Dear Wagner community worldwide,

It’s almost time for the 2019 Bayreuth Festival to open its doors to Wagnerians worldwide and the anticipation for what promises to be another exciting year is growing.

There are anniversaries to celebrate this year – of both Wolfgang and Siegfried Wagner, with events to commemorate these running throughout the Festival period. There is also a Wagner to commemorate for a life very well lived – Verena, who died recently, was the last surviving granddaughter of Richard and was much loved in the Wagner community. RWVI President Horst Eggers has written his welcome letter to all Wagner Societies for 2019 and you will find a link to this below.

Details of the events can be found in the Events section of our website and several are listed below with links to more detailed information.

The present Board is entering its final few months in office, with elections for the next 5-year term to take place at our annual Congress in Venice. We have reflected on our achievements and also on our shortcomings and, should those of us who will decide to stand again be re-elected, we will do our utmost to take your comments on board and to build on our achievements in a spirit of continuous improvement.

This will be our last newsletter in this format. Many of you have told us that you find the newsletter too long and too infrequent. From September/October onwards we plan to issue a monthly short newsletter by email (with a separate email for each of our language groups), to ensure that the news is current and relevant. As ever, we need your help to keep the information coming in to us.
We are also planning some exciting changes to the website, with the introduction of a members' area, where Presidents will be able to log-in and will be able to update their data with any changes, post comments, including news about tickets for Wagner productions for sale and communicate with each other on matters of interest. The aim is to create an electronic notice board for our members and to make our site more interactive.

We hope you enjoy our Newsletter.

Your Newsletter team

Contents:

1) RWVI-news  
2) News from Bayreuth  
3) News/Events/Succesases of RWVI member societies  
4) New books, CDs, DVDs  
5) Perspectives on Wagner productions
1) RWVI News

**RWVI Annual Reports 2018**
The collection of Annual Reports for 2018 from the RWVI members are now available to read and download on our website

**Keynote Wagner 2019 - "Richard Wagner and Theology"**
The weekend symposium held in Munich from 22 to 24 March 2019 was a success

**The next Keynote Wagner will be held in Reykjavik in May 2020**
The topic is The Nordic Sources and their impact on Wagner. The provisional programme can be found on our website and the Wagner Society Iceland is working with Ars Musica to create a travel package
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=2141

**Ring Award 2020 – The programme and booking forms are now available**
Supported by the RWVI, this renowned competition for young directors and set designers will take place once again in Graz in 2020

**RWVI Congress 2019**
The next International RWVI Congress, hosted by the WS Venice will take place from 28 November to 2 December. The final programme, along with booking forms are now available on our website. This conference is proving very popular and members are urged to book as soon as possible. The programme is very impressive.
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=1754

**Southern German Wagner Societies held a successful conference**
Chairs from 5 southern German societies gathered in Munich in the „Movimento“ to exchange experiences

**Another successful regional conference for RWVI member societies in Austria**
All the Austrian Chairs met up in Salzburg in the Mozarteum to exchange their experiences
2) News from Bayreuth

Obituary for Verena Lafferentz-Wagner
The RWVI is in deep mourning for its Honorary Member

President Horst Eggers’ welcome letter to the Bayreuth Festival 2019

Dr. Oswald Bauer receives the Bayreuth Gold Medal
On 16 May, Dr. O G Bauer was awarded the Bayreuth Gold Medal for his
encyclopaedic benchmark work "History of the Bayreuth Festival 1850 - 2000" and
his work for the Bayreuth Festival

Advance tickets for this year’s interesting Discourse Bayreuth Programme are
now on sale
For the third year running, the performances at the Bayreuth Festival will be
complemented by a carefully curated programme of supporting events – the link
below gives further information in German
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/de/nachrichten/praesidium-news/?collection_id=2104
Tickets for the events, including concerts can be bought on Ticketmaster:
https://www.ticketmaster.de/artist/bayreuther-festspiele-tickets/957968

