



Richard-Wagner-Verband International e.V.

RWVI WAGNER NEWS – Nr. 4 – 01/2017 – deutsch – english – français

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„Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis“
(Times change and we change with them)

We trust it is permissible to begin an international newsletter using a language, which for a long period of time served as the means of communication, at least for the intellectual elite, in much of the known world. Countless wars and wrongdoings were endured before the peoples of Europe finally managed to come together in a prosperous, albeit at times arduous, form of collaboration. Despite all this, philosophy, literature, music and other arts continued to nurture and bring forth precious gems, while continuing to hold up a mirror to those in power.

To what extent can art still fulfill this function? What is the function of art today? In the last few months, it has become increasingly clear that it is not only Europe that once again faces more troubling times, and that our political leaders have thus far failed to come up with convincing answers to the challenges of globalisation.

Considering Wagner's life and his work, one cannot help but realise that he represents more of a pan-European phenomenon than simply a German national artist. As is well known, he adopted various new ideas of his time into his works. A common theme however connects all his music dramas: salvation through love - complemented by the utopian vision of a society at the heart of which lie art and artistry.

Richard Wagner died on 13 February 1883, although his works and his ideas continue to flourish more vividly and with more variety than ever before.

The Wagner Societies, through their potentially unique world-wide co-operation, can make their own small contribution, by means of their powerful participation in the

Bayreuth scholarship programme and their promotion of the furthering of understanding of Wagner's music dramas, so that we can minimize the insane risk of prevailing "Wahn, Wahn, überall Wahn" that could lead us all down false paths.

And we should at least try, Wagner is on our side, no matter to what nation, skin colour or religion we belong.

So come along in June to Budapest to the International Wagner Congress – join your fellow Wagnerians and rejoice.

1) RWVI-News

Overview of the next Wagner Congress 2017 in Budapest (including the brochure and booking form that you can download)

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=994

A glorious end to the Scholars' Week in Bayreuth

For many of us, the week when the young artists from all over the world gather in Bayreuth for the Scholars's programme is the most memorable and exciting of the whole Festival.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-committee/?collection_id=1108

Sky Arts broadcast The Ring from Bayreuth and highlighted the Wagner Societies

2016 was a great year for the Bayreuth Festival in the media, which last year also featured the RWVI.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-committee/?collection_id=1106

Wagner Days in Venice

This year's event was held from November 11 to 13 on the theme of „Wagner and the New Music. A full report from Professor Alessandra Althoff-Pugliese can be accessed on our website:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/wagner-days-venice/wagner-days-archiv/?collection_id=1188

STICHWORT WAGNER in Munich 14 -16 October 2016

Excellent speakers, delightful encounters and concerts - overall a good event with strong appeal, although unfortunately most of the German societies showed insufficient interest.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/cue-wagner/keynotewagner-archiv/?collection_id=1157

RWVI Vice-President, Alessandra Althoff-Pugliese receives a Wagner award

Best wishes to Alessandra Althoff-Pugliese, who was honoured in receiving the annual Richard Wagner Prize of the town of Ravello.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-committee/?collection_id=1170

2016 RWVI Annual Report

The request for information for the annual report 2016 was sent by e-mail from the President in November. If you have not received the letter or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karl as follows:

Karl Russwurm
Zillertalstraße 41a, D - 81373 München, GERMANY
Fon +49 (0)89 90 54 21 39
Fax +49 (0)89 943 99 20 59
karl.russwurm@gmx.de

RING AWARD 17 SEMIFINALS

The final countdown for the Ring Award <http://www.ringaward.com/en/> has already begun. The competition moves into its decisive phase in January. The 2017 competition, now in its 20th year and eighth edition, attracted a considerable number of entries. 89 teams consisting of 200 participants from 24 countries applied. From these entries, 11 teams have been selected to compete before the RING AWARD jury at the beginning of this year for a place in the finals in June.

