



Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

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The Wagner Society of Washington, DC, P.O. Box 33051, Washington, DC 20033
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Fourth Anniversary Issue!

Greetings from the Chairman— Dear Members and Friends: Well, they said it couldn't be done, but the 2001-2002 season was our best yet! Monthly programs and lectures, Bayreuth tickets, briefings, out-of-town opera trips, the annual banquet and award and the second annual *Wildnis* retreat, — all this comprises a great menu of treats for Wagnerians in and outside our region. Perhaps best of all, our Emerging Singers Program is now presenting two concerts a year and is beginning to have a real impact on great Wagner singing for the future. The season 2002-2003 is going to be even better. So please renew your membership for 2003 and join us — and bring your friends! Best, Jim Holman, chairman and author, Wagner's Ring: A Listener's Companion & Concordance

Maestro Heinz Fricke Receives Wagner Society Award

Maestro Heinz Fricke, Washington Opera Music Director received the Wagner Society of Washington DC award on May 31 at the annual banquet and award ceremony. In the festive, spring atmosphere of the Arts Club of Washington DC and in the presence of 80 Members and friends, Chairman Holman recounted Maestro Fricke's outstanding contribution to the development of opera in the Washington area since 1988. Maestro Fricke joins the distinguished ranks of previous Award receivers **Martin Feinstein**, **Thomas Stewart**, **Placido Domingo** and **Fr. M. Owen Lee**. (See page 4 on Maestro Fricke's 56-year distinguished career.)



Holman gingerly presents the *Siegfried Sword!*

Evelyn Lear & Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program

After acclaimed careers in the U.S. and abroad, world renowned opera stars Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart devote prodigious efforts to developing the WSWDC partnership program named in their honor. They select promising, emerging American Wagner singers to perform in the semi-annual ESP concerts presented in Washington, DC. These singers are also given vocal coaching as well as guidance and contacts to develop their careers. To date, 13 emerging singers have performed in four concerts. Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart's commitment to the Emerging Singers Program is making a unique contribution to the challenging task of developing Wagner singers for the future. The Society gives affectionate and grateful thanks to them. (See page 2 for photo stories.)



2003 Membership Drive

Renew or join now for 2003! See page 3 for member benefits and membership application. Develop your membership record to qualify for Bayreuth tickets!

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Evelyn Lear & Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program

*The 4th Emerging Singers Concert – May 3, 2002
at the German Embassy, Washington, DC*

The development of Wagner singers poses formidable challenges to the music world. When is a singer ready to do Wagner? How does one guide a Wagner singer's career? These and other questions are at the heart of the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program, which provides guidance from two veteran professionals. Started in 1999 the program has invited 13 singers to perform in four separate concerts at the German Embassy, Washington, DC; singers selected by Lear and Stewart include: Nathan Bahny; Connie Coffelt; Alma DeLon; Jason Detwiler; Amy Fuller; Ray L. Karns; Amanda Mace; Paul Mow; Jennifer Roderer; Gail Sullivan; Thomas Rolf Truhitte; Jennifer Wilson; Laura Zuiderveen. (See www.wagner-dc.org for further information.)



L to R Thomas Stewart, Nathan Bahny, Gail Sullivan, Thomas Rolf Truhitte, Jennifer Roderer and Evelyn Lear

Selected Achievements - ESP Singers

Amanda Mace (soprano) Sang in the May 2001 ESP concert. She has sung with the Oregon Bach Festival, the Beethoven Academic Orchestra of Antwerp and, with less than three days notice last year, in the Verdi *Requiem* in Hannover, Germany. She returns to Hannover to sing in a Beethoven 9th this summer and later will sing in the Pendericki *Credo* and Bruckner *Te Deum* at the Oregon Bach Festival. In fall 2002, she will sing Leonore in *Fidelio* at Stuttgart.

Paul Mow (tenor) Sang at the May 2001 ESP concert. He won the 2002 George London/Kirsten Flagstad Memorial Award of the George London Foundation. He has completed his first season at the New York City Opera. In February 2002, he performed his first Verdi *Requiem*. In May, he made his Carnegie Hall debut singing the tenor solo in Mozart's Coronation Mass. This summer he is in Washington, DC, singing the role of Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Summer Opera at Catholic University (SOTC).



