

THE AMERICAN WAGNER PROJECT

The **American Wagner Project** mission is to develop a new generation of singers able to draw audiences into the music of Richard Wagner. We mean exciting singers of exceptional talent, destined for major careers. We also mean to make a difference in their careers.

Our partnership with **Institute for Young Dramatic Voices** under the leadership of Dolora Zajick is the umbrella organization for the AWP "...but it runs on its own engine." "It is headed by Luanna DeVol, the American Wagnerian soprano who has sung extensively in San Francisco and Europe. "I gave her carte blanche," Zajick said, "to do whatever she wants." The AWP, now in its third year, led by Wagnerian soprano Luana DeVol (be sure to google her!) as AWP Executive Director, and is supported by WSWDC funding for coaches for the German division of the Institute, and by faculty member and AWP Program Director John Edward Niles, who is also a board member of the Wagner Society of Washington, DC.

WSWDC will continue to sponsor individuals that possess the artistic and physical requirements to sing the music of Wagner and are ready to launch a big career. We sponsored Issachah Savage in 2013, and gave grants to Soloman Howard and Brendan Sliger in 2014- 2015 and this year (2015-2016) we gave grants to Trey Richards, Gregory Frens who participated in our second AWP concert and to Dann Minton who you will hear in the upcoming AWP Concert on April 2, 2017.

The American Wagner Project is a natural outgrowth of the Wagner Society's Emerging Singers' Program, co-founded with the late Thomas Stewart and Evelyn Lear. These programs are among the few accepting singers over age 30, the age when big voices suitable for Wagner develop. The goals of the two programs are similar, but the Project's focus will be on fewer and younger singers, and those who are already proven and nearly ready for prime time. Also, whereas the Emerging Singer Program primarily drew from singers living on the east coast, the reach of the Project is national.

As with all Wagner Society programs, the involvement and support of our membership is indispensable. The board is very excited about the Project, and we hope you will be equally enthusiastic, especially as you get to know Dolora Zajick, Luana DeVol, and the young singers. Roughly 22 percent of our budget supports the American Wagner Project, and if we are to do ambitious offerings, such as a concert version of one of Wagner's operas or even a second musical event a year, we will need your support and participation.

We welcome your questions, thoughts, and ideas. Please address any comments to John Edward Niles at: elchnase@starpower.net.

THIRD ANNUAL AMERICAN WAGNER PROJECT CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 AT 3:00 PM

Katzen Arts Center, American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20016-8012



Daniel Minton, Bass-Baritone
Is from Toronto, singing is his first AWP. He is preparing the roles of Gurnemanz, Daland and Hagen



Gillian Yemen, Mezzo Soprano, a graduate of the University of Toronto, is preparing the roles of Ortrud, Kundry and Fricka



William Green, Tenor
He is preparing the roles of Siegmund and Loge. A graduate of Stetson University, he is from Milton, Georgia.