



The Wagner Society of Ireland

Founded 2002

President: Dr. Alexander Anissimov, Conductor



Newsletter

July 2009

Welcome to the July Newsletter!

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Member,

We have had a very interesting start to our year with some very stimulating lectures. In particular Michael McCaffery's description of staging the Ring in Bayreuth reminded us of what an immense undertaking the Ring is. Derek Watson was as ever educational and entertaining as he enhanced our knowledge of Wagner. His talk was the first time we used the Herbert Park Hotel, and very successful it was, from the reaction of members present. I am delighted to tell you that Derek has agreed to do a series of one-day seminars on each of the Wagner operas starting next February with the Flying Dutchman. It is the intention that we will progress through the whole cannon sequentially. These will be very enlightening days as those who have attended Derek's seminars in Scotland will vouch. The Seminar will be held on a Saturday and we hope will be of interest to the non-Dublin members of the Society who find it difficult to attend our evening meetings. The day will end with a showing of a performance of the Flying Dutchman. Below you will also find our schedule of events for the coming year. We have decided that we will organise talks in a 'season' from September to June from now on, instead of by calendar year. We have quite a variety of evenings planned and I hope there is something among them of interest to you.

Our second innovation is our trip to Berlin - details of which are below. I am delighted that quite a number of members have already expressed an interest. It should be a very enjoyable trip.

The new committee have been working very hard and I am delighted to say our Website is being restored. We also hope to improve communication by means of more frequent e-mails.

Our Honorary Vice President, Christopher McQuaid attended the meeting of the Verband in Dresden this year and his report will be circulated soon.

Lastly, can I draw your attention to the new rules for the Bayreuth Ballot? It is very important you read these, as there are significant changes from previous years.

On behalf of the Committee I wish you an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings next year.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009

Chair: Anthony Linehan

Vice-Chair: Stephen Mennell

Secretary: Helen O'Neill

Membership Secretary: Gemma Hussey

Treasurer: Mary Spollen

Committee Members: Eugene Downes, Michael Marr and Deirdre Tinney

BAYREUTH BALLOT

Important New Rules for this year's Ballot for Bayreuth tickets for 2010

Members who attended the AGM will know there was a lively and wide-ranging discussion about rules and procedures of the ballot. A clear consensus for change emerged, with agreement that new rules be distilled from the discussion. These could be reviewed at a subsequent AGM, after they have been in operation for some time.

As a result, the Committee took the following decisions:

All applicants for, and recipients of, Bayreuth tickets must be members of the Wagner Society.

This means that a winning member cannot take two tickets to share with a non-member. Everyone needs to sign up people they would like to share the Bayreuth experience with as members of the Wagner Society. To allow members to travel together it will be possible to apply for tickets as a joint entry into the Ballot. Then only one entry will be made for both members but if drawn both can go (assuming there are two places left).

All applicants and recipients should be members in good standing at 31st August 2009 (i.e. if you have not yet paid your membership fee for this year, you need to do so by the 31st August).

It has also been decided that 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 attended Bayreuth in 2009.

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

The Society will apply for a mix of tickets in 2010 as follows: 4 Rings and 24 (8 x 3) others. Successful applicants may choose to take any number of the latter tickets from one to three but Ring tickets will be allocated as a complete Cycle.

After these rules have been in operation for an experimental period, the rules will be reviewed and may be modified.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Society website (see below).

SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2009/2010

(Some details are not yet decided and will be circulated later)

September 17th	Anthony Linehan, The History of Wagner Performance in Ireland	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2	8.00 pm
October 14th	Ian Fox "The Imperfect Wagnerite": George Bernard Shaw's views and comments on Wagner and Wagnerian Performance in his day.	United Arts Club 3 Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin 2	8.00 pm
November 21st	Barry Millington Author, "Wagner", Master Musicians Series and Editor "Wagner Companion"	To be decided	8.00 pm
December 16th	Supper and Ballot for Bayreuth Tickets	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	
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

We have organised a trip to Berlin in February 2010. As we have said before it was the desire of the Committee to organise a trip when we could see more than one Wagner opera. Berlin has come to our rescue with a series of performances called the "Wagner Weeks" at the Deutsche Oper. Between February 10th and 14th one can see Rienzi – Lohengrin in sequence and also a performance of Meistersinger.

It will be a wonderful if exhausting chance to hear these works. 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
Richard Wagner 2009|2010
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>

Flights to Berlin can be booked through Aer Lingus or Ryanair.
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

See www.aerlingus.com. The cost of flights are around €120 at present
Ryanair also fly to Schonefeld the same airport as Aer Lingus. Their flight to Berlin leaves earlier at 9.50 am so arrives in Berlin at 12.55. The cost of tickets at present is approx. €85.

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 – most of those going so far are going with Aer Lingus. We will organise a special rate at a hotel near the opera .

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Wesendonck Lieder

The acclaimed Irish mezzo-soprano, Patricia Bardon, will join the RTE National Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder in the National Concert Hall, as part of their programme on 16th October, 2009, which also includes works by Grieg and Sibelius. Tickets €10 - €35. Box Office open closer to the date.

Das Rheingold

Opera Ireland will present two concert performances of Das Rheingold in the Gaiety Theatre, on 19th and 21st November 2009. Tickets €10 - €65. Box Office opens in September 2009. While plans to present this as a fully staged performance have been shelved, all those who travelled to Limerick or Birmingham in 2002 for the concert performances of the full Ring Cycle conducted by Alexander Anissimov will know that a concert performance of a Wagner Opera can be thrilling indeed. An event not to be missed!

COMMUNICATIONS

Wagner Society Website

After a convoluted tussle demanding technological wizardry, the Society's website has been restored to active service and is being refreshed and brought up to date as this Newsletter issues. This wizardry even extends to the exciting state of 'now you see it, now you don't', as sometimes it appears perfectly and at others it is more elusive! Once the website settles into a steady state, the Committee intends to make full use of this new avenue to make fresh information available to members as quickly as it comes to our attention. Do check it out frequently at:

www.wagnersociety.ie

Newsletter

Circulation

The Committee plans to increase the frequency of the Newsletter. It will be circulated by email unless members do not have an email address, or let us know they would prefer to receive it by conventional post.

Contributions

As part of this more frequent updating of members, the Committee would welcome any contributions members themselves might like to send us, particularly reports on performances of Wagner's works they have attended abroad, which other members might like to catch – or maybe avoid!

Contributions can be sent by email to: info@wagnersociety.ie
