



# Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

August, 2000

Vol. 2 No 1

**Message from the Chairman:** Dear Members and Future Members! We hope you enjoy reading this, our Second Annual Newsletter. We have tried to summarize a full season of remarkable growth and accomplishment with ever growing audiences for our events. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I extend our thanks to those distinguished Wagnerians who presented programs for us. And many thanks to our Sponsors, Donors and Patrons, whose dues and contributions helped fund our activities. We will scale new heights in the 2000-2001 program season with continually growing audiences for the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art!

To those of you who have not yet jumped aboard our Bandwagon, we'll slow down for just a moment in the hope that you will come aboard as fast as you can. Our wonderful membership grows rapidly and there is always room for more! JOIN US! *J. K. Holman, Chairman*



*Chairman J. K. Holman with Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart*



## COMING: Third Season 2000-2001 "Year of Parsifal" Programs — November 2000

In cooperation with **The Washington Opera** and **The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** for the *Parsifal* performances with Placido Domingo: November 4 Opening night performance and cast party tickets available to Members. WSWDC opening night Hospitality Suite (Opera House South Tier Lounge) open to Members and non-members holding tickets. Backstage Tour November 6. Lectures by leading Wagnerian experts. *See p. 3 for details.*

## HIGHLIGHTS — Second Program Season 1999-2000 "Year of Tannhäuser" and other Programs

A highly successful group excursion of WSWDC Members and friends to the Baltimore Opera's *Tannhäuser* production directed by Werner Herzog was staged in March. Advanced preparation for the excursion included two programs by Iain Scott and Phillip Raines. Other 1990-2000 programs included Thomas Stewart, Speight Jenkins, Andrew Gray, Jeannie Williams, Paul Heise and Henry-Louis de La Grange. *See pages 2 and 4.*

## THOMAS STEWART — Second Annual Award Winner


"For extraordinary contributions to the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art." *See pages 2 and 4-5.*


**BAYREUTH FESTIVAL 2000 tickets** allotted to the Society for first time in it's brief history will enable a substantial group of Members to attend the Ring Cycle, *Parsifal*, *Lohengrin* and *Die Meistersinger* this summer. Become a Member of WSWDC for future eligibility.





## The 1999 - 2000 (Second) Programming Season


(See <http://www.wagner-dc.org> for reports and commentaries on these programs held at Funger Hall, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. — unless otherwise indicated)

 An Evening with Thomas Stewart and his fabulous singing career (October 14, 1999)


 Andrew Gray, translator of *Mein Leben* said “Wagner Says NO!” (December 9, 1999)


 Saul Lilienstein spoke movingly on *Die Meistersinger* (March 16, 2000)

 Film Series: Richard Burton in Tony Palmer’s “*Wagner: The Complete Epic*.” Three separate screenings of the nine-hour film September, October and November 1999

 Speight Jenkins described the exciting productions of “*Wagner in Seattle*” (November 4, 1999)

 Jeannie Williams discussed her insightful biography of legendary tenor Jon Vickers (January 13, 2000)

 Paul Heise spoke of his life time work on “*The Ring as a Whole*” (April 27, 2000)

 Henry-Louis de La Grange spoke on *Mahler: Champion and Disciple of Wagner*” (May 11, 2000)

## Year of Tannhäuser Programs

Iain Scott (February 17, 2000) presented a stimulating lecture and led lively audience discussion. Phillip Raines followed (March 2, 2000) with video excerpts and discussion of two contrasting productions. An enthusiastic excursion of members and friends then attended the Baltimore Opera Werner Herzog *Tannhäuser* production on March 26, agreeing that the advanced study in WSWDC programs enhanced enjoyment and appreciation!

## The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Young Artists Concert “Wagner’s Heroines”

The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Young Artists Concert — Wagner’s Heroines featured mezzo-soprano Laura Zuiderveen and dramatic soprano Connie Coffelt in concert performance accompanied by pianist Gillian Cookson at the German Embassy, Washington, D.C. (April 13, 2000). We look forward to developing continuing opportunities for young singers from these annual concerts through the creation of an endowment for scholarships.

## Fun Times Await Members — See pages 4 & 5






JOHN EDWARD NILES, Board Member and Director of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia animates entertainment at the Second Annual Banquet with stories and singers doing excerpts from *Das Barbacü*.





