

Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

January 2008

Vol. 10 No.1

CHAIRMAN'S GREETING

Chairman's Greeting: This is our 10th anniversary year. We were born in August 1998. We give thanks to the many who made our past decade so successful. Thanks to Yoko Arthur and Diane Stanley who co-chaired the committee for our 2007 Gala Benefit. We look forward to seeing you in 2008 as new members or as one of the 500 Members already on our rolls who make our successes possible! Happy New Year!

— Chairman J.K. Holman, author, *Wagner Moments*

UPCOMING FLYING DUTCHMAN PROGRAMS IN 2008

If you missed the 2007 Gala Benefit, there is still time to make up some of your loss with our programs in support of The Washington National Opera (WNO) performances of the *Flying Dutchman* in March and April. Senta will be sung by soprano Jennifer Wilson, an "emerged" participant of our partnership Emerging Singers Program (ESP). Other Wagner Society programs in support of the WNO will include (1) group tickets for the March 15 opening night performance, (2) group tickets for the Sunday March 30 matinee and (3) a cast dinner party (for Members only). Tickets for these events may be reserved using a reservation form on our website as well as the fliers sent to our mailing list. See page 3 for the host of other *Flying Dutchman*-related events during the Spring program season.. Questions? Call 301.907.2600



THE FLYING DUTCHMAN GALA BENEFIT (DECEMBER 1, 2007)

EMBASSY OF FRANCE, WASHINGTON DC



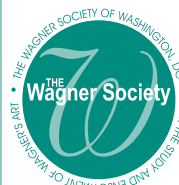
Photo by Bonnie Becker

Wagner would have loved it! Generous funding was raised for future programs devoted to the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art, especially the partnership Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program (ESP). More than 150 Members and friends were greeted by an authentically costumed "Flying Dutchman" -- Member Tim Scanlon in disguise! -- as they

entered the elegant French Embassy reception rooms. The evening of festive *Gemütlichkeit* included, a dinner of delectable French cuisine, silent and live auctions of Wagner memorabilia, and a thrilling performance of excerpts from *Der fliegende Holländer* by ESP soprano Valerie Bernhart and baritone Ryan Kinsella – all this in the presence of opera notables Evelyn Lear, Richard Stilman, Hao Jiang Tian and others. Among events of the evening presided by Chairman Holman was a Special Award to Dr. Gerald Perman, Founder and Artistic Director of the Vocal Arts Society (VAS). He was honored for his contributions to the enrichment of musical life in the Washington DC area to which the Society is also dedicated. VAS board members and subscribers attended in good numbers.

CONTENTS

Past Programs.....	2
Page Upcoming Programs	3
Centerfold Photos Pages.....	4-5
Gala Contributors	6
WSWDC News	7
Condolences.....	8



The Wagner Society of Washington DC
P.O. Box 58213
Washington, D.C. 20037
Tel (301) 907- 2600
www.wagner-dc.org

The Autumn 2007 Season

Programs were presented at The George Washington University -- GWU Fungler Hall -- unless otherwise indicated. Additional information on all programs including fliers and press announcements is available on our website www.wagner-dc.org.



Donald Arthur; "Hans Hotter -- An Operatic Giant"



Friday, October 19, 2007 at GWU Fungler Hall. Donald Arthur, opera singer, actor, lyricist, and translator of Hans Hotter's memoirs *Der Mai ist mir gewogen* (The Spring was good to me) gave an enjoyable and enlightening lecture demonstration about Hotter. (FYI Mr. Arthur is the German voice of Chef Gusteau in the film *Ratatouille*!)



The 15th Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers (ESP) Concert



See *Washington Post* music critic Cecelia Porter (November 3, 2007) "Young Singers Triumphant in Wagner Roles".

Thursday, November 1, 2007 at the German Embassy, Washington DC. The concert featured sopranos, Julia Rowling and Valerie Bernhardt; baritone, Ryan Kinsella; and tenor, Cory Bix accompanied by pianist Betty Bullock. Baritone Michael Hayes and Tenor Bryan Register made guest appearances. Selections were performed from *Die Meistersinger*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Die Walküre*, *Das Rheingold*, *Parsifal*, *Lohengrin*, and Act III, Scene 3, of *Götterdämmerung*. See additional reports on our website and the November 2007 annual edition of *The Wagner Singer* devoted to the Emerging Singers Program. The Wagner Singer publication is the companion publication, this twice-yearly newsletter *Wagner on the Potomac*.