2) News from Bayreuth

Festival Tickets

The management of the **Bayreuth Festival** has once again granted the RWVI and its member societies an allocation of tickets for the 2017 season. 700 tickets were made available for the European societies. These tickets were available to order for Presidents/Chairs of fully paid up members of the RWVI. The allocation of the 500 tickets for the overseas (non-European) societies was managed separately by Andrea Buchanan and Jacques Bouffier.

Katharina Wagner is awarded the Bavarian Medal of Europe

Katharina Wagner, Director of the Bayreuth Festival, has received the medal of the State of Bavaria for "exceptional services to Bavaria in a united Europe".

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1160

3) Member successes/initiatives/news

The Iceland Wagner Society attended the recent Tristan at the Met in New York

36 fortunate Icelandic Wagnerians attended the new production of Tristan and Isolde at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Click below to read the report by the President of the Iceland Wagner Society, Selma Gudmundsdottir:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1141

Iceland also hosted Dr Oswald Bauer, who, at the invitation of Selma Gudmundsdottir, visited Reykjavik for several days in November and presented his new book "*Die Geschichte der Bayreuther Festspiele*" as part of the Society's annual Gala Dinner. Dr. Bauer was also invited to a reception by the President of Iceland, himself a historian, and presented the President with the gift of his book. Dr Bauer additionally gave a lecture entitled "Love and Death in Venice" in collaboration with the Icelandic Opera and the Academy of Fine Arts.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1162

This book has also been presented to a number of German Wagner societies, including Munich, where the event was attended by Eva Wagner-Pasquier, and featured also a concert given by the Cuban tenor Yuri Hernandez.

http://www.rwv-muenchen.de/RWV_Veranstaltung_2016_Bauer.php

The Flying Dutchman in Singapore

The Richard Wagner Association of Singapore produced the first ever Wagner opera in their country. The premiere of The Flying Dutchman took place at the Victoria Theatre on 23 October. You can read a report of the event here:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-committee/?collection_id=1154

Andrea Buchanan reviewed the event for Wagner Notes, the journal of the Wagner Society of New York. You can read the review on their website

www.wagnersocietyny.org

The RWAS created a blog during the run-up to the performances, covering all the background and developments, along with promotional and educational events. It makes for inspiring reading.

www.flyingdutchmanopera2016.wordpress.com

International Wagner Conference, given by the Milan Wagner Society

15-17 September 2016 (in co-operation with Teatro alla Scala, Milan and the „MiTo“ Music Festival 2016)

A brief account of the lectures and workshops can be found here:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1198

The long-awaited „Ring“ in Minden continues under the aegis of our very own „Schmiedemeisterin“ Dr. Jutta Winckler:

The premiere of Die Walküre took place on 9. September in the Stadttheater Minden

<http://www.wagner-verband-minden.de/>

From the Belgian Francophone Wagner Society of Brussels

Edition No. 53 of the „Review of the Belgian Francophone WS has now been published. Under the editorship of *Dr. Jean-Paul Mullier*, this noteworthy publication once again excels, this time covering the topic of „Wagner and Shakespeare“ (written by *Pascal Bouteldja*, President of the Lyon Wagner Society). You can access this via the following link:

<http://www.cerclewagner.be/revue/modalites-contenu/>

Patrons concert and grand opera gala organised by The WS Mannheim on 24 March at 19:00, the proceeds of which will go towards the revival of the legendary National Theatre of Mannheim production of Parsifal, which has been performed over one hundred times and has been attended by audiences from all over the world, including the USA and Japan.

<http://www.richard-wagner-verband-mannheim.de/index.php/termine/details/29-benefizkonzert-grosse-opern-gala>

The Cercle Richard Wagner – Lyon is arranging a weekend of Wagner events on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March 2017 under the auspices of the Opera Lyon Festival. The theme will be «Memories» with notable historical productions: **Tristan and Isolde** in the 1993 Bayreuth Heiner Müller production, with Daniel Kirch (Tristan) & Ann Petersen (Isolde); **Elektra** in the 1986 Dresden Ruth Berghaus production with Elena Pankratova (Elektra) both conducted by **Hartmut Haenchen**. The Lyon