## The Forthcoming 2000 - 2001 Program Season

“The Year of Parsifal” — November 2000 — in cooperation with  
The Washington Opera and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

-  Tickets for *Parsifal* Opening Night Performance (November 4) (Members only)
-  Tickets for *Parsifal* Opening Night Cast Dinner Party (Members only)
-  *Parsifal* Opening Night Hospitality Suite — Opera House South Tier Lounge.  
Free of charge for all opening night ticket holders — Members and non-Members!  
Join us during intermissions!
-  Backstage Tour of Washington Opera *Parsifal* scenery (November 6 at 4:30 PM)  
Priority for Members; public may also reserve tickets. Call (301) 652-0132 - Tickets \$20
-  Inside Out Lecture Series on *Parsifal* presented by Saul Lilienstein October 10, 17 and 24  
to include orchestra tech rehearsal October 30. Price for Members : Series \$48;  
single tickets \$16. Call (202) 295-2400

We are especially pleased to extend Member privileges for these events by prior agreement to members of fellow Wagner societies in the U.S. and abroad.

## Other Forthcoming Events of the 2000 - 2001 Season at George Washington University, Fungler Hall

### September 2000

NPR's Lou Santacroce  
on *Parsifal*.

### November 2000

Penelope Turing on  
*Parsifal* at *Bayreuth*

### October 2000

Jonathan Lewsey on *Parsifal*

### December 2000

Frank Ruppert on Schubert and Wagner

Other monthly programs to be announced for the Winter and Spring 2000 - 2001 Season!

**Spring 2001** — Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Young Singers Second Annual Concert at German Embassy,  
Washington, DC

**May 2001** — 3rd Annual Banquet and WSWDC Award

**June 2001** — Final Program of the 2000-2001 program season: Preparing for *Bayreuth* 2001!

**Bayreuth 2001** — Our ticket allocation will be allotted to Members in good standing who have contributed to the purposes of the Society. Indicate on your Year 2001 membership application if you are interested in receiving tickets. We'll accommodate all the Members we can!

# W

## Everybody Enjoys Fun Time



JUDY GRUBER of WETA (left) with LAURA ZUIDERVEEN (right) accompanied by her spouse (center). Laura was a featured singer at the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Young Artists Concert at the German Embassy (April 13, 2000).



IAIN SCOTT of Toronto (on the right) spoke on *Tannhäuser* in preparation for the excursion to the Baltimore Opera production. His talk stimulated lively discussion as illustrated after his lecture with Member Professor Donald Crosby (on the left). (February 17, 2000).



PAUL HEISE spoke on his life time work on "*The Whole Ring*" He is seen here in conversation with *Chairman* J.K. Holman. (April 27, 2000).



### SECOND ANNUAL BANQUET

STEWART, *Nothing* and WSWDC BOARD MEMBERS: ceremony, Thomas Stewart raises his "Siegfried Sword" Left to right: *Banquet Chairman* R.G. Head (holding Thomas Stewart, *Treasurer* Barbara Parish Karn, *Fourth* (in horned hat!). Second Row: *Board Members* Thom photo: *Chairman* J.K. Holman, *Board Members* Hank (May 20, 2000).



HENRY-LOUIS DE LA GRANGE with, left to right: *Chairman* Holman, *President* Fernandez, *Board Members* Barbara Karn, Thomas Arthur and Phillip Raines. (May 11, 2000).



Members ILSE NIEDERMEYER and BILL GREEN enjoy a quiet moment in the festivities at the Second Annual Banquet.

# mes at The Wagner Society



## AND AWARD CEREMONY

In a light moment in the Second Annual Award (a letter opener from the New York Met gift shop!), award plaque); *President* Aurelius Fernandez, *nder* Janice F. Rosen, *Board Member* Bill Kugler as L. Arthur and Phillip W. Raines. (Missing from Gutman, John Edward Niles and John J. Pohanka.)



SPEIGHT JENKINS speaking to Members and guests about “*Wagner in Seattle*”, the world famous performances of Wagner’s works made possible under his leadership as Seattle Opera’s *General Director*. (November 4, 1999).



THOMAS STEWART (left) speaking with SAUL LILIENSTEIN (who lectured on *Die Meistersinger* on March 16, 2000). Also in photo are MARCIA and MARTIN FEINSTEIN (First Annual Award Winner) during the “Evening with Thomas Stewart”. (October 14, 1999).



JEANNIE WILLIAMS autographing her fascinating book *Jon Vickers: A Hero’s Life*, (with the help of *Board Member* Phillip W. Raines,) after her informative and entertaining talk with audio excerpts of the great Canadian singer’s recordings. (January 13, 2000).



*Board Member* Bill Kugler and wife Joan dressed for the occasion at the Second Annual Banquet.



*TANNHÄUSER* directed by Werner Herzog at the Baltimore Opera . Left to right: Members Virginia Abdo (Wagner Society of Dallas), Dan Sherman and Maureen Polsby. (March 26, 2000).



