

# Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

August 2003

Vol. 5 No.2

## Fifth Anniversary Issue

**Chairman's Greeting:** Dear Members and Friends: *Holy Nibelungen!!!* Five Years already? As always, special thanks to our Members and Friends who have made it all possible. See you at the Smithsonian seminar! Best wishes, J.K. Holman

*The Smithsonian Associates -Wagner Society Seminar September 19 to 21, 2003*

*Der Ring des Nibelungen: Wagner's Epic Vision*

*(See full program schedule, page 6)*

The three-day seminar moderated by Society Chairman J.K. Holman will include:

- (1) Lectures and discussions with 13 prominent Wagner experts
- (2) A buffet reception hosted by the German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger at his residence on Friday, September 19
- (3) The Seventh Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert with the participation of the Friday Morning Music Club Orchestra at the Smithsonian's Baird Auditorium on Sunday, September 21.

-- Tickets are \$218 per person for Washington DC and New York Wagner Society Members and Smithsonian Associates. General admission is \$263. To purchase tickets: (a) call 202.357.3030 or (b) purchase tickets on line at [www: ResidentAssociates.org](http://www.ResidentAssociates.org). Still time to join the Society for Member prices and save on the ticket cost!

-- Separate tickets only for the Seventh Emerging Singers Concert on Sunday, September 21 at 2:45 PM may be purchased only through the Wagner Society of Washington DC. For concert tickets, please (a) complete the order form sent separately to our mailing list addressees or (b) order on line at [www.wagner.dc.org](http://www.wagner.dc.org) or (c) call us at 301.907.2600 or (d) pay at the door. Tickets are \$25 for Society Members (including the Wagner Society of NY) and \$35 for non-Members. For additional information about all events, see also our website: [www.wagner-dc.org](http://www.wagner-dc.org) or call 301.907.2600. There is still time to qualify for the Member price for 2003 Members of record as of September 15, 2003!



J.K. Holman, Chairman and Wagner bust by Gretta Bader



*Opening Night Die Walküre at The Washington Opera - Wednesday November 5, 2003  
Performance and Cast Dinner Party Tickets!*

By special arrangement with The Washington Opera, we have 100 Upper Tier Prime tickets for Members at \$118 each. The Washington Opera is also extending a special invitation to Society Members to attend the Gala Cast Party after the performance; tickets are \$250 per person, including a tax-deductible portion. To reserve tickets for the performance and/or cast party please (a) send us your order form sent separately to our mailing list addressees or (b) order on line at [www.wagner-dc.org](http://www.wagner-dc.org) or (c) call 301.907.2600 for information. The performance includes two Wagner Society Awardees: Plácido Domingo who sings his legendary *Siegfried*, and Conductor Heinz Fricke.

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Membership through December 31, 2004

2004

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## *Evelyn Lear Receives the Wagner Society Award*

In the festive atmosphere of the 5th Annual Banquet on June 22 and in special celebration of that milestone, The Wagner Society of Washington DC Award was presented to Evelyn Lear, for her many contributions to the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art, especially the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program. The Award was presented by Chairman J.K. Holman on behalf of the Society, after a memorable and moving recording was played of Ms. Lear's "Dich teure Halle, grüß ich wieder" from *Tannhäuser* for the appreciative banquet audience. The program also included a solo performance of two Wagner arias by Michael Hayes with Betty Bullock at the piano. Ms. Lear joins the distinguished ranks of previous Awardees: **Martin Feinstein, Thomas Stewart, Father M. Owen Lee, Placido Domingo, and Heinz Fricke.**



Evelyn Lear with the Board of Directors: left to right: Tom Arthur, Betty Byrne, Phil Raines, Eliot Marshal, Barb Karn, Bill Kugler, EVELYN LEAR, John Edward Niles, John Pohanka, R.G. Head and Aury Fernandez. Missing from photo: Jim Holman and Lynne Lambert.

## *Sixth Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert May 16th at the German Embassy, Washington, DC*



On stage: baritone Charles Robert Austin, soprano Gail Sullivan, mezzo soprano Roxanne Rowedder and tenor Michael Hayes; in foreground are Thomas Stewart, Betty Bullock and Evelyn Lear.

