



Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

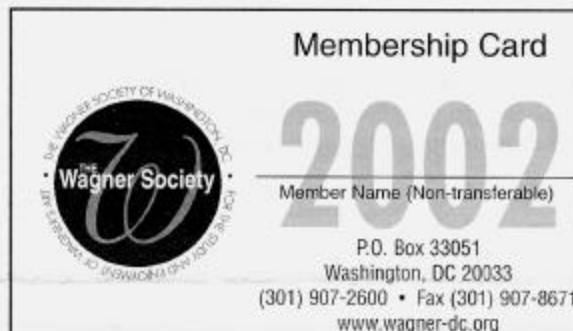
January 2002

Vol. 4 No 1

2002 Membership Drive

Benefits of Membership

- + Bayreuth Tickets
- + Monthly programs
- + Excursions to the Met
- + Emerging Singers Concerts
- + *Wagner in der Wildnis*
- + Annual Banquet & Award
- + Gemütlichkeit!



Message from the Chairman - Dear Members and Friends: We are delighted to bring you this Volume 4 Number 1 edition of our newsletter. As you will see, there is so much going on at the Wagner Society that we have had to publish the newsletter twice this season! This newsletter formally inaugurates our membership drive for 2002. It is only through the support of our Members that we are able to do so much. For those 2001 Members who have not yet signed up for 2002, we urge you to do so now. For those friends who have not yet joined us, a hearty "welcome!" (See application form, page 3.)

J.K. Holman, author, Wagner's Ring: A Listener's Companion and Concordance

Bayreuth 2002: For Members Only

For the third straight year, we have tickets for the Bayreuth Festival! Our ticket allotment enables us to offer sets of tickets for the three non-Ring Cycle Operas: *Die Meistersinger* (August 18); *Lohengrin* (August 19) *Tannhauser* (August 20). Applicants for tickets must be members of record by February 1, 2002. Call 301.907.2600 for details.

Tickets for *Parsifal* at the Chicago Lyric - Thursday, February 21, 2002

We are pleased to offer for sale to MEMBERS ONLY a limited number of tickets for this performance. Visit our website: www.wagner-dc.org or call 301.907.2600 for details before tickets run out!

Fr. M. Owen Lee Accepts WSWDC Award

As known to listeners of the Metropolitan Opera Broadcast on December 8, 2001, Father Lee has accepted the Society's Award for distinguished contributions to the "study and enjoyment of Wagner's art." We are privileged to honor this outstanding Wagnerian and friend. Father Lee joins the ranks of previous award winners **Placido Domingo**, **Thomas Stewart** and **Martin Feinstein**. (See photo story page 4.)



Fr. Lee with Chairman Jim Holman

The Wagner Society of Washington, DC, P.O. Box 33051, Washington, DC 20033
Tel 301.907.2600 Fax 301.907.8671 website: www.wagner-dc.org



*The Third Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert
at the German Embassy October 19, 2001
under the patronage of Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger*

Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart, internationally acclaimed opera greats, have generously devoted their time and experience to developing this program. John Edward Niles, WSWDC Director and Director of the Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia, effectively provides essential staffing assistance. The program is designed to provide emerging singers with financial help as well as career development advice and professional contacts. The Board is especially grateful to Evelyn and Tom for their indispensable contributions that make this program possible.

Left to Right: accompanist Betty Bullock, soprano Jennifer Wilson; mezzo Laura Zaidorvee; Evelyn Lear, soprano Alma DeLeon; tenor Tom Rolf Trabitte; bass Jason Detweiler and Thomas Stewart



The Autumn 2001 Program Season "Year of Meistersinger" Programs

Three lectures were presented in connection with the Met's performance of *Die Meistersinger!*

- Ⓜ **Iain Scott**, renowned Canadian Wagner expert, spoke on *Baptism of the Morning Dream: The Quintet from Die Meistersinger* on a return engagement with WSWDC audiences. (October 18)
- Ⓜ **Maestro Saul Lilienstein**, a highly prized favorite of Washington area opera lovers, spoke on *Die Meistersinger in Historical Perspective* (November 15)
- Ⓜ **Phillip W. Raines**, WSWDC Board Member and respected author of *Personal Musik Critiques*, spoke on *The Human Dramatic Elements and Events in Die Meistersinger* (December 6)

Excursion to the Metropolitan Opera December 8 Performance of *Die Meistersinger*

Thirty WSWDC Members traveled to New York City -- 12 of them in a passenger van driven by *Webmeisterin* Nancy O'Hara! -- for the matinee performance and dinner afterwards with their fellow Members. Thanks to Nancy for the driving the van and WSWDC Director R.G. Head who served as "tour director" on the road. Thanks also to Member Carol Berger who arranged the dinner reservations. The ambitious excursion was an enormous success!