Siegfried Wagner events in Bayreuth
To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Siegfried Wagner, the
International Siegfried Wagner Society is putting on a number of events during the
Festival, including a performance of one Siegfried’s operas

Performers for this year’s Scholars concert along with details of date, time and
how to buy tickets have now been published

Scholarship Week dates announced for Bayreuth 2020
3) News/Events/Successes of RWVI member societies

**Augsburg**
In co-operation with the WS Augsburg, a concert with excerpts from Parsifal was held at the Wartburg in Eisenach on 25 April. Link to article in German. [https://klassik-begeistert.de/richard-wagner-parsifal-wartburg-bei-eisenach-25-mai-2019/](https://klassik-begeistert.de/richard-wagner-parsifal-wartburg-bei-eisenach-25-mai-2019/)

**Brussels – A Wagner weekend in Brussels**

**Düsseldorf**

**Frankfurt**
Members of the WS visited Bayreuth out of season (link to article in German) [https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/de/nachrichten/mitglieder-news/?collection_id=2085](https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/de/nachrichten/mitglieder-news/?collection_id=2085)

**The „somewhat different fanclub“ live on 27 July**
The radio station Hessischer Rundfunk (hr2) will broadcast an extensive one-hour portrait of the WS Frankfurt in its "Music scene in Hesse" programme. The broadcast will take place from 15:00 to 17:00 CET. In a live interview, hr2 editor Christiane Hillebrandt will ask the Chairman Dirk Jenders about the diverse life of the Frankfurt society. Naturally, appropriate music will be played. [https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=2189](https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=2189)

**Iceland – visit to New York for the Ring**
Kassel – News from the Staatstheater
- Premiere of the new production of *Siegfried* on 14. September
- New Deputy Music Director at the opera house -Mario Hartmuth
- New theatre education initiative "The Young State Theatre"

Theatre conference of the Protestant Academy Hofgeismar
- This year's theme: Richard Wagner - *Die Walküre*

The Boundlessness and Genius of Richard Wagner
- A lecture was given at the beginning of May in the series "Psychoanalysis on the Road". Prof. Dr. Dieter Ohlmeier (Kassel) dealt with Wagner’s *Ring* from a psychoanalytical point of view.

http://www.wagner-verband-kassel.de

Leipzig – Wagnerians in the Orient
A group of 30 members of the WS visited Abu Dhabi to attend a guest concert performance from the Bayreuth Festival of *Die Walküre*
The Leipzig Richard Wagner Prize for young artists 2019 was awarded to 23 year old oboist Alexander Kaul, from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock.

Lisbon – a surprise birthday party for Wagner from the enterprising Portuguese

London – 2019 Singing Competition announced
23 November, Wigmore Hall, London, 11am
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=2050

Lyon - Wagner and the Rhônegold – A conference in Lyon in April
Several members of various French Wagner Societies attended this conference with lectures, readings, a gala dinner and a tour of Lyon.

The Wagner House in Meudon
http://rwv-muenchen.de/Files/Maison_Wagner_Article_VLC14.pdf

Munich – Live Painting with the Chair of the Brno WS
An original painting by the Czech artist Vladimir Kiseljov has found a home in Linz. Born in 1984, the artists is well known to members of the RWVI.

Netherlands – the Wagner Genootschap names two new honorary members
Edo de Waart and Henk de Vlieger were bestowed on 25 May with honorary membership by the WS Netherlands.

Newsletters – the latest from Brussels, Toulouse, Melbourne, Paris and New Zealand
All available to read on our website.
New York – annual Bayreuth lectures to be given by Professor J. J. H. Muller in the Arvena Kongress Hotel from 17-29 August

Nice Côte d’Azur A lecture by WS President Michèle Bessout
7 September „De Rienzi au Vaïsseau Fantôme, ou la Révélation du Génie »
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=2187

Nuremberg - News from the WS in the city of the Mastersingers
Symposium on the 150th birthday of Siegfried Wagner
Saturday 19 October, 11:00 – 17:00. Loew Merkur hotel, Pillenreuther Str. 1, 90459 Nuremberg.