Wagner Society will be arranging a recital of the Wesendonck Lieder in the foyer of the Opera Lyon, performed by soprano *Hjördis Thébault*, accompanied by **Nobuyoshi Shima** (piano), preceded by a lecture given by **Christian Merlin**. The Wagner Society of Lyon will also celebrate its 35th anniversary in 2017. A gala dinner will be held on Sunday 26 March in the Hotel Sofitel Lyon-Bellecour. 220 members of French, Belgian, Swiss and German Wagner Societies will attend the performances and more than 140 members of Wagner Societies will attend the recital and the dinner. This testifies to the excellent and dynamic organisation of the Lyon Wagner Society.

For reservations, see <http://cercle.wagner.lyon.free.fr/>

All the key events and season highlights of the **French and Francophone societies** can all be found on the RWV website: <http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/fr/nouvelles/nouvelles-des-membre/>

The Wagner Society of Finland celebrated its 25th anniversary in late November, with a series of events, including a reception, gala dinner and a performance of the new Kaspar Holten production of *The Flying Dutchman*.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1195

You can now watch this production from 13 January to 13 February online at the Opera Platform. <http://www.theoperaplatform.eu/en/opera/wagner-flying-dutchman>

Shirley Breese, former President of the **Richard Wagner Society (Victoria)** recently enjoyed the unique experience of performing in the November revival of the **Melbourne Ring** as an extra. She has written about this for our website:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1191

Professor John Davidson, of the New Zealand WS, has also written about his impressions of the Melbourne Ring in its second outing:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1192

Parsifal Workshop in Bamberg

On 22 and 23 April. The WS Bamberg presents a symposium for both Wagner beginners and more advanced enthusiasts, on the subject of „The Master’s farewell to the world“.

This will take place in the Grüner Saal der Harmonie, Schillerplatz 2, Bamberg

Further details and registration information at the link below:

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/de/veranstaltungen/kalender/?collection_id=1197

4) New books, CDs, DVDs

The Wagner Journal

The latest edition has now been published, with highlights including Daniel Sheridan on the 1850 premiere of *Lohengrin* and its contribution to Weimar’s cultural heritage,• Eva Rieger on Frida Leider and her controversial career in 1930s Germany and Jonas Karlsson on little-known Wagnerian iconography in the satirical journal *Kladderadatsch*, 1914–1944.

Reviews include the new *Parsifal* and revived *Tristan* at Bayreuth, *Tristan* in London and Berlin, *Die Meistersinger* in Munich, the Washington Ring and *Das Liebesverbot* in Mulhouse. Plus DVD and book reviews.

DVD of Katharina Wagner's Bayreuth *Tristan*

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/news/news-members/?collection_id=1158

Bilingual English/French Publication

«**Kundry**», by Antoine Wagner, éditions Gourcuff Gradenigo, 60 pages, 2016 (text by Eric Mézil and Carole Blumenfeld)

This sensitive adaptation in images of *Parsifal* introduces the correspondences between photography and music, giving free rein to the interplay of images and sounds.

<http://www.antoinewagner.com/press/>

Books in French (please note that the links lead to material in French)

«**Le Wagnérisme dans tous ses états 1913-2013**», edited by D. Pistone et C. Leblanc, Presses de la Sorbonne nouvelle, 272 pages, 2016

Contributions to a colloquium in Paris in 2013 for the Wagner bicentenary. Covers a wide spectrum of subjects on the lasting effects of Wagnerism (in art, music, literature etc.)

<http://psn.univ-paris3.fr/ouvrage/le-wagnerisme-dans-tous-ses-etats-1913-2013>

«**Toxicologie wagnérienne, études de cas**», by Philippe Berthier, éditions Bartillat, 256 pages, 2016

The author, Professor Emeritus of French literature, examines several great literary texts (e.g. by Bourges, Barrès, Claudel, Thomas Mann, etc.) to analyse the « narcotic effect of Wagner

<http://www.editions-bartillat.fr/fiche-livre.php?Clef=436>

«**Richard Wagner et sa réception en France, du ressentiment à l'enthousiasme, 1883-1893**», (**Wagner and his reception in France, from resentment to enthusiasm**) by Michal Piotr Mrozowicki, éditions Symétrie, 1200 pages (two volumes), 2016.

