

RWVI Congress 2026 in Amsterdam

Experience it together



Wagnergenootschap
Nederland

P R O G R A M

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From **19 to 22 February 2026**, the Wagner Society of the Netherlands warmly welcomes you to Amsterdam for the international RWVI Congress. Following the well-attended and inspiring Delegates' Meeting in Bayreuth (May 2025), this marks the first full congress since 2023 – offering a rich and diverse programme.

This edition brings together delegates, members and Wagner enthusiasts from all over the world in a city brimming with culture, history and music – where Wagner's spirit can resonate in a special way.

At the heart of the congress lies the Delegates' Meeting, where strategic and budgetary decisions are made for the future of RWVI. Around this core, the Wagner Society of the Netherlands is hosting an inspiring programme – a celebration of Wagner, of the Netherlands, and of connection.

A definite highlight will be the performance of *Tristan & Isolde*, directed by the recently deceased and internationally acclaimed Pierre Audi. This production, eagerly awaited across the globe again, forms the centrepiece of a musical and cultural programme that also includes a mini symposium, a scholarship holders' concert, and several inspiring excursions.

Those wishing to experience the Netherlands through a historical and cultural lens can take part in a carefully curated programme:

- Visit to the Rijksmuseum or the Van Gogh Museum
- Canal cruise through Amsterdam's historic waterways
- Excursion to the Zaanse Schans with its iconic windmills
- Or a journey of discovery to the Cruquius Steam Pumping Station

Naturally, there will be ample opportunity for meeting, reflection and hospitality. We will enjoy excellent lunches and dinners – with a Dutch Touch – including the traditional gala dinner on Saturday evening.

It promises to be a memorable long weekend, where music, culture, substance and connection reinforce one another. The Wagner Society of the Netherlands looks forward to welcoming you to Amsterdam!



Thursday – 19.02.2026

> 17:00

A short informal welcome and reception at hotel nhow RAI Amsterdam, hosted by the board of the Wagner Society of the Netherlands and the RWVI Presidium, for participants arriving the day before.

Friday – 20.02.2026

> 10:00 – Cultural Programme

In the morning, participants may choose to join one of the following cultural activities:

- **Rijksmuseum** – www.rijksmuseum.nl
- **Van Gogh Museum** – www.vangoghmuseum.nl
- **Canal cruise through Amsterdam** – www.lovers.nl

Cost: €40 per person (per activity) | fully guided

> 16:00 – Welcome Reception

This reception marks the official opening of the congress and will take place near the opera house. In a welcoming atmosphere, with drinks and a selection of typical Dutch snacks (bittergarnituur), participants will be greeted. It's a moment for new encounters, reconnecting with old contacts, and continuing ongoing conversations.

Cost: €25 per person

> 18:00 – Opera: Tristan & Isolde

A special performance of Tristan & Isolde will be staged tonight, in a production by the late director Pierre Audi (1959–2025). The musical direction is in the hands of Tarmo Peltokoski, with the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

Cost:

1st tier: €185 | 2nd tier: €160 | 3rd tier: €135

A **two-course dinner in the theatre**, served during the intermissions, is available as an additional option.

Cost: €75 per person



Saturday – 21.02.2026

> 10:00 – 15:00 – **Assembly of Delegates** | Hotel nhow RAI Amsterdam

Further information and the official invitation will be provided by the RWVI Presidium. The procedures are laid down in the RWVI Statutes. Additional details will be shared in December.

> 10:00 – 15:00 – **Alternative Day Programme for Non-Delegates**

For those not attending the Delegates' Meeting, an attractive alternative day programme is offered. Participants may choose from a range of cultural excursions, including visits to the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum or a canal cruise. For those who prefer to explore the Dutch countryside, excursions to the Zaanse Schans or the impressive Cruquius Museum are available.