Singapore – former Chair awarded honorary degree
Juliana Lim, former Chair of the Wagner Association of Singapore, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Essex UK to acknowledge her contribution to the arts.

Wagner soprano visits Singapore
The up and coming British soprano Rachel Nicholls visited Singapore and met members of the local WS

Southern California – WSSC to host gala dinner once more in Bayreuth
For those in Bayreuth on 25 August, tickets are now available to attend this delightful annual event in the Steigenberger Restaurant after the show.

Toulouse – Cercle Wagner to host a Parsifal weekend in February 2020

Wagnerian Toulousains visit Bordeaux
10 members of the Cercle Wagner de Toulouse visited Bordeaux in May to attend a performance of Die Walküre

4) New books

New Books in German

Wieland Wagner: Ästhetik, Zeitgeschichte, Wirkung
Stephan Mösch / Sven Friedrich bei Könighausen und Meumann
The presentation of the book will take place on 24 July at 10 am in Haus Wahnfried
https://www.amazon.de/gibt-nichts-Ewiges-Wieland-Wagner/dp/3826062361/ref=sr_1_1?_mk_de_DE=%C3%85M%C3%85%C5%BD%C3%95%C3%91&keywords=es+gibt+nichts+ewiges&qid=1562830592&s=gateway&sr=8-1
Dr. Martha Schad
„Cosima Wagner und Ludwig II von Bayern - Briefe"
http://rwv-muenchen.de/RWV_Veranstaltung_2019_Schad_Cosima_Ludwig.php

Frankfurter Wagner-Kontexte - Volume 2
Volume 2 in the series published by the WS Frankfurt is now available. This new volume is dedicated to the violinist August Wilhelmj (1845 – 1908), who was one of the greatest violinists of his time, and a key influence on Wagner.

Max is to blame: or a self-fulfilling prophecy
The world-famous bass-baritone Bernd Weikl makes his literary debut
https://www.amazon.de/Max-ist-schuld-erf%C3%BCllende-Prophezeiung/dp/3000623671/ref=sr_1_2?__mk_de_DE=%C3%95%C3%BC%C3%95%C3%91&keywords=bernd+weikl&qid=1559041306&s=gateway&sr=8-2

Cosima Wagner and Ludwig II of Bavaria: Letters: An astonishing correspondence
The well-known and popular historian and author Martha Schad from Augsburg turns once again to the subject of Wagner.
http://rwv-muenchen.de/RWV_Veranstaltung_2019_Schad_Cosima_Ludwig.php

Musical life in Germany
In this compendium, the German Music Information Centre (MIZ) brings together in 620 pages background knowledge and data on music culture in Germany. In 22 articles, renowned authors from the fields of science, cultural policy and music practice describe the structures and recent developments in musical life
https://www.miz.org/bestellung.php

Götterdämmerung in der schönen neuen Welt
A Science fiction novel based on the final part of the Ring Cycle - by Stefan Thiel
https://www.amazon.de/RING-G%C3%96TTERD%C3%84MMERUNG-SCH%C3%96NEN-NEUEN-WELT/dp/3748509995

New Books in English

The July Edition of the Wagner Journal
... With the usual interesting mixture of scholarly articles and reviews of productions, CDs and books.
www.thewagnerjournal.co.uk

The Only Way is Up - Sir Donald McIntyre has published his memoirs
Sponsored by the Wagner Society New Zealand, this lively account of his singing career by the legendary bass
https://www.nationwidebooks.co.nz/product/the-only-way-is-up-9780995105331