Paul Mow & Amanda Mace

Tom Rolf Truhitte (tenor) Sang in October 2001 and May 2002 ESP concerts. Under the tutelage of Claude Heater, he is transitioning to perform as a heldentenor. He won an award in the 2002 Liederkrantz Wagnerian Division Competition in New York City. He has sung 13 leading roles with Opera San Jose where he also completed a four-year Principal Artist Residency. Upcoming engagements include Siegmund in the Virginia Opera's *Die Walküre* this October as well as Erik in *Der Fliegende Höllemler* for Minnesota Opera.

Jennifer Wilson (soprano) Sang in the October 2001 ESP Concert. A Washington area resident she is known for her recent performances success in the Brahms *Requiem*. She is preparing to make her professional debut as Turandot at the Connecticut Opera in the fall.

(A special APPEAL to Members and friends to contribute funding for the Emerging Singers Program will be inaugurated in the fall 2002.)



2003 Membership Drive

Benefits of Membership

- + Bayreuth Tickets
- + Monthly programs
- + Excursions to the Met
- + Emerging Singers Concerts
- + *Wagner in der Wildnis* Retreat
- + Annual Banquet & Award
- + Washington Opera Programs
- + Out of Town Opera Excursions
- + Gemütlichkeit!

	Membership Card Membership through December 31, 2003
	2003 Member Name (Non-transferable) _____ P.O. Box 33051 Washington, DC 20033 (301) 907-2600 • Fax (301) 907-8671 www.wagner-dc.org

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (2003)

Date: _____

Check appropriate boxes- Renewal New Member

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Home Phone _____

Name (dual membership) _____

Business phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

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Annual Membership Categories:

\$35 Regular

\$45 Dual

\$25 Senior Student/Non-Resident

\$75 Patron

\$150 Donor

\$250 Sponsor

\$_____ additional Contribution

I wish to contribute anonymously

Credit Card (Check One) Visa or MC Number _____ Exp Date. _____

Please include your company's matching grant information

Membership fees deductible as federal income tax charitable contributions to the extent provided by law.

I am interested in tickets for Bayreuth 2003.

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NOTE: Patrons and Donors are entitled to one book in categories listed below.

Sponsors are entitled to two books from the Patron and Donor categories.

Patron \$75 (check one box)

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Fr. M. Owen Lee, *Wagner, the Terrible Man and His Truthful Art*

William Berger, *Wagner without Fear*

Brian Magee, *Aspects of Wagner*

Donor \$150 (check one box)

Jonathan Lewsey, *Who's Who and What's What in Wagner*

J.K. Holman, *Wagner's Ring: A Listener's Companion and Concordance*

Frederic Spotts, *Bayreuth, A History of the Wagner Festival*

Spencer Stewart and Barry Millington, *Wagner's Ring*

Sponsor \$250 (or more): check two boxes, above.

Please check, if you wish to decline premiums.

Please check, if you wish to receive instead of book premiums: WSWDC T-Shirt or WSWDC Latte Cup!



The Study and Enjoyment of Wagner's Art...

Wagner Society Award to Maestro Heinz Fricke 56 Years of Conducting Achievements!



Highlights of Maestro Fricke's long and distinguished career were noted by Chairman Holman in presenting the award at the 4th Annual Banquet (May 31). Maestro Fricke's 56 years in the conductors podium include 32 years at the Staatsoper Berlin, as well as years in Munich and Vienna. He has been Music Director of the Washington Opera since 1989 and has conducted numerous performances each season. Holman noted that opera fans in the Washington area, as well as across the U.S. and abroad, are especially grateful to him for making his orchestra into a beautiful instrument. Washington audiences fondly recall his masterful *Tristan and Isolde* in March 1999 and *Parsifal* in November 2001. On accepting the Award, Maestro Fricke's mentioned his love of Wagner's music. In the course of his career, he has conducted, *inter alia*, 10 complete Wagner *Rings*, 112 *Lobengrins*, 148 *Tannhäusers*, 88 *Parsifals*, 72 *Meistersingers*, 167 *Fliegende Hölenders* and 114 *Tristan und Isolde*. The Society salutes its latest Award receiver!

