Bayreuth and its surroundings with splendid images, background information, features, interviews and useful suggestions.

<http://www.nordbayerischer-kurier.de/bayreuther-festspiele>

Verena Lafferentz-Wagner celebrates her 95th birthday

<http://www.ovb-online.de/kultur-tv/letzte-enkelin-5920961.html>

Berlin: Wagner memorial restoration to cost more than €140,000

<http://www.morgenpost.de/bezirke/mitte/article206835733/Wagner-Denkmal-fuer-mehr-als-140-000-Euro-saniert.html>

A bit offbeat – „found“ on the Internet

As we all know (or do we?), there is no Wagner park in Munich but we hope nonetheless that you will enjoy these pictures – taken in the former grounds of the International Garden Exhibition in Munich.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXsqW1FX9_4

Mad about Wagner, TV film

During the Festival in 2015 a TV camera team followed the three scholarship holders and the Chairman of the **Dutch Wagner Society** during their week in Bayreuth. The resulting film is part of a series about pilgrimage. This episode was entitled 'Weg van Wagner' (Mad about Wagner) and was shown on Dutch television in December 2015. By clicking on the link below, the programme can be viewed online. It should be of particular interest to future scholarship holders, starting with the class of 2016, as it will give them a good impression of what to expect this summer. Don't be put off by

the fact it is in Dutch – it's very easy to understand and figure out what is going on. Highly recommended viewing! http://www.npo.nl/de-pelgrim/20-12-2015/VPWON_1244944

5) Opera magazines/Wagner productions in the cinema and online

A brief overview of the main opera magazines

- Germany:**
1. **Opernglas**, <http://www.opernglas.de/>
 2. **Opernwelt** <http://www.opernwelt.de/>
 3. **Wagnerspectrum**, <http://www.wagnerspectrum.de/>
- Austria:** **Der Neue Merker**, <http://der-neue-merker.eu/>
- UK :**
1. **Opera Now**, http://www.rhinegold.co.uk/magazines/opera_now/
 2. **Opera**, <http://www.opera.co.uk/>
 3. **The Wagner Journal**, <http://thewagnerjournal.co.uk/>
- USA:** **Opera News**, <http://www.operanews.com/>
- New Zealand:** **The Opera Critic**, <http://www.theoperacritic.com/>

Opernglas, **Opernwelt**, **Der Neue Merker**, **Opera Now** und **Opera** appear monthly and report on the international opera scene. They feature interviews with opera “stars”, up-and-coming young singers, directors, conductors and designers, along with news and reviews of new productions, CDs, DVDs and books and information about forthcoming productions

The Opera Critic is an internet magazine with similar content.

Wagnerspectrum is published biannually and is a public forum for international research on Wagner along with a centralised discussion forum on Richard Wagner, his works and their reception.

The Wagner Journal is published in English three times annually in print and online. To quote its website “The Wagner Journal seeks to examine Wagner and his works from a variety of perspectives – musicological, historical, literary, philosophical and political – and to illuminate the unique appeal of this endlessly fascinating composer. The journal aims to bring the questions surrounding the theory and practice of staging and performing Wagner to a wider audience, in that way furthering our understanding of his operas as theatre.”

Opera performances in the Cinema or on the Internet

Metropolitan Opera New York City (Met Opera Live): <http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/>
Royal Opera House: <http://www.roh.org.uk/cinemas>

The links below are to opera performances available on the Internet

- Bayerische Staatsoper, free: <https://www.staatsoper.de/staatsopertv.html>
- Wiener Staatsoper, cost 14 € <http://www.staatsoperlive.com>
- Glyndebourne in co-operation with the Daily Telegraph free <http://www.glyndebourne.com/>
- The Opera Platform, free: <http://www.theoperaplatform.eu>
- Sonostream, cost - 5 € <http://sonostream.tv>

A further interesting option is Mezzo TV (for those that can access it) <http://www.mezzo.tv>
Or Arte TV in English <http://www.arte.tv/guide/en/music-and-the-arts?zone=europe>

Die Walküre directed by Pierre Audi

Online opera website **The Opera Platform** will screen Dutch National Opera's highly acclaimed Die Walküre directed by Pierre Audi on 4 March 2016 as part of DNO's 50th anniversary celebrations. Further information can be found here (it was not yet uploaded at the time of going to press, but should appear soon): www.theoperaplatform.eu

6) New books, lectures, CDs, DVDs

History of the Bayreuth Festival – Dr. Oswald Bauer

Dr. Oswald Bauer has now fulfilled the promise he made to his friend and mentor Wolfgang Wagner to write a history of the Bayreuth Festival.

