



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Welcome to the fourth Quarterly for 2015.

2015 has been another busy year for your committee - indeed for the Society generally. We have mounted a number of events and concerts during the year, which have included some fascinating speakers and wonderful singers.

The two principal events since the last Quarterly ended up being completely different. The first, on 13 September, was to have involved the composer and music commentator Andrew Ford, talking about composing after Wagner. Unfortunately, because of a major accident on the M5, our speaker was stuck for hours on the expressway and was unable to attend. This all happened much too late to cancel the event, so instead of listening to a speaker we socialised over an extended afternoon tea. Andrew's talk has been re-scheduled for Sunday 19 June next year.

The other event, on 11 October, involved Neil Armfield—the director of the Melbourne Ring Cycle—talking about the production generally, as well as the plans for next year's performances. Neil had only just returned from working with the Chicago Lyric Opera, and was extremely open and forthcoming in answering questions, first put to him by Colleen Chesterman and then by various members of the audience. His answers were very illuminating, particularly about the environmental aspects of the production. Both these events are described in more detail later in this Quarterly.

Our extremely active Events Sub-committee has already organised some fascinating events for 2016, which are set out in **COMING EVENTS 2016** of this Quarterly.

As I am sure you all know, the catering for our events is now shared amongst our members. I have been extremely impressed at the quality and variety of the food which has been provided, and I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to members who have taken it upon themselves to assist us in this very important respect. We will continue to need this assistance next year, and we would be extremely grateful if members would consider continuing to help us in this manner.

Finally I would like to remind you that membership of the Society needs to be renewed as from 1 January next year. A membership form is at the back of this Quarterly.

I wish you all a very happy festive season, and look forward to seeing many of you at our 2016 events.