



Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

August 2001

Vol. 3 No 1

Third Anniversary Issue

Chairman's Greetings:

To our wonderful Members and to future members! I am delighted to report that your society reached spectacular heights during the 2000-2001 season! Who can forget that magical night in November when 100 of us thrilled to the Washington Opera's *Parsifal* and then joined Plácido Domingo and the rest of the cast for dinner? Or the concert in May at the German Embassy when Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart presented us with five wonderful emerging singers? Or our successful gala benefit at the Evermay mansion in Georgetown on a beautiful spring evening? Your Society is sending more than 20 Members to Bayreuth again this season. And more than 30 of us spent a retreat weekend in the "wilderness" of the West Virginia countryside in June engaged in the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art. Our monthly lectures and the annual Banquet were the best ever!

But enough about the past; the 2001-2002 season is shaping up as "The Year of *Meistersinger*." We will have many excellent programs on that opera. And we will make a group excursion to New York in December to hear James Morris take on Hans Sachs at the Met. We do all these things to bring Wagner's art to as many people as possible in the Washington area. We give heartfelt thanks to all the speakers and others who contributed to our programs during the 2000-2001 season. We hope you'll sign up once again and that you'll bring along new friends to our many events. On behalf of the Board of Directors, let me say how very grateful we are to all our Members, guests and friends for their support.

J.K. Holman, Chairman

Plácido Domingo Accepts Third Annual Award

The annual Banquet on June 23, 2001 provided a festive occasion to announce that Plácido Domingo had accepted the Third Annual Award. A video tape recording of the presentation to Domingo made in April by Chairman J.K. Holman and President Aurelius Fernandez was screened for enthusiastic Members and guests. In his remarks, Domingo praised the achievements of the Society, mentioning the "Year of *Parsifal*" activities. He said that he recalled with pleasure the participation of Members at the *Parsifal* opening night performance and dinner party and that he admired and welcomed the continuing support of the Society.

The annual award is presented to distinguished persons who have made extraordinary contributions to the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art. Present at the Banquet were previous winners Martin Feinstein and Thomas Stewart and their spouses Marcia Feinstein and Evelyn Lear. Messrs. Feinstein and Stewart graciously accepted newly created award medallions.

The banquet marked the final event of the 2000-2001 winter and spring season. Watch our web site (www.wagner-dc.org) and your mail for details of the 2001-2002 programming season beginning on September 20, 2001 with an "Evening with Evelyn Lear."



Plácido Domingo accepts the Third Annual Award presented by Chairman J.K. Holman and President Aurelius Fernandez (holding the "Siegfried sword!")

Table of Contents	
Programs	2
Lecture Series	3
Events	4
WSWDC News	6
Contributors	7
Membership Application	8

Programs of the Past Season 2000-2001 - "Year of Parsifal"

- Ⓜ Members attend Third Cycle at Bayreuth August 2000. (feature story in this issue)
- Ⓜ Lou Santacroce "*Parsifal: A Christian View*" (September 28, 2000)
- Ⓜ Phillip Raines "*Parsifal: A Visual Journey*" (October 5, 2000)
- Ⓜ Jonathan Lewsey "*Parsifal Insights*" (October 26, 2000).
- Ⓜ Saul Lilienstein "*Parsifal Inside-Out*" Washington Opera lectures with WSWDC participation. (October 13, 20 and 27, 2000)
- Ⓜ The Washington Opera *Parsifal* gala opening night performance and cast dinner party with Members and guests including some from fellow Wagner Societies in New York, Chicago and Dallas. (November 4, 2000)
- Ⓜ *Parsifal* back stage scenery tour organized for WSWDC at The Washington Opera. (November 6, 2000)
- Ⓜ Penelope Turing "*The New Bayreuth*" with stress on *Parsifal*. (November 15, 2000)
- Ⓜ Frank Ruppert "*Schubert and Wagner: A Better Mystery of Life*" (December 6, 2000)
- Ⓜ J.K. Holman "*The Power of Two*" (January 25, 2001)
- Ⓜ Gala Benefit at the Evermay mansion in Georgetown to fund the Emerging Singers Program and other WSWDC activities. (April 25, 2001)
- Ⓜ Saul Lilienstein "*Uncommon Resonance: Discovering Wagner's Long Reach into Unexpected Places and Amongst Musicians and Writers Far from German Lands*" (April 26, 2001)
- Ⓜ Thomas Stewart and Evelyn Lear Emerging Singers Concert at the German Embassy. (May 2, 2001)
- Ⓜ Paul Fryer "*Wagner and Film*" (May 24, 2001)
- Ⓜ "*Wagner in der Wildnis*": week-end retreat in the West Virginia hills; lectures by Simon Williams and reading of stage play version of *Das Rheingold*. (June 8-10, 2001).
- Ⓜ The Third Annual Banquet and Award (June 23, 2001). (Final program of 2000-2001 season.)
- Ⓜ Special group briefings for Members going to Bayreuth and Seattle. (June and July)

Programs for the Forthcoming 2001-2002 Season - "Year of Meistersinger"