A monumental work, part of a cycle of which the first part was published by the Gdansk University Press. This erudite work covers the material exhaustively.

<https://symetrie.com/fr/titres/richard-wagner-et-sa-reception-en-france>

CDs

« **Die Walküre** », Goerne, De Young, Skelton, Melton, Lang, Jaap van Zweden (dir.), Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Naxos, 2016

The second CD in a new cycle that is still in production. This is one to discover (the earlier *Das Rheingold* having won the Wolfgang Wagner Bayreuth prize among others). http://www.naxos.com/feature/Jaap_van_Zwedens_Ring_Cycle.asp

« **Comment Siegfried tua le dragon** » (**How Siegfried slew the dragon**), Compagnie Le Piano ambulant, Paraty/Hamonia Mundi, 2016

A rewrite of the tetralogy for classical instruments, traditional instruments and electric bass, along with computer-generated music. A neo-melodrama (re) creative resulting

in an innovative show for Wagnerians of all ages. After a successful debut in Paris, this will be performed in Lausanne's Petit Theatre on 18 and 19 March 2017.
<http://www.lepianoambulant.com/commentsiegfried>

5) Forthcoming Wagner productions

***Die Walküre*, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, from 6 January to 15 March**

Premiered in December, this new production is directed by Yuval Sharon and conducted by Justin Brown. This production is the work of a young team, led by the American Yuval Sharon, who will be directing Lohengrin in Bayreuth in 2018.

<http://www.staatstheater.karlsruhe.de/programm/info/2378/>

The premiere of *Siegfried* will take place on 10 June, directed by the Icelander Thorleifur Arnarsson (Bayreuth scholar 2014). The costume designer Sunneva Asa Weissappel is also from Iceland.

<http://www.staatstheater.karlsruhe.de/programm/info/2382/>

***Lohengrin*, Paris, Opéra de Paris, Bastille, 18 January to 18 February 2017**

Directed by Claus Guth, conducted by Philippe Jordan, with Rene Pape, Jonas Kaufmann (hopefully)/Stuart Skelton, Martina Serafin/Edith Haller, Wolfgang Koch/Tomas Konieczny, Evelyn Herlitzius/Michaela Schuster, Eglis Silins
Two equally magnificent casts!

<https://www.operadeparis.fr/saison-16-17/opera/lohengrin>

***Wahnfried* by Avner Dorman, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, 28 January to 13 May 2017**

Recounts the story of the flamboyant Wagner family who controlled the fate of the Bayreuth Festival after the death of the master. The political opera uses black humour to demonstrate how Bayreuth became an important cultural centre of National Socialism. With libretto by Lutz Hübner and Sarah Nemitz, two of the most frequently staged contemporary German playwrights of our time. Written by Israeli-born composer Avner Dorman, and directed by Keith Warner.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=1168

***Tannhäuser*, Paris version in French, Opéra de Monte Carlo, 19 to 28 February 2017**

Directed by Jean-Louis Grinda, conducted by Nathalie Stutzmann, with José Cura, Jean-François Lapointe, Annemarie Kremer, Aude Extrémo, etc.

<http://www.opera.mc/fr/saison/tannhaeuser-92>

***Die Meistersinger*, Royal Opera House London, 11 to 31 March 2017**

New production directed by outgoing Head of Opera Kasper Holten, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano, with Bryn Terfel, Johannes Martin Kränzle, Gwyn Hughes Jones and Rachel Willis-Sorenson.

http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/?collection_id=1043

***Parsifal*, Nationaltheater Mannheim, 9 April to 15 June 2017**

60th anniversary of this historic production by Hans Schüller. An incomparable event.

https://www.nationaltheater-mannheim.de/de/oper/stueck_details.php?SID=80

Der Fliegende Holländer, Lille, Opéra, 17 March to 13 April 2017

http://www.opera-lille.fr/fr/saison-16-17/bdd/sid/99623_le-vaisseau-fantome

Tristan und Isolde, Opéra de Lyon, 18 March to 5 April 2017

Directed by Heiner Müller (Stephan Suschke), conducted by Harmut Haenchen, with Daniel Kirch, Ann Petersen, etc.