Richly illustrated and professionally designed, the high quality of this project means that the costs will not be covered by the anticipated revenue from sales.

The RWVI is convinced of the importance of this book in the field of Wagner research and therefore appeals to you for financial assistance. Those donors who wish will be named as sponsors in the book.

Our bank details are as follows (please reference your donations "Bauer project")

Richard-Wagner-Verband International e.V.

IBAN: DE 71 7735 0110 0009 0946 81

BIC: BYLADEM1SBT

Two lectures by our Honorary President Josef Lienhart in honour of Wieland Wagner to mark the 50th anniversary of his death on 17 October 2016 and the 100th anniversary of his birth on 5 January 2017.

1. Lecture on the following productions directed and staged by Wieland Wagner: Parsifal, The Flying Dutchman, Lohengrin, Tannhäuser illustrated with colour photographs and recordings from the Bayreuth Festival 1951-1966
2. Lecture on scenes from Wieland Wagner productions of Tristan, The Ring, The Mastersingers, Salome and Lulu, illustrated in colour.

For further details contact **Josef Lienhart, Sonnhalde 123, 79104 Freiburg Tel. 0761/53756**

lienhart.rwvi@web.de

Review of Versuch über Kundry

Drs. Harry Vreeswijk, a member of the Dutch Wagner Society, has written a review in German of *Versuch über Kundry ; Facetten einer Figur* by Dr. Chikako Kitagawa. The book is the commercial edition of Ms. Kitagawa's dissertation, for which she received financial support from the RWVI. The review can be read by clicking on the following link:

www.wagnergenootschap.nl/artikelen/141-chikako-kitagawa-versuch-u-ber-kundry

Ruprecht Frieling – Guides to Wagner operas available in English

Now available on Amazon – English versions of a couple of Frieling's opera guides which are best-sellers in Germany.

Guide to the Ring http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias=aps&field-keywords=ruprecht+frieling

Flying Dutchman http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias=aps&field-keywords=ruprecht+frieling+flying+dutchman&rh=i%3Aaps,k%3Aruprecht+frieling+flying+dutchman

Torsten Meiwald - Randbemerkungen zu Richard Wagner „Ring des Nibelungen“ (in German only)
Supported by the Wagner Society of Ulm/Neu-Ulm e.V.

http://www.koliro.de/product/4099276460850822728/Buecher_Drama-und-Lyrik/Torsten-Meiwald/Randbemerkungen-zu-Richard-Wagners-Ring-des-Nibelungen#

Stefan Mickisch plays and explains (English text available on this site)

Richard Wagner – „Der Ring des Nibelungen (Schuber – 4 DVDs)

<http://www.mickisch.de/index.php?id=4>

Sonia Fuhrmann, member of the Wagner Society of Frankfurt has brought out a book of short stories for children – The “Opera Bears” explain opera from myths and legends.

The works of Richard Wagner play an important role in this publication. The opera bear Leporello explains, in a child-friendly way, the plots of *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Lohengrin*, *Parsifal* and all four parts of *The Ring*.

Other stories include *Don Quixote* (Massenet), *Der Freischütz* (Weber), *Orpheus and Euridice* (Gluck) and *Rusalka* (Dvorak), told in a charming way. The stories are richly illustrated by three artists, including an 11-year old schoolgirl.

The book, 164 pages long, is published as a paperback (€20) by FuhRödART-Verlag – and also as a hardback priced at €27.50. It is available from bookshops or online from Amazon.de, Buch.de, weltbild.de and other sites. ISBN is 978-3-9817670-1-8. Further information can be found at <http://www.fuhroedart.de>

Christian Max-Maria von Weber (descendant of Carl Maria von Weber), Jürgen Flimm (Artistic Director of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin), Anna Schwanhäußer (Managing Director of the Friends of the Staatsoper Berlin) and Dirk Jenders (President of RWV Frankfurt) have expressed their support and sponsorship on the back page of this long-overdue opera guide for children.