The unwavering devotion of Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart to the Emerging Singers Program named in their honor continues to provide unique assistance to singers seeking to develop careers in the Wagner repertoire. Six concerts have been presented to date at the Germany Embassy with 20 singers since the first concert in April 2000. The Seventh Concert in the series takes place on September 21 at the Smithsonian Institution (see program schedule page 6). Singers are prepared for each concert through extensive personal coaching and rehearsals with Lear and Stewart. Advice on career development and contacts follows and selected singers are given financial assistance.

## *Wagner in der Wildnis III (Siegfried) June 9-11*

The third annual *Wagner in der Wildnis* has held in the bucolic hills of West Virginia at a new site this year: Cacapon Resort State Park. The three day event was attended by 30 Members who gathered for intensive study and enjoyment of *Siegfried*. Once again, Professor Simon Williams, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and New York-based Pianist Jeffrey Swann were the main lecturers. For the second year, Member Bill Pastor also presented a lecture providing unique insights to Wagner's operas and historical sources for *Siegfried*. The Saturday night highlight was the reading of the libretto by a dedicated cast. Participants included Wildnis veterans as well as new Members, some of whom were preparing for Bayreuth 2003. Plans are underway for next year: *Götterdämmerung!*



The all-star cast for the Siegfried libretto reading (left to right) Nancy O'Hara (*Mime*); Tom Stanley (*Siegfried*); Kathleen Fuller (*Mime*); Maureen Polsby (*Brünnhilde*), Tim Scanlon (*Fafner*); Aury Fernandez (*Siegfried*); Simon Williams (*Wotan*); Janice Rosen (*Woodbird*); Melody Swann (*Siegfried*); Jeffrey Swann (piano); Brian Lewen (*Alberich*); Lynne Lambert (*Erda*) and Betty Byrne (Director).

W .

## Chronology of Winter-Spring 2003 Program Season

January 16 - Professor Carolyn Abbate, Princeton University, lectured on "Die Walküre and the Dream of the Secret", reflecting her respected expertise in her critically acclaimed book *In Search of Opera*. (2002).



February 20 - Professor Jeffrey L. Buller, Mary Baldwin College and author of *Classically Romantic* spoke on "Sleep in the Ring" in a highly praised lecture illustrating his scholarly research and writing.



March 13 - Musicologist Carol Berger talk was titled "At the Heart of *Die Walküre*: Forgiveness vs. Redemption Cyclical Quests and Shadows." A 37-page assortment of reference documents was distributed as a guide for further study of the interesting topic.



April 12 -- Parsifal at the Metropolitan Opera: In an expanding Society activity, tickets were arranged for 30 Members to attend yet another out of town Wagner performance; Placido Domingo was Parsifal and Valerie Gergiev conducted.

May 9 - The Second Gala Benefit -- the first was held at Evermay in 2001 - took place in the elegant, antique-decorated salons of the Diplomatic and Counselor Officer Corps, Retired (DACOR) in Washington. The event raised important funding for general programming and the Emerging Singers Program.

May 16 -- The Sixth Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert was presented at the German Embassy. The capacity audience acclaimed it the best concert to date in this continuing series.



May 29 -- Society Director John Pohanka, a respected Wagner expert and philanthropist, spoke on "Wagner, The Mystic." His synthesis of his half-century of study and enjoyment of Wagner's art yielded one of the season's most highly praised lectures.

June 6-8 - *Wagner in der Wildnis III (Siegfried)*. See photo story (page 2) of this third annual weekend retreat. Next year: Götterdämmerung!

June 22 - The 5th Annual Banquet and Wagner Society Award to Evelyn Lear took place in the festive atmosphere of the Arts Club of Washington with a full-capacity gathering of Members attending. (See photo story page 2.)

(Summer) August 3 to 11 -- Bayreuth Festival 2003: As we go to press, Members with tickets from our allotment are on their way to Bayreuth! A briefing and buffet for first-time ticket-holders was hosted on June 29 by Aury and Janet Fernandez with help from Festival veterans Tom and Yoko Arthur, RG Head and Carole Hoover, Phil Raines, Phil Rochlin and Bill Pastor as well as Bayreuth first-timer Director Lynne Lambert.