Jessica Quillin "Wagner, Shelley, and the Musico-Poetics of Lyric Drama"



Thursday, November 15, 2007 at GWU Fungler Hall. Dr Quillin's lecture gave original and thought-provoking new perspectives for students of Wagner's art as she described Wagner's musico-literary inheritance from the British Romantic poets, particularly from Percy Byssche Shelley.



The Flying Dutchman Gala Benefit



Saturday, December 1, 2007, at the French Embassy (see reports page 1 and photos in centerfold). The event was appropriately staged at the French Embassy noting that Wagner wrote the *The Flying Dutchman -- Der fliegende Holländer* in Paris, France! (Photo: Chairman Holman presenting Special Award to Dr. Perman)

The Winter and Spring 2008 Season

Programs are open to the public free of charge and will be presented at The George Washington University -- GWU Fungler Hall -- unless otherwise indicated.



Ryan Brown on "Passion, Magic, and Wagner's 17th Century Operatic Inheritance"



(Postponed because of snow storm- to be rescheduled!)

Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 7:30 pm at GWU Fungler Hall. Maestro Brown is the Conductor and Artistic Director of Opera Lafayette. His lecture will trace the line from Gluck to Wagner in an instructive evening for Wagnerians and all music lovers.



Dean Jeffrey Buller on "Aspects of Die Meistersinger"



Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm at GWU Fungler Hall. Dean Buller, Harriet L. Wiles Honors College at Florida Atlantic University is a favorite lecturer for the Society as well as at the Bayreuth Festival and numerous additional venues around the world. He will present a customarily insightful lecture based on his lifetime of dedicated scholarship.

The Winter and Spring 2008 Season

FLYING DUTCHMAN

***Der fliegende Holländer* — EVENTS**

(These events are organized in support of the Washington National Opera (WNO) *Flying Dutchman* performances from March 15 to April 10.)

Chairman Jim Holman on

“Wagner’s Great Leap Forward”

Tuesday, March 11 at 6 pm at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. The lecture in the WNO Insight Series will explore the enduring popularity and influence of *The Flying Dutchman*.

For ticket information for events below

call Jackie Rosen on

703-370-3796 or 202-295-2484

Opening Night Performance at the Opera House **Saturday March 15 at 7 pm.** We have a block of tickets available on a first-come, first served basis for Members and Friends who are potential Members.

Matinee Performance (2 pm) and

Cast Dinner Party (6 pm)

Sunday March 30 at 2 pm and 6 pm. Members may order tickets for one or both events. A limited number of tickets are available for Members and Friends for the matinee performance. The cast dinner party will be at the Magic Gourd Restaurant 528 23rd St NW near the Opera House. (Deadline to apply for tickets is February 29)

Other Flying Dutchman Programs

“Women in *The Flying Dutchman*: What Were They Thinking?”

Sunday, February 24, 2008, 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The program will include a dialogue with Evelyn Lear and Jennifer Wilson. Tickets are \$15, which includes performances by WNO artists and free admission to the Museum exhibits. Call WNO, 202-295-2400; see the WNO Web site or The NMWA (National Museum of Women in the Arts) Web site.

WNO O-Zone Lecture by Saul Lilienstein

Thursday, March 20, 2008, 6:15 pm; at the Kennedy Center Opera House

Mr. Lilienstein will discuss the inspiration behind the opera. The lecture is open to anyone holding a ticket to any performance of *The Flying Dutchman*.

Spring and Summer Events after *The Flying Dutchman* Performances

Paul Schofield, “Parsifal as the Fifth Ring Opera.”

Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 pm at GWU Fungler Hall.

Mr. Schofield, a noted authority on Buddhism, will lecture on characters in *Parsifal* seen as extensions of those of the *Ring*. He is the author of *The Redeemer Reborn: Parsifal as the Fifth Opera of Wagner’s Ring*. (2008)

The Wagner Orchestra Seminar

Jeffrey Swann and Saul Lilienstein

Saturday May 17, 9 am to 3 pm. A lecture demonstration seminar presented by two notable experts on the background, structure and performance of the orchestra according to Richard Wagner.