Part of the Festival Memories series, a much anticipated revival of the mythical Bayreuth production.

<http://www.opera-lyon.com/spectacle/tristan-et-isolde>

Tannhäuser, Bern, Konzerttheater, 1 to 30 April 2017

<http://www.konzerttheaterbern.ch/musiktheater/premieren/>

The Ring in Stockholm: In May Stockholm sees a revival of the 2008 *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Royal Opera. This production is directed by Staffan Valdemar Holm, and conducted by Marco Latonja. The Ring will be performed twice between 17th and 29th of May. The cast includes international stars like Nina Stemme, Katarina Dalayman, John Lundgren, Falk Struckman and Michael Weinius, to name but a few. Siegfried will be sung by Daniel Frank. www.operan.se.

Other **Rings** coming up in the Nordic countries are as follows:

2017-1024 **Esbjerg**. With Annalena Persson Klinghagen singing Brünnhilde and Cornelia Beskow as Sieglinde: <http://dennyopera.dk/season/valkyrien-en-us/>

2018-2021 The **Gothenburg** Opera will stage a new Ring. Director Stephen Langridge; conductor Evan Rogister: <http://en.opera.se/press/2016/gotborgsoperan-gor-wagners-ringen-klimatsmart-och-hallbart/>

2019-2020. **Helsinki** are planning a new Ring conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen and directed by Kari Heiskanen: <http://oopperabaletti.fi/en/about-us/news/esa-pekka-salonen-to-conduct-his-first-ring-cycle-in-helsinki/>

Tristan und Isolde, Longborough Festival Opera, UK 8 to 14 June 2017

A revival of the 2015 production, described by the *New York Times* as 'a shattering success', soprano **Lee Bisset's** 'passionate radiance of tone' (*Opera Magazine*) joins the 'heroic yet lyrical' (*The Times*) tenor **Peter Wedd** – bringing to life this tale of tragic passion that through immortal music shows love as a force of nature.

<https://lfo.org.uk/opera/tristan-und-isolde>

Lohengrin, Saint Étienne, Opéra, 9 to 13 June 2017

<http://www.opera.saint-etienne.fr/otse/saison-16-17/spectacles//type-lyrique/lohengrin/s-402/>

Der fliegende Holländer, Barcelona, Gran Teatre del Liceu, 2 to 28 May 2017

<https://www.liceubarcelona.cat/ca/temporada-2016-2017/opera/lholandes-errant>

We only have room for brief overviews in this newsletter. Further details including events in the future can be found on our website:

<http://www.richard-wagner.org/rwvi/en/events/calendar/>

6) Travel tips

Wagner Festival in Chemnitz, Easter 2017

In the 1920s, Chemnitz earned itself the title "The Saxon Bayreuth" thanks to its highly-acclaimed Wagner productions under the direction of Richard Tauber. Once again, an ideal opportunity has arisen to experience acclaimed Wagner productions in Chemnitz: The following performances will take place over Easter 2017 (14 – 16 April): *Parsifal*, *Die Meistersinger* and *Tannhäuser*. A series of lectures by Professor Christoph Fassbender will accompany the productions.

Booking is now open at: <http://www.theater-chemnitz.de/spielplan/gesamtspielplan/oper/?year=2016&tip=1&month=april>

They are also planning a complete Ring for 2018!

Contact information for your newsletter team:

Andrea Buchanan (English, French, German)

jacquelineandreabuchanan@gmail.com

Christian Ducor (French, German), contact@richardwagner.paris

Selma Gudmundsdottir selmag@centrum.is (Icelandic, English, German, Danish, Swedish)

Karl Russwurm karl.russwurm@gmx.de (German, English)

THE END – NL 4 – English