Upcoming Spring 2002 Season Programs at George Washington University, Funger Hall

- Ⓜ Dr. Elise Kirk January 17 "Wagnerism & the American Muse"
- Ⓜ Prof. Donald Crosby February 14 "Wagner in Historical Context"
- Ⓜ Carol Berger March 14 "Dialectics within *Die Meistersinger*: Nativity as Redemption"

Other programs of the Spring 2002 season: (April) The Fourth Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert at the German Embassy; (May) program to be announced; (June) *Wagner in der Wildnis*, a week-end study retreat devoted to *Die Walküre*; (June) Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony

***Parsifal* at the Chicago Lyric Thursday, February 21, 2002. Tickets: Call 301.907.2600**

Our Autumn 2002 program season begins in September with **An Evening with Evelyn Lear**, a program originally scheduled for October 2002, but postponed due to the presidential address to the joint session of Congress after the events of September 11.

Watch your mail box and the website for further information! Call 301.907.2600 if you have questions.



RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Check appropriate boxes- Renewal New Member 2002 2003 Two-year member 2002-2003

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Name (dual membership) _____ Business phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Annual Membership Categories:

- \$35 Regular
- \$45 Dual
- \$25 Senior Student/Non-Resident
- \$75 Patron
- \$150 Donor
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$_____ additional Contribution
- I wish to contribute anonymously

Credit Card (Check One) Visa or MC Number _____ Exp Date. _____

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Number: 7718

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

I am interested in tickets for Bayreuth 2002.

Book Premiums for New and Renewal Members

NOTE: Patrons and Donors are entitled to one book in categories listed below.

Sponsors are entitled to two books from the Patron and Donor categories.

Patron \$75 (check one box)

- Spencer Stewart, *Wagner Remembered*
- Fr. M. Owen Lee, *Wagner, the Terrible Man and His Truthful Art*
- 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: A Listener's Companion and Concordance*
- Frederic Spotts, *Bayreuth, A History of the Wagner Festival*

Sponsor \$250 (or more): check two boxes, above.

- Please check, if you wish to decline premiums.



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Special thanks to all Members and contributors! The Board of Directors is grateful to all dues-paying members, particularly those who joined at the Patron, Donor and Sponsor membership levels. **We enjoin all Members to recruit new members!**

To add your name to our mailing list: email to our website; call 301.907.2600 or fax 301.907.8671

Visit our website: www.wagner-dc.org for detailed information about WSWDC past and future programs and Wagner activities around the world. See also official WSWDC merchandise: T-shirt; latte cup and button!

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Fr. M. Owen Lee Receives Wagner Society Award



The award was presented to Fr. Lee in connection with a lecture by Canadian Wagner expert Iain Scott. (left to right) Maestro Saul Liffenstein; WSWDC Directors John Pohanka and Betty Byrne; Chairman Jim Holman; President Aury Fernandez; Fr. M. Owen Lee; Barbara Scott; Iain Scott; and WSWDC Director Phil Raines. (October 15, 2001)

WSWDC at Seattle Ring 2001



As a service to Members, WSWDC notified them in February 2000 -- well in advance of this hot ticket event! -- of the possibilities for tickets, transportation and lodgings in Seattle arranged through Kugler Tours, a private travel agency. In preparation for the performances, WSWDC hosted Members and friends in July 2001 to a briefing in Washington; they were hosted again in November 2001 for a lively "deconstruction" discussion in praise of the historical performances they attended in August 2001.

WSWDC Bayreuth Class of 2001



For the second consecutive year, WSWDC was honored to receive a ticket allotment. Among the twenty-six Members of the WSWDC Bayreuth Class of 2001: (left to right): John Trumpbour; Janet C. Meyer; Kelley Keenan Trumpbour; Brian Lees; Diana Holman; Paul Kearney; Maureen Polshy; Helga Torberg; Jim Holman; (back row) Al Boyd with Joe Abell and Michael Laurer. (August 2001)

WSWDC at the Met *Die Meistersinger*



Thirty Members attended the December 8, 2001 performance at the Met, among them (left to right) Janet Fernandez; Nancy O'Hara; Virginia Abdo; Sonja Bivrell; Colin Dunham; Judith Agard; Professor Donald Crosby and Bonnie Crosby seen here at the famous Lincoln Center Plaza fountain and Christmas tree.