Wagner in der Wildnis II (*Die Walküre*)

For the second consecutive year, the rolling hills of West Virginia at Capon Springs were the site of a week-end retreat (June 7-9) for 30 enthusiastic Members. Last year's *Wildnis* focus was on *Das Rheingold*; this year was on *Die Walküre*. (Next year *Siegfried*!) Our experience demonstrates the advantages of a quiet countryside setting for structured lectures, discussions, readings, music demonstrations, dinner table exchanges of ideas about Wagner's art and just plain *Gemütlichkeit*! Wagner would have loved it! Noted Bayreuth lecturers Simon Williams (University of California Santa Barbara)



WSWDC Member Bill Pastor lecture and discussion leader



Winterstürme... Du bist der Lenz:
R.G. Head (*Sigmund*)
and Carole Hoover (*Sieglinde*)



The Reading Cast for *Die Walküre*: L to R. R.G. Head (*Sigmund*), Tim Scanlon (*Hunding*), Carole Hoover (*Sieglinde*), Carol Berger (*Brünnbilde*), Janice Rosen (*Gerbilde*), Simon Williams (*Wotan*), Melody Bunting (*Schuerleite*), Pat Kirkham (*Rossweise*), Maureen Polsky (*Fricke*), Peggy Jones (*Siegrune*), Ellen Silver (*Helmwige*), (kneeling) Louise Austin Remmey (*Ortlinde*). Missing from photo: Nancy O'Hara (*Grimgerde*) and Judy Agard (*Waltraute*).



Professor Simon Williams prime lecture and discussion leader



Jeffrey Swann at the piano for lecture-demonstration

and Jeffrey Swann (musicologist and concert pianist based in New York City and Milan), were a dream team for leading both experts and novices in mining the treasures of *Die Walküre*. In the pleasant Capon Springs gardens, WSWDC Member Bill Pastor led engaging discussions of Wagner and philosophy. A highlight of the week-end was the Saturday night after-dinner reading of the Spencer-Millington *Die Walküre* libretto (see photo, above). Organizational planning for the event was spear-headed once again by WSWDC Director Dr. Barbara Parrish Karn.

Fun Times of the Wagner Society of Washington DC

Winter and Spring 2002 Program Season

Four major lecture programs during the Winter and Spring 2002 Season were presented in The George Washington University Fonger Hall.

Winnie Klotz, Metropolitan Opera Official Photographer The Wonderful World of Grand Opera: How it all Happens

Winnie Klotz gave new dimensions to WSWDC programming. Her lecture demonstration (May 16) was based on her copious collection of slides made during her years as the Met's official photographer. She provided original and amusing backstage highlights, drawing on her wide experience and knowledge of opera illustrated by her sensitive photography. A lively discussion with the audience following her formal presentation.



From left: Lisa Yarkony (Winnie's Daughter), Diana and Jim Holman, Lynn and John Pohanka, Winnie Klotz, Paul Hutton and Phil Raines



Carol Berger, author, musicologist and WSWDC Member spoke on "The Dialectics of Meistersinger: Sacred Ritual in the Awakened State".

In a lecture (March 14) interpreting the philosophical, psychological and artistic currents that transverse Wagner's music dramas, Berger drew on her original research and thinking in a lively lecture and discussion program.

Professor Donald Crosby, author, teacher, German cultural history expert, and WSWDC Member spoke on "Origins of Originality: Richard Wagner and the German Tradition"

Drawing on a life time of scholarship and writing, the former University of Connecticut professor presented (February 14) a wide ranging review of the sources of Wagner's music dramas. The text of his stimulating and original lecture can be found on our website: wagner-dc.org under "Archives", to which he has made a distinguished contribution.



Professor Donald and Mrs. Crosby



Dr. Elise K. Kirk, author, teacher and WSWDC Member spoke on "Wagnerism and the American Muse."

Dr. Kirk's informative lecture (January 17) was based on her recently published book providing informative background on Wagner's influence on the development of American opera.

WSWDC – Wagner Activities at Home and Away

- ⑦ **Bayreuth Class of 2002:** As this issue goes to press, 15 Members are preparing to attend the 3rd Cycle in late August. WSWDC Members Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz generously hosted a buffet-briefing in their Great Falls, VA home to make the experience for the Class of 2002 more rewarding.
- ⑦ **Lyric Opera Parsifal:** A group of Members braved the Chicago winter in February to attend the Nikolaus Lehnhoff production of *Parsifal* conducted by Sir Colin Davis with Catherine Malfitano as Kundry and the late Göste Winbergh as Parsifal.
- ⑦ **Berliner Festtage:** WSWDC Members attended the two cycles of 10 Wagner operas including the *Ring* at the Staatsoper Berlin in April. This was the first time since the 1930's that such an event with so many Wagner operas had been organized. Daniel Barenboim conducted all ten operas directed by Harry Kupfer. WSWDC Members who attended held a "Berliner Festtage Deconstruction" hosted by WSWDC Director Betty Byrne to review their experiences and opinions of this unique event for Wagner lovers – 10 Wagner operas in 17 days!