- **Rijksmuseum** – www.rijksmuseum.nl
- **Van Gogh Museum** – www.vangoghmuseum.nl
- **Canal cruise** – www.lovers.nl
- **Zaanse Schans** – www.dezaanseschans.nl
- **Cruquius Museum** – www.cruquius-museum.nl

Cost: €40 per person (per activity) | fully guided

> 17:30 – **Cocktail Party & Recital** | Hotel nhow RAI Amsterdam

Before the gala dinner, an exclusive cocktail party will take place, featuring sparkling orange bubbles, refined hors d'oeuvres and the enchanting sounds of Richard Wagner on the grand piano. As a special surprise, his music will also be played on a unique Dutch instrument – a true cultural icon that adds a special touch to the evening.

Cost: €40 per person

> 19:00 – **Gala Dinner** | Hotel nhow RAI Amsterdam

In the evening, the traditional gala dinner will be held – one of the congress's highlights. A festive occasion to raise a glass, dine together and connect in an atmosphere of harmony and warm companionship. Refined dishes, excellent wines and meticulous attention to detail make the evening complete. There is no dress code, but festive attire is certainly appreciated.

Cost: €130 per person



Sunday – 22.02.2026

> 10:30 – 13:00 – Symposium: “Wagner and the Low Countries”

[German English translation and vice versa]

The **Wagnergenootschap Nederland**, founded in 1961 as a re-establishment of the original 1883 “Wagnervereeniging”, is among the oldest Wagner societies in the world. The connection between the Netherlands and the work of Richard Wagner has a rich history, both artistically and academically.

This special event highlights three perspectives on Wagner in the Netherlands, as well as the remarkable artistic legacy of Pierre Audi, who served for 25 years as artistic director of Dutch National Opera and is an honorary member of the Wagnergenootschap Nederland.

- **Prof. Hartmut Haenchen** – on his collaboration with Pierre Audi and his internationally acclaimed Wagner interpretations.
- **Leo Cornelissen** – on the performance practice of Wagner in the Netherlands, illustrated with pieces from his unique Wagner collection, destined for the Richard Wagner National Archive in Bayreuth.
- **Drs. Leo Samama** – on Wagner’s influence on Dutch art, literature and music.

The lectures will be interspersed with mini concerts by former scholarship holders of the Wagnergenootschap Nederland, with Wagner’s music taking centre stage.

Prof. Hartmut Haenchen – German conductor, born in Dresden in 1943, renowned for his profound interpretations of Wagner, Mahler and Strauss. As chief conductor of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and music director of Dutch National Opera, he worked closely with Pierre Audi. His Amsterdam Ring cycle was internationally acclaimed and award-winning. He has also conducted at Bayreuth, including *Parsifal* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

Leo Cornelissen – Served for ten years as chairman of the Wagnergenootschap Nederland and is a specialist in the performance practice of Wagner’s works in the Netherlands. He has attended numerous productions in the Netherlands and abroad, and built a unique collection of scores, early music editions, historical costume sketches and other rare items. This collection is destined for the Richard Wagner National Archive in Bayreuth

Drs. Leo Samama – Dutch musicologist and composer, author of the standard work *Dutch Music in the 20th Century*. He has been artistic advisor to the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, director of the Netherlands Chamber Choir, and co-founder of the Dutch String Quartet Academy. His lecture explores Wagner’s influence on Dutch composers, writers and visual artists.

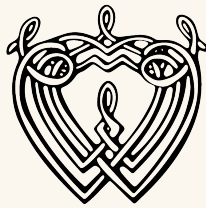
Cost: €50 per person

> 13:00 – ca. 14:30 – **Farewell Lunch**

After an intensive and enriching weekend, the inevitable moment of parting arrives. In Dutch tradition, this happens informally yet with dignity: with a shared lunch, one last table gathering and a brief closing word to round off the congress.

And naturally, there will be a toast – to life, to art, and to one another!

Cost: €35 per person



See you in Amsterdam!

