



THE WAGNER SOCIETY
(Patron - Sir Charles Mackerras)

Registered Office - 141 Dowling Street, Woollomooloo, 2011
Phone enquiries - 358.1919 (Bus. Hours)

NEWS LETTER

NO.1

5th February 1981.

Dear Music Lover,

Since our first public meeting on 26th October 1980, the steering committee has been working steadily on the many small details of administration and organisation, and we are now established as an unincorporated society, with our own constitution. At the same time it has been possible to devise a most interesting program for the coming year.

As our membership is still fairly small, our first function will be a rather low-key affair, to test the public's reaction to the society's existence, and to not over-extend ourselves financially. It will take the form of a short film night, on Monday, 9th March at 6.00p.m. The venue is the A.M.P. Theatre, Circular Quay, and the film covers the Bayreuth Centenary. There will be no entrance fee charged, but a small donation towards the cost of refreshments will be appreciated.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Friday, 22nd May, when elections will be held for Committee. The members of the interim Committee will stand down, and whilst making themselves available for re-election, they will encourage interested and enthusiastic subscribers to stand for office.

After the business of the meeting, at about 8.00 p.m., a celebration party will be held in honour of Richard Wagner's Birthday. Presentations will be made on this occasion to the foundation members who have so generously helped the Society in its infancy.

The long awaited concert performance of *Götterdämmerung* is coming this year and to prepare us for it an evening is being arranged on Monday, 6th July. Mr. Warner Baer, Sydney's foremost Wagner authority, will give a talk on the musical analysis of this great work. An accomplished musician, Mr. Baer will illustrate his explanation of the important themes on the piano. *Götterdämmerung* is being performed on September 30th and October 3rd and the Wagner Society will be making block bookings for its members' benefit. On the Saturday performance which starts at 4.30 p.m., in the long first interval, a light meal has been arranged in a private room at the Opera House for Wagner Society members. It is hoped our Patron, Sir Charles Mackerras, will be able to join us on this occasion and meet members of the Society. Members should let the Committee know as soon as possible of their intention to attend these performances - as well as those of *Die Walküre* in Melbourne on 25th and 27th August - so that tickets can be organised.

Note those dates in your diary now so that you do not miss out on these exciting events. More details will be sent in future News Letters. The Committee is confident that the formation of the Wagner Society has been worthwhile and will fill a big need in the local music scene.

Leonard Hansen - President.

Sue Kelly - Vice President.

Richard King -
Secretary/Treasurer.

The first public function of the Wagner Society - the film evening on March 9th - was an unqualified success, with a capacity crowd filling the A.M.P. Theatre to watch the documentaries covering the Bayreuth and "Ring" centenary. Unfortunately, a few people could not be accommodated in the full house, or could not attend that night, and the Secretary would like to hear from those so inconvenienced. Of those who did attend, many became members of the Society and most made a welcome donation towards the cost of the evening. The Committee extends a hearty welcome to the new members and thanks all members for their patience in waiting for their membership card - here it is!

The first Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. at the Concordia Club, 231 Stanmore Road, opposite Newington College, and just a few minutes walk from Stanmore Station. This Club, with which the Wagner Society is not affiliated in any way, has generously made available at no cost, the room for our meeting. Refreshments will be served, after the meeting, for the Richard Wagner Birthday Celebration. Please indicate on the enclosed form your intention to attend, in order to allow proper catering arrangements to be made. Members may bring friends, but only members may vote at the meeting and be eligible for election to Committee.

An afternoon of recorded music is being planned for members and friends on Sunday, 21st June, between 11 am. and 5 pm. at 141 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo. (Approach via Cathedral Street). Any member with a rare or historic recording to be played should contact the Secretary. Bring a cushion but, please, no food or drink.

On Monday, 6th July, at 6 p.m. at the W.E.A. Auditorium, 72 Bathurst Street, Sydney, Mr. Werner Baer, M.B.E., will address the Wagner Society with an analysis of the music in the Prelude to *Götterdämmerung*. The significant "Leitmotiven" of the Norn and Valkyrie rock scenes will be illustrated by recorded music and, where possible, on the piano. As this is NOT merely an introduction to the opera, members are advised that some prior acquaintance with the Ring cycle will aid comprehension and enjoyment of Mr. Baer's talk. For those attending the concert performance of *Götterdämmerung* later in the year, this evening should be considered an important part of their own preparation in understanding more fully Wagner's masterpiece.

Detailed information is now being sought on the numbers wishing to attend *Die Walküre* in Melbourne in August. Please use the enclosed form for your replies, even if you have already indicated to us your intention of attending. Incidentally, the Committee is very proud to announce that, through the generosity of several members making donations to the Australian Opera, the Wagner Society will be recognised as the Official Sponsor of both *Die Walküre* and *Götterdämmerung*. Thus the Society is succeeding in one of its major aims - to aid and promote the presentation of Wagner's works in Australia. Naturally, we hope to be able to make this an on-going trend.

The 1981 Bayreuth Festival takes place between July 25th and August 28th. Members who are attending should advise the Secretary of their time and location in Bayreuth so that they can contact fellow members there.

Remember May 22nd - your opportunity to have your say in the running of the Wagner Society.

Leonard Hansen
President

Sue Kelly
Vice President

Richard King
Secretary/Treasurer



The Wagner Society

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NEWSLETTER

No. 3 May 1981

The Annual General Meeting was held on the 22nd May, 1981 and the activities of the Steering Committee were reported. The following Committee was elected for the ensuing year - Dr. Leonard Hansen (President); Dr. Susan Kelly (Vice-President); Mr. Richard King (Treasurer); Miss Clare Hennessy (Secretary); Committee: Mrs. Margaret Suthers, Mrs. Janet Wayland, Dr. Cedric Falconer, Messrs. Ian Hopkins and Jean Louis Stuurup.

A Constitution was adopted.

At the Annual General Meeting Founder Members were presented with a book "The Wagner Family Albums" in token of their generous financial support. Founder Members who were not able to be present may collect their gift at the next function of the Society. These books were generously donated for the occasion.

The Meeting then adjourned to celebrate Wagner's Birthday with a Supper of typical German food, and wines. There was ample opportunity for members to meet one another and to discuss even controversial points.

As you will see from the enclosed programme an interesting day's music is planned for Sunday, 21st June at 141 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo - if coming by car enter Dowling Street by Cathedral Street. The programme will run between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. and will allow you to plan your day. Bring a cushion, but please no food or drink.

Don't forget the Lecture on the 6th July - Werner Baer's talk on *Götterdämmerung* - at the WEA Auditorium, 72 Bathurst Street, Sydney, at 6 p.m.

Please remember that the performances of *Die Walküre* and *Götterdämmerung* are not far off and make your applications as soon as possible.

CLOSING DATES: VALKURE 21st June. GOTTERDAMMERUNG: 31st July.

Leonard Hansen
President

Susan Kelly
Vice-President

Richard King
Treasurer

Clare Hennessy
Secretary