## The Importance of Your Membership:

Become a member if you are not already! Join our growing audiences for the camaraderie and *Gemütlichkeit* that come with the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art. — Help expand our programming, membership and activities to include in the future support for budding Wagnerian singers, our annual banquet and our annual award as well as our growing cooperation and support from The Washington Opera. And recruit new members for the 2000-2001 season. Welcome music lovers!

### PREMIUMS FOR YEAR 2000 MEMBERSHIPS:

Patron \$75: — Fr. Owen Lee, *Wagner: the Terrible Man and His Truthful Art*,

Donor \$150: — J.K. Holman, *Wagner's Ring: A Listener's Companion & Concordance*,

Sponsor \$250 or more: — both books.

### PREMIUMS FOR YEAR 2001 MEMBERSHIPS — NEW AND RENEWALS:

Patron \$75: — William Berger, *Wagner without Fear*,







Donor \$150: — Frederic Spotts, *Bayreuth, A History of the Wagner Festival*,

Sponsor: \$250 or more: — both books.

### VISIT OUR WEB SITE: <http://www.wagner-dc.org>

It keeps our Members and the public informed of our activities since we created a board of directors in 1998.

The Web site is our historical archive and is linked to major Wagner web sites around the world. Look for original contributions to the cornucopia of information on Wagner's art on the world wide web through pieces such as:

-  - Thomas Stewart: *A Tribute to Second Annual Award Winner* by John J. Pohanka of the board of directors.
-  - J.K. Holman interview on the sources for Wagner's *Ring der Nibelungen* and a discussion of Wagner and Hitler.
-  - Stefan Mickisch, famed *Bayreuth* lecturer describes in an exclusive NPR interview, the challenges and rewards of playing on Wagner's piano at Wahnfried.
-  - Summaries, notes and commentaries on our past programs.
-  - Our First and (this!) Second Anniversary Newsletter!
-  - Your comments and suggestions to develop the site are welcome by Webmeisterin Nancy O'Hara , Web Site Editor Aurelius Fernandez and our Cyberguru Barb Karn.

OTHER WAGNER SOCIETIES: WSWDC has been encouraged and inspired from the outset by contacts with other Wagner societies, beginning with *president* Nathalie Wagner and *vice president* Kit Gill of the Wagner Society of New York. Our exchanges of program ideas have been mutually beneficial. We look forward to expanding our contact and cooperation with the Wagner societies in Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Honolulu, Tokyo and others.

**Sponsors — (\$250 and Above)**

Thomas and Yoko Arthur  
 P. Clarke Baten  
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 Eliot and Blaine Marshall  
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**Purposes of the Society**

- To organize, plan, and promote Wagner-related events, such as lectures, workshops, symposia, a newsletter, a web page, and live performances.
- To relate the Society’s efforts to area opera activities as appropriate.
- To encourage and facilitate group attendance at live performances of Wagner’s works in the Washington-Baltimore area, as well as other cities in the US and abroad.
- To establish contact with other Wagner societies, both in the US and abroad and to encourage and develop complementary and synergistic programming.

**Benefits of Membership**

- Free Admission to WSWDC monthly programs and films
- A voice in the type of programs you would like to see.
- Lectures, panels, symposia, workshops with Wagner experts.
- Video showings and discussion groups about Wagner operas .
- Periodic newsletter and advance information about area events.
- Discounts on books and materials offered by the Wagner Society of New York.
- *Gemütlichkeit!*

**The Wagner Society of Washington, DC**

PO Box 33051  
 Washington, DC 20033  
 Tel (301) 907-2600 • Fax (301) 907-8671  
 www.wagner-dc.org

**Board of Directors**

*Chairman:* J.K. Holman  
*President:* Aurelius Fernandez  
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 R.G. Head  
 John J. Pohanka  
 Phillip W. Raines

**Membership is on a calendar year basis. Still time to join for 2000 to build your membership track record to receive benefits! Year 2000 Members are welcomed to renew their membership for year 2001 on this form.**

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERSHP APPLICATION

Check appropriate boxes-  Renewal  New Member  2000  2001  Two-year member 2000-2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name (dual membership) \_\_\_\_\_ Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Categories:

- |                                       |                                      |   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Dual   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Senior Student/Non-Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Patron  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Sponsor                    |

See page 6 of this newsletter for Patron, Donor and Sponsor premiums!

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

I am interested in Bayreuth tickets when an allocation is given to WSWDC.

Make checks payable to:

The Wagner Society of Washington, DC  
P.O. Box 33051  
Washington, DC 20033

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