The Trouble with Wagner by Michael P. Steinberg
University of Chicago Press, 2018 $37.50 Steinberg offers an account of the Wagner bicentennial Ring for La Scala/Staatsoper Berlin along with a reading of psychology, philosophy and history. 
https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B07H9J5RQW/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Curtain, Gong, Steam: Wagnerian Technologies of 19th Century Opera
By Gundula Kreuzer University of California Press - $55.98. An examination of the intertwined developments of opera as an art form and the technical machines that have brought it to life.
https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520279681/curtain-gong-steam

New Books in French

Luc-Henri Roger on Das Rheingold „Les Voyageurs de l'Or du Rhin“
On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the first production of Das Rheingold in Munich, Belgo-German author Luc-Henri Roger has published a new book.
This book will be formally presented by the Wagner Museum Bayreuth on 29 July and will be on sale in the Museum bookshop
https://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=2194
5) Perspectives on Wagner productions

The Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin will present its current production of Der Ring des Nibelungen for the first time in the renovated opera house. This production was created for the Wagner anniversary in 2013 in cooperation with the Teatro alla Scala and was previously staged in the Schiller Theatre. Conductor - Daniel Barenboim, Director - Guy Cassiers. Among the soloists are: Iréne Theorin, Michael Volle, Andreas Schager, Falk Struckmann, Simon O’Neill, Anja Kampe and Stephan Rügamer.
Cycle I from 7-15 September, Cycle 2 from 21-29 September
Currently sold out, but keep an eye out for returns.

Deutsche Oper Berlin: A new Ring:: „At the Deutsche Oper Berlin Stefan Herheim is taking on the task of translating the mindset of Wagner's tetralogy into the 21st century.“ The production will begin with Das Rheingold on 12 June 2020. Conductor Donald Runnicles. The cast includes Derek Welton, Markus Brück, Thomas Blondelle and Annika Schlicht.

Brisbane, Opera Australia
In November/December 2020 a new, fully digital production of the Ring will be staged in Brisbane. The Director will be Shi-Zheng Chen and the conductor has been named as Philippe Auguin. Among the artists performing will be Stefan Vinke, Allison Oakes and Vitalij Kowaljow.

The Royal Opera, Copenhagen will present three semi-staged performances of Tristan und Isolde on 27 October, 3 November and 14 November 2019. Conductor Lothar Koenigs. The title roles will be performed by Ann Petersen and Christopher Ventris.

Vermont Company to stage Tristan this autumn
It's always exciting when a young company get together to stage Wagner in a local theatre with young singers

Göteborg Opera - Sweden
Between 2018 and 2021, a complete Ring cycle will be staged there for the first time, with the conclusion of the tetralogy coinciding with the celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the city of Göteborg. Das Rheingold premiered last November.

Staatstheater Kassel, Rheingold
Kassel is forging its new Ring, which will complete in 2020. The premiere of Rheingold took place last September, Walküre premiered in March this year, Siegfried will premiere on 14 September, followed by Götterdämmerung on 7 March 2020
Announcement from Leipzig Opera
Leipzig Opera has announced that it will stage in June and July 2022 performances of all 13 works by Richard Wagner in his birthplace in the order of their creation.
https://www.oper-leipzig.de/en/wagner_22

Stadttheater Minden
In September last year the Minden Ring concluded with Götterdämmerung. This year there will be two complete cycles between 12 September and 6 October.
Director: Gerd Heinz, Conductor: Frank Beermann
http://www.ring-in-minden.de/GD_1_Home.html

Philharmonie de Paris
Concert version of Parsifal 22 November at 16.30. Conducted by Valery Gergiev

Contact information for your newsletter team:

Andrea Buchanan (English, French, German)
andrea.buchanan@richard-wagner.org

Jacques Bouffier (French, English)
jacques.bouffier@richard-wagner.org

Selma Gudmundsdottir (Icelandic, English, German, Danish, Swedish)
selma.gudmundsdottir@richard-wagner.org

Karl Russwurm (German, English)
karl.russwurm@richard-wagner.org

THE END NL10