The 16th Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart

Emerging Singers Program (ESP) Concert

March or April 2008 – venue and singers to be announced.

Wagner in der Wildnis (Tannhäuser)

June 6-8, 2008 The Cacapon Resort State Park in West Virginia. A members-only event. Registration forms for the famous annual study-retreat weekend have been mailed to Members. Good news: facilities are available for more than the limited 60 participants of previous years. Members can also register using a form on our website. Questions? Call 301-907-2600.

Bahreuther Festspiele 2008

August 20-28, 2008 A limited number of tickets are available for Members only. Ticket applicants must be members of record as of February 15. Deadline: February 15. Questions? Call 301-907-2600.

10th Anniversary Event!

To be scheduled. Watch this space and our website and mailings for details of our program to commemorate our successful decade of devotion to the study and enjoyment of Wagner’s art.



GALA BENEFIT 2007



Bonnie Becker with mens' neckties she created with WSWDC button and photo of Wagner – a silent auction item in great demand at the Gala Benefit.



"The Flying Dutchman" with the "Junior Wagner Society" a recently recruited group from The George Washington University School of Law who contribute an important and entertaining youth demographic dimension to the Society.



"The Flying Dutchman" with Kathy Faith (left) and Janet Fernandez (right)



"The Flying Dutchman" with Ms Hilary Shaw (right) and daughter Hilary Shaw



Members (left to right) Peter St. Onge, "The Flying Dutchman", Cathy Pastor, Bill Pastor and Linda Medford.



Professor Donald Crosby (right) dressed in horns with Lea McDaniel and Aury Fernandez



(left to right) Paul and Nancy Ignatius, Jim Holman, Henrietta and Jim Randolph.



Golden Ring Member Maika Siebeck, Director Tom Arthur, Dr. Martha Liao and her husband bass-baritone Hao Jiang Tian, Metropolitan and Washington National Opera star



2007 FESTIVITIES



Evelyn Lear with tenor Ryan Kinsella and soprano Valerie Bernhardt who sang excerpts from *The Flying Dutchman*.



Member Carol Hoover models a *Flying Dutchman* gown presented by the WNO Costume Shop as a prized silent auction item.



Tenor Richard Stilman, Kerry Stilman and Valerie Bernhardt. Mr. Stilman delivered a moving tribute to Dr. Gerald Perman before the Special Award presented by Jim Holman.



Development Committee Member Cecilia Schultz with Suzie and Bruce Eisen, WNO General Counsel.



WETA-FM's Chip Brienza with Wagner Awardee Saul Lilienstein. Chip enlivened the after dinner auction with entertaining repartee.



Kerry Stilman, Richard Stilman with Mr and Mrs Dominic Cossa. Mr Cossa serves on the Emerging Singers Program Advisory Committee.

Bayreuther Festspiele 2007



At Bayreuth Festival 2007 with Klaus Schultz, Bayreuth Consultant (on right) accompanied by (left to right) from Wagner Societies: Yoko Arthur (WSWDC); Fred Konig (Northern California); David Bullard (South Africa); Tom Arthur (WSWDC); Jacqueline

Bullard (South Africa); Rob James (Northern California); Jim Allison (WSWDC); Virginia Konig (partially obscured -- Northern California); and Klaus Schultz



Selected WSWDC Members at Bayreuth 2007. Twenty-five members attended the four Ring or three Non-Ring performances in separate groups from our ticket allotment.

Supporters of the 2007 Gala Benefit

Angels (\$1,000 and above)

Yoko & Tom Arthur
Roswita Augusta
Aury & Janet Fernandez
Richard & Kathleen Fuller
Frederic Harwood & Lea McDaniel
Louis & Barbara Hering
Adams Holman
Jim & Diana Holman
John & Lynn Pohanka
Phil Raines & Dr. Martha Kern
James & Henrietta Randolph
Jacqueline Rosen
Guillermo & Cecilia Schultz
Thomas P. & Diane Stanley

Patrons (\$250 to \$999)

Robin Berrington
Chris Boutelier & Aaron Flynn
Thomas Brennan
Betty Byrne
Donald Dittberner
Fred & Hilda Ederer
Martha Ellison
Ken Feinberg
Bill & Ingrid Gheen
Mark Golden
Margaret Jones
Dr. Barbara Karn
Lori Laitman & Bruce Rosenblum
Jan & Elizabeth Lodal
Elliot & Blaine Marshall
Roberta McKay