Some of the WSWDC members who attended: L to R; Director Betty Byrne, Bonnie Crosby, President Aury Fernandez, *Webmeisterin* Nancy O'Hara, Director Barb Karn, and Members Winona Elms and Charles Elliot.

- ⑦ **Washington Opera Lectures:** Discount tickets for WSWDC members are available for the **Opera Inside Out** lectures during the 2002-2003 season. For information and ticket orders call, 202.295.2400.
- ⑦ **WEBSITE:** www.wagner-dc.org Check the website regularly to keep abreast of program developments including lectures, demonstrations, out of town opera trips, the Emerging Singers Concerts, the annual banquet and award ceremony and the year-end "*Wagner in der Wildnis*" retreat. Note the new feature "Wagner Archives", which carries the text of major lectures presented in WSWDC programs.
- ⑦ **Wagner opera videos:** Remember the collection WSWDC-supplied videos on the shelves at the Martin Luther King Library in downtown Washington, DC. These videos may be checked out for home viewing.
- ⑦ **WSWDC Merchandise:** T-shirts, latte cups and buttons with the WSWDC logo are available. Check the website to order or call 301.907.2600 for information or to place your order!
- ⑦ **Newsletters and Announcements:** With this issue, Newsletters will now appear twice yearly. Monthly program flyers are designed by *MeisterFLYERmacher* Director Tom Arthur and mailed by Director Betty Byrne and her volunteers. You will always know of programs well in advance. Let us know if you wish to add your name to our mailing list.

Congratulations to the Wagner Society of New York, Inc on its 25th Anniversary!

Upcoming 2002-2003 Programs "Year of Die Walküre"

Renew your membership or join for the first time to take advantage of these exciting programs!

We are lining up an extraordinary roster of speakers for our monthly programs for the 2002-2003 season. Programs are open to Members and the public at no charge, unless otherwise noted. Most programs below will be held in Funger Hall, The George Washington University, unless otherwise indicated. Separate notices are sent to Members (only) for Bayreuth 2003 tickets and other special events. Let us know if you would like to add your name to our mailing list of monthly announcements.

September 19: An Evening with Evelyn Lear (The Levine School); **October 11:** 5th Emerging Singers Concert (German Embassy); **October 13:** Iain Scott lecture and Virginia Opera *Die Walküre* performance (George Mason University); **November:** Saul Lilientstein; **December:** Phillip W. Raines; **January:** Carolyn Abbate; **February:** Jeffrey Buller, **March and April:** to be announced; **May:** John J. Pohanka; **May:** Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony; **June:** *Wagner in der Wildnis III (Siegfried)*.

Sponsors — (\$250 and above)

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Lynne Lambert
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John G. Webb
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William Malone
Stephen G. and Tara K. McKenna
John S. Rogers
Mark and Lynda Rozell
Marcus Sgro
Jason F. and Kelly Trumbour
Kenneth and Dotty Woodcock

Thanks to to Trautlieb Hölz of German Embassy for continuing cooperation for ESP concerts and Professor Roy Guenther for making possible the use of The George Washington University Funger Hall for our monthly programs. Thanks to the many Members who responded to the Chairman's questionnaire sent to Members (only). Your responses are helpful to maintain and improve our ever expanding programs.



Visit the *WSWDC* website: www.wagner-dc.org for the latest news!

A special appeal to fund the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program will be announced in the fall.

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*Renew your membership now or join for the first time to enjoy the wide range of activities.
Build your membership track record to qualify for Bayreuth tickets!*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:
September 19 (Thursday) @ 7:30 PM "An Evening with Evelyn Lear" at Levine School
October 11 (Friday) @ 7:30 PM Emerging Singers Concert at German Embassy
October 13 (Sunday) @ 10:30 AM Lecture by Iain Scott followed by Virginia Opera performance of *Die Walküre* at George Mason University