Victor Henle - Richard Wagners Wörter – now available in paperback

http://www.koliro.de/product/4099276460851013591/Sach--und-Fachbuecher_Nachschlagewerke_Lexika/Victor-Henle/Wagners-Woerter

7) Perspectives on forthcoming productions

Bremen / Wagner Verband Bremen:

The following events can be download in pdf format via the link below:

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-bremen.de/assets/plugindata/poola/2015.12.Rundschreiben.o.U..pdf>

6 March – 18:00– Theater Bremen – Großes Haus - Premiere „Der fliegende Holländer“ Conductor: Markus Poschner // Director: Sebastian Baumgarten. Further shows on 6 March, 16 April, 7 May and 8 June. Link: http://www.theaterbremen.de/de_DE/spielplan/der-fliegende-hollaender.951837

Saturday, 19 March 2016 – 15:30– Theater Bremen - Rangfoyer – Richard Wagner-Podium -in co-operation with the Theater Bremen Prof. Dr. Udo Bermbach presents his latest book: „Houston Stewart Chamberlain Wagner’s Son-in-Law – Hitler’s Mastermind“

Link: http://www.theaterbremen.de/de_DE/kalender/richard-wagner-podium.13656848

Wednesday, 27. April 2016 – 19:30– Theater Bremen – Großes Haus – Richard Wagner-Podium in co-operation with the Theater Bremen: Stefan Mickisch – An introduction on the piano to –„Der fliegende Holländer“

Link: http://www.theaterbremen.de/de_DE/kalender/richard-wagner-podium.13656849

8) Travel notes

„Opera steamer – with artists - voyage in France on the RHÔNE & SAÔNE“

The Wagner Society of Munich and Augsburg presents for the third time, in co-operation with the travel agency Opera Viva, an exclusive trip on the so-called “Opera Steamer”. After trips on the Rhine and Danube we are now off to the South of France.

In addition to numerous excursions and at least one opera performance along with a concert organised by one of the participating Wagner Societies and performed by young artists, we offer once more the chance to sleep and dine on a luxury ship " AMADEUS - class " and the opportunity to meet up and exchange views with members of other Wagner Societies on board .

http://rwv-muenchen.de/RWV_Reise_2016_Operndampfer.php

Further information from: karl.russwurm@gmx.de

„Bayreuth in the Off-season“

The Wagner Society of Munich has details on its website of an exemplary 2-day trip to Bayreuth – outside the Festival season – time to reminisce!

http://www.rwv-muenchen.de/RWV_Ausflug_Bayreuth_2015.php

Please ask for individual advice , addresses , application forms for your members etc. from karl.russwurm@gmx.de

9) Perspectives on the Websites of Wagner Societies

The quality of the websites of Wagner Societies is very varied. In this regard, we should like to give you some selected examples to look at, with the aim of inspiring potential new members with the format and quality of the events that are described.

Attention is one of the most important " currencies " of our time and new members should be enticed and convinced by what they see on your website.

You will find these examples below in alphabetical order A-K

Adelaide

Members of the public are invited to attend an exploration by Emeritus Professor Heath Lees of Wagner’s opera *Die Walküre*. (10.02.16)

<http://www.aso.com.au/products/2016/classical/wagner-society-symposium>

Amsterdam

<http://www.wagnergenootschap.nl/activiteiten>

Annecy

http://www.cerclewagner74.com/doc/prog2015_2016.pdf

Bamberg

<http://www.rwv-bamberg.de/>

Bayreuth

<http://www.rwv-bayreuth.de/rwv/de/veranstaltungen/>

Berlin

<http://www.wagnerverband-berlin.de/neu/contao/index.php/veranstaltungen.html>

Boston

<http://www.bostonwagnersociety.org/>

Dessau

<http://www.rwv-dessau.de/>

Dortmund

<http://rwv-dortmund.de/web/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Veranstaltungsprogramm-für-2016-1.pdf>

Dresden

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-dresden.de/41349.html>

Edinburgh

http://www.wagnerscotland.net/sites/default/files/WSS%20Programme%202015-16_1.docx

Frankfurt

<http://www.rwv-ffm.de/termine/>

Freiburg

<http://www.rwv-freiburg.de/veranstaltungen/>

Göteborg

<http://www.wsg.se/>

Hannover

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-hannover.de/>

Helsinki

<http://www.suomenwagnerseura.org/sws/index.php/in-english>

Karlsruhe

<http://www.rwv-karlsruhe.de/aktuelles.htm>

Kassel

<http://www.wagner-verband-kassel.de/termine.php>

Knokke-Heist

<http://www.richardwagner.be/richard-wagner-activiteiten.php>

Kopenhagen

<http://www.richardwagner.dk/index.php/kalender/kommende-arrangementer>

Koblenz

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-koblenz.de/programm.html>

Köln

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-koeln.de/aktuelles.php>

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-koeln.de/programm.php>

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END – NL 2 – English