### To benefit the *Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program Fund* A Partnership with the Wagner Society of Washington, DC

I/We wish to contribute:     \$100     \$150     \$250     \$500     \$1,000     \$2,000     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is Check for \_\_\_\_\_. Make tax deductible contribution payable to: *Emerging Singers Program Fund*

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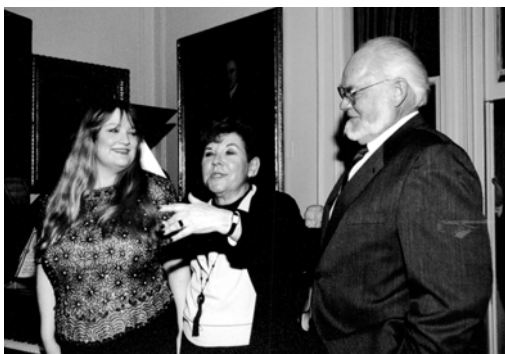
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## Second Gala Benefit – May 9

### DACOR Bacon House, Washington DC (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired)



*Soprano Jennifer Wilson, cover for Eaglen at Lyric Opera Siegfried, is introduced by Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart.*

More than 100 Society Members and Friends gathered to contribute generous financial support for Wagner Society general programming and the Emerging Singers Program. The event included Wagner solos by soprano Jennifer Wilson with Victoria Gau at the piano. The silent auction included books and recordings treasured by Wagnerians. (Contributors' names are acknowledged on page 7.)



*Evelyn Lear in conversation with William Tell and Diana Holman*



*Virginia Abdo (Founder, Wagner Society of Dallas), Director Betty Byrne, Members Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz and Robert Craft*



*Sorting out the Silent auction: Director Barb Karn, Intern Anne Price, Director Lynne Lambert and Intern Madelayne Lang*

## 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Banquet – June 22

### The Arts Club of Washington DC



*Members Marie and Richard Sippel enjoy a light moment with Diane and Tom Stanley at the festive occasion.*

The sometime residence of President Monroe includes valuable bibliographical Wagneriana. The patio provided a delightful outdoor site for Members and Friends to meet for drinks before dinner. The Society Award was presented to Evelyn Lear. Tenor Michael Hayes sang *Winterstürme* with Betty Bullock at the piano.



*Michael Hayes, participant in the Sixth Emerging Singers Concert with Betty Bullock at the piano.*

## Wagner the Mystic

### Wagner Society Director John J. Pohanka Lecture on "Wagner the Mystic" May 29



Martin Feinstein with John Pohanka

John Pohanka has been a member of the Board of Directors since it was created in August 1998. In his role as a philanthropist, he has generously donated funding for an audio visual system to improve the presentation of programs. He has also given extensive financial support to The Washington Opera, which funded the CD series narrated by Maestro Saul Lilienstein. Pohanka has been an avid Wagnerian since his youth and brims with ideas to promote the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art. On May 29 he presented a magisterial lecture distilling more than half a century of devotion to Wagner's art, widely acclaimed as one our of season's outstanding lectures. In a learned and lucid presentation he explained the influences on Wagner from Homer to Schopenhauer.



John Pohanka with Saul Lilienstein

## Renewal and New Membership Application for 2004

(January 1 to December 31, 2004)

(You can also join on our website: [wagner-dc.org](http://wagner-dc.org))

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate box:     Renewal     New Member     Gift Membership

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### Annual Membership Categories

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\$45 Dual

\$25 Senior, Student or Non-Resident

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We wish to join/contribute anonymously

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

I am interested in tickets for *Bayreuther Festspiele 2004*

### Members' Book and other Premiums

We decline premiums.

In lieu of books send:     WSWDC T-Shirt    or     WSWDC latte cup

**Patron \$75** check one box:

Spencer Stewart, *Wagner Remembered*

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Fr. M. Owen Lee, *Wagner the Terrible Man*

William Berger, *Wagner without Fear*

**Donor \$150** check one box:

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

J.K. Holman, *Wagner's Ring*

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

Brian Magee, *The Tristan Chord*

**Sponsor \$250 or more:** check two boxes above

*An Historic Wagner Society Program*

***Der Ring des Nibelungen: Wagner's Epic Vision***

**J. K. Holman, Moderator**

September 19 – 21, 2003

*Cosponsored by The Wagner Society of Washington, D.C. and  
The Smithsonian Resident Associates Program at  
The Smithsonian Institution on the Mall in Washington, D.C.*

**Friday, September 19, 2003**

**Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum**

**12:30 PM Welcome: Moderator J.K. Holman; Keynote by Speight Jenkins, General Director, Seattle Opera**

**1:30 PM to 5 PM Overview: *The Ring* and its Cultural Context**

- **Donald Crosby**, Professor Emeritus, University of Connecticut
- **Iain Scott**, Canadian opera lecturer and *Ring* expert
- **Saul Lilienstein**, Musicologist, conductor and lecturer

**6:30 PM** Buffet reception hosted by **H.E. Wolfgang Ischinger**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and **Mrs. Jutta Falke-Ischinger**, at their residence (Foxhall at Reservoir Road).