- September 20, 2001: (Thursday) **An Evening with Evelyn Lear**. Ms. Lear will share with Members and guests her experience as a leading opera soprano and teacher. She is especially treasured by WSWDC for her work on the Emerging Singers Program with her husband Thomas Stewart.
- October 18, 2001: (Thursday) **Iain Scott on Die Meistersinger**. Mr. Scott, a noted Wagner expert from Toronto, is well known to WSWDC program audiences from his outstanding lecture on *Tannhäuser* in February 2000
- October 19, 2001: (Friday) **Third Annual Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert** (German Embassy). This annual WSWDC concert, which was presented in May at the German Embassy during the past three program seasons, has been moved to the fall.
- November 15, 2001: (Thursday) **Saul Lilienstein on Die Meistersinger**. Maestro Lilienstein, a favorite of WSWDC and Washington area audiences, will present an entirely new lecture created for this program.
- December 6, 2001: (Thursday). WSWDC Director **Phil Raines** will present *Die Meistersinger* video and musical excerpts.
- December 8, 2001: (Saturday) **Excursion to Metropolitan Opera Die Meistersinger** performance. For details regarding ticket purchase for members and travel arrangements – bus travel to New York City and return– consult www.wagner-dc.org or Bill Kugler at 301.652.0132.
- January 2002: **Dr. Elise Kirk author of American Opera** and WSWDC Member, will present her first formal lecture to WSWDC audiences.
- February–June 2002: Programs to be announced

Ⓜ

Monthly Lectures with Distinguished Speakers Attract Lively Audience Discussion

The 2000-2001 season included monthly lectures in Funger Hall at The George Washington University. These lectures attracted a loyal audience of Members and guests who shared their knowledge and curiosity about Wagner in the lively discussions skillfully led by the speakers, to whom WSWDC gives thanks.



Lou Santacroce

Lou Santacroce, host of NPR "At the Opera" lectured on "*Parsifal: A Christian View*" (September 28, 2001)



Saul Lilienstein

Above left— Saul Lilienstein, noted musicologist especially appreciated by Washington audiences titled his insightful presentation "*Uncommon Resonance: Discovering Wagner's Long Reach into Unexpected Places and Amongst Musicians and Writers Far from German Lands*"

Above right—Virginia Abdo of the Wagner Society of Dallas congratulates Saul Lilienstein on his stirring presentation to a capacity audience (April 26, 2001)



Heinz Fricke

Above left— An Evening with Maestro Heinz Fricke, The Washington Opera Music Director since 1993, a beloved figure on the Washington scene and internationally for his modesty about his musical accomplishments. In his talk he shared anecdotes with the lively audience his fascinating life of conducting over 300 different operas in more than 3,000 performances.

Above Right— Maestro Fricke (second from right in light coat) meets with WSWDC Members after his lecture. (from left to right) Mrs. Fricke, Tim Scanlon, Ann and Maurice Meneguzzi, Fricke and Janet Fernandez (March 22, 2001)

Jonathan Lewsey

Jonathan Lewsey, British author of *Who's Who and What's What in Wagner* presented his penetrating "*Parsifal Insights*" (October 26, 2000)



Penelope Turing

Penelope Turing, author, *The New Bayreuth* and distinguished expert on the past half century of the Festspielhaus made a return engagement to update WSWDC members and guests on Bayreuth with special stress on Parsifal. (November 16, 2000)



Walter Arnheim and WSWDC Members

Walter Arnheim, The Washington Opera Executive Director with WSWDC friends after J.K. Holman's lecture "*The Power of Two*" (from left to right) Arnheim, Laura Zuiderveen, Steve Zuiderveen, WSWDC Directors Betty Byrne and Tom Arthur (January 25, 2001)

Gala Benefit at Evermay Mansion (April 26, 2001)



Above: Baritone Jay Baylon and mezzo soprano Laura Zuiderveen with Thomas Stewart before the stirring song recital; Betty Bullock accompanied the singers

Upper Right: John Edward Niles, Evelyn Lear, Jim Holman and Thomas Stewart
 Right: Marcia Feinstein, wife of Martin Feinstein, former General Director, The Washington Opera in conversation with Dorothy Wexler, Senior Editor, The Washington Opera magazine.
 Far Right: Jim Holman bids on silent auction trip to Berlin.

The elegant Evermay mansion in Georgetown was the setting for the first-ever WSWDC Gala Benefit. With the generous support of Members and friends, the event yielded important funding for the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program. Members and friends donated items for silent auction prizes that produced active bidding throughout the evening. Among the silent auction items: a costume from The Washington Opera! The evening was one of camaraderie with a group of prominent opera lovers in a colorful event that will be long remembered.



Parsifal Opening Night Performance and Dinner Party (November 4, 2000)

The opening night performance of *Parsifal* and the black tie cast dinner party afterwards were thrilling experiences for WSWDC Members and their guests. Plácido Domingo was in the title role at both events. Yet another highlight of the evening was the WSWDC Hospitality Suite visited by more than 300 opening night ticket holders. In remarks at the dinner party, Plácido Domingo expressed appreciation for WSWDC support. Chairman Jim Holman stressed WSWDC's commitment to the Washington Opera and noted appreciation for the friendship and respect for Domingo as well as Music Director Hans Fricke, Executive Director Walter Arnheim and renowned bass baritone Thomas Stewart, all of whom have taken part in WSWDC programs.



Iain Scott, noted Canadian Wagnerian with Kit Gill, Vice President, New York Wagner Society and Malcolm Rowat, WSWDC Member in the Hospitality Suite



Dressed in finery purchased at the The Washington Opera Costume Studio: WSWDC Director Betty Byrne and Members Maureen Polsby and Helga Thorberg



A light intermission moment with Laura Zuiderveen and WSWDC Board Members.



Guardians of the Wagner Bust: WSWDC Director John Pohanka, Member Dr. Carol Hoover and WSWDC Director R.G. Head

The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Concert (May 2, 2001)



Amanda Mace

With the generous inspiration and guidance of Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart, this Program reached new heights with the May 2, 2001 Concert at the German Embassy. Five emerging singers were selected by Stewart and Lear, and WSWDC Director John Edward Niles to perform at the Concert. They were Paul Mow (tenor), Amanda Mace (soprano), Amy Fuller (soprano), Ray Karns (bass baritone) and Jay Hunter Morris (tenor). They sang Wagner favorites from *Die