Nancy O'Hara
Philip & Ann Ruppe
Dr. Elisabeth Rushing
Barbara & Keith Severin
Maika Siebeck
Peter St. Onge & Linda Medford
Dr. Akinoos Vourlekis
Adele Waggaman

Donors (up to \$250)

Joseph Abell
David & Rachel Abraham
Beatrice Bobotek
Anthony Brienza
Donnie Bryant
Maija Budow
Roland Cilette
Victoria Cordova
Dominic & Janet Cossa
Don Crosby & Bonnie Becker
Elizabeth Daniels
Lloyd Derrickson
Maria Downs
Carolyn Duignan & Milan Valuch
Joy Dunkerley
Alan Eisen
Kathryn Faith
Janet Farbstein
Barbara Gauntt
Roger Gilkeson
Marie Gilson
Paul Grayson
R.G. Head & Carole Hoover
Paul & Nancy Ignatius

Joan Jackson
Dr. Rochelle Kainer
Dr. Priscilla Kauff
Maurine Kelly
Elise Kirk
Richard Drimm
Lynne Lambert
Linda Land
Arthur C. Levan & Ero Moussouri
Daniel & Maeva Marcus
Mary Lynne McElroy
Lewis & Ingrid Meyer
Edward & Noel Miller
Bill & Cathy Pastor
Nancy Petrisko
Dr. Marilyn Pollans
Thomas & Eleanor Roberts
Henry Rose
Robin Rothrock
David Ryan
Lily-Charlotte Sarnoff
William & Theodora Shepherd
Daniel Silver
Richard & Marie Sippel
Ronald Stowe
Jack Sulser
Pedro Taborga
Allison Tennyson
Nori Uchida
Stephanie Van Reigersberg
Daphne & Don Wallace
Ralph & Katheryne West
Dorothy Wexler
Adelaide & Duncan Whitaker
Washington National Opera
Frederic & Catherine Wolff

(Contribution amounts exclude the cost of the dinner.)



Gala Benefit Co-chairs Diane Stanley and Yoko Arthur who organized the gala evening with a committee of dedicated volunteers.

Thanks to the Gala Committee!

Yoko Arthur and Diane Stanley served as co-chairs of the Committee in which, along with Chairman Jim Holman, Betty Byrne, Frederic Harwood, Blaine Marshall, Nancy O'Hara, and Jacqueline Rosen participated.

THE Wagner Society of Washington, D.C.

MEMBERSHIP 2008 ~ JOIN US FOR THE FIRST TIME OR ONCE AGAIN!

Your Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31, 2008, regardless of the time of year you join. To become a Member: mail it with your check or credit-card authorization to WSWDC, P.O. Box 58213, Washington, D.C. 20037; fax it to 301-907-8671; use the on-line form on our website: www.wagner-dc.org

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP

NAME(S) _____ DUAL MEMBER (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ OFFICE PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
(Reminder notices of events will be sent by e-mail)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (check only one category)
(NOTE: Membership dues are tax-deductible.)

\$10 Student \$50 Regular \$75 Dual \$40 Senior/Non-Resident \$150 Patron \$250 Donor
 \$500 Sponsor \$1000 Golden Ring Employer Matching Grant Form Enclosed \$ _____ Additional Contribution

GOLDEN RING, SPONSORS, DONORS AND PATRONS: As an expression of our appreciation, we would like to send you a copy of J. K. Holman: Wagner Moments: A Celebration of Favorite Wagner Experiences YES NO

GOLDEN RING ONLY: We are pleased to offer the DVD of the Fall '07 and Spring '08 ESP Concerts. YES NO

FORM OF PAYMENT: (do not send cash) Check Enclosed Visa Mastercard

NAME ON CARD _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

CARD NUMBER _____ AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED \$ _____

SIGNATURE _____

Please review legibility of numbers and letters you entered above.

WSWDC NEWS

The Meistersinger Guild. For information contact Development Committee Chair Frederic Harwood on 202.438.4800. Members of the Guild who have pledged \$5,000 for the 2008 Membership Year include The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Frederic Harwood and Lea McDaniel; Christine Hunter; Jim and Diana Holman; John and Lynn Pohanka; and Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz.

WSWDC Weekend in San Diego and Los Angeles February 1 and 3, 2008. Board Member, RG Head, and Carole Hoover have organized programs for more than 25 Members in San Diego for *Tannhäuser* (February 1) and Los Angeles for *Tristan und Isolde* (February 3). San Diego includes a pre-opera dinner, backstage tour, Yacht Club brunch, boat rides and lecture by Professor Simon Williams. Questions? Call (619) 507-1310.

Saul Lilienstein on Wagner at the Smithsonian in Monthly Programs from January to June 2008. Six monthly Wednesday evening programs will be presented by the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program. For tickets see the Smithsonian Associates website (search topic: music) or call 202.633.3030.

The Wagner Journal. Have you ordered you subscription? Issue Number 3, Volume 1 appeared in autumn 2007. Three issues will also appear in 2008. The Journal appeals to both the Wagner expert as well as the Wagner wannabe. WSWDC sponsors the Journal's website: www.thewagnerjournal.co.uk. See website reports of the fascinating and informative articles that it contributes to the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art – our motto!

Board of Directors:

J.K. Holman
Chairman
Aurelius Fernandez
President
Nancy O'Hara
Treasurer

Directors:

Thomas L. Arthur
Betty Byrne
Harry L. Gutman
Frederic Harwood
R. G. Head
Lynne Lambert
John Edward Niles
Bill Pastor
John J. Pohanka
Phillip W. Raines
Guillermo Schultz

Editor: Aurelius Fernandez

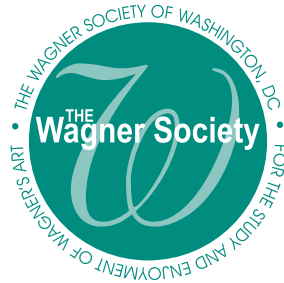
Jacqueline Rosen
Office Manager

CONDOLENCES TO THE BAYREUTH FESTIVAL COMMUNITY

On the occasion of the death of Gudrun Wagner in November 2007, the Board of Directors, our Members and friends extended condolences to Wolfgang and Katarina Wagner and the Bayreuth Festival community. Gudrun was a special friend of our Society. She visited Washington DC with Wolfgang in February 1999. She arranged for him to present a program for us in the atrium of Kennedy Center at a time when we were newly created and little known. She also arranged for our initial allotment of Bayreuth Festival tickets in 2000, an allotment that continues each year to this day as a prized benefit of membership in our Society made possible through Gudrun's kindness.

OPERA LAFAYETTE SPECIALLY PRICED TICKETS FOR WAGNER SOCIETY MEMBERS!

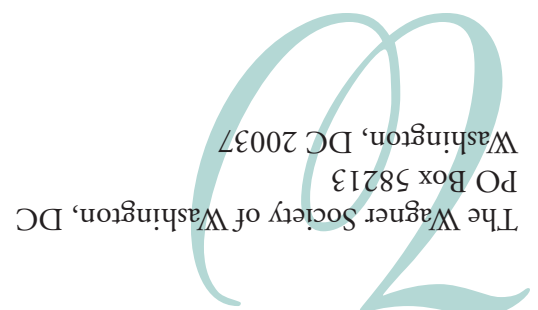
The Genesis of Don Giovanni will be performed on Sunday, March 9 @ 3 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4900 Connecticut Avenue. Members who buy one regular ticket (\$45/\$30) can get **additional tickets at 50% off**. Student tickets are \$5. **Call (202) 546-9332**. The cast includes tenor Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, bass François Loup, baritone William Sharp and soprano Millicent Scarlett led by Conductor and Artistic Director Ryan Brown. (Note: Our January 17 program with Maestro Brown was regrettably postponed because of the snow storm and will be rescheduled.)



The Wagner Society of Washington, DC
PO Box 58213
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: 301.907.2600
Fax: 301.907.8671
www.wagner-dc.org

Upcoming Events:
The Flying Dutchman at the WNO
Wagner in der Wildnis June 6-8 2008
Bayreuth Festival 2008
Read *The Wagner Journal*!

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT NO. 1895



The Wagner Society of Washington, DC
PO Box 58213
Washington, DC 20037