**Saturday, September 20, 2003**

**Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum**

**9:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Aspects of the *Ring*** – Lecturers will include:

- **Carolyn Abbate**, Professor of Music, Princeton University, “*The Ring* as Cinema”
- **Peter Mark**, Virginia Opera, on Conducting *Die Walküre*
- **Winnie Klotz**, former Met Opera photographer

**1:45 – 5:00 P.M. –*The Ring* in Performance** – Bayreuth, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Seattle Opera

- **Speight Jenkins**, General Director, Seattle Opera
- **Phillip Raines**, Wagner production expert and Board member
- **Christina Scheppelmann**, Artistic Administrator, The Washington Opera, and **Cori Ellison**, New York City Opera Dramaturg

**Sunday, September 21, 2003**

**Baird Auditorium, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History**

**12:30 – 2:45 PM**

- **Jeffrey Buller**, Mary Baldwin College on “Much Ado about *Notung* or What does the *Ring* mean?”  
**Singing *The Ring*.**
- **Thomas Stewart**, bass baritone and **Jennifer Wilson**, soprano, Moderated by **Tim Page**, Music critic of *The Washington Post*

**2:45 to 5 P.M.** “The Seventh Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert” – An all-*Ring* concert in the series presenting three American singers: soprano Caroline Whisnant, tenor Roy Stevens and baritone Charles Robert Austin who are emerging singers with potential for careers singing the Wagner repertoire.

## Thanks to Many Generous Contributors!

*Special thanks to all our Members who have contributed to our funding for programs as Sponsors, Donors and Patrons for the 2003 Membership year. Thanks also to Members and Friends who contributed to the Gala Benefit on May 9, which was held to raise funding for general programming as well as the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program. (This list are current as of July 1. We apologize for any possible omissions.)*

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Martin & Marcia Feinstein & Kate James	Cindy Oxberry	Dan Sherman	

Members and Friends have also been especially generous with contributions to the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program Appeal launched in April 2003, which remains open for those wishing to contribute once again or for the first time. A list of all contributor will be reported in the January 2004 newsletter.



## The Society gives special thanks to:

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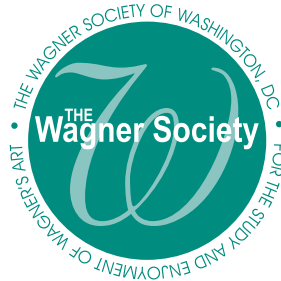
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*Founder:* Janice F. Rosen

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*Editor:* Aurelius Fernandez

- + Ms. Mary McLaughlin and her staff of The Smithsonian Associates for indispensable assistance in planning the co-sponsored *Ring* seminar.
- + Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Mrs. Jutta Falke-Ischinger who will host *Ring* seminar participants in their residence.
- + Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart for the Emerging Singers Program.
- + Ms. Trautlieb Hülz of the German Embassy for help with the Emerging Singers Concerts at the German Embassy.
- + DACOR Bacon House (Diplomatic and Consular Officers, Retired) who helped make the Gala Benefit such a success (see page 7 for list of contributors).
- + Dr. Roy Gunther and The George Washington University (GWU) for facilitating our use of Fungler Hall for lecture programs.
- + Finally, Wolfgang and Gudrun Wagner whose support makes possible the attendance of our Members at the Bayreuth Festival.



The Wagner Society of Washington, DC  
PO Box 33051  
Washington, DC 20033  
Tel: 301.907.2600  
Fax: 301.907.8671  
[www.wagner-dc.org](http://www.wagner-dc.org)

**Upcoming programs:**  
**September 19-21** Seminar Co-Sponsored with The Smithsonian Associates.  
**November 5** Opening night performance of *Die Walküre* at The Washington Opera – performance and cast dinner party tickets for Members (only).  
**October 11** Tickets for the Met *Tristan* for Members only.  
**Spring 2004** Tickets for Met *Ring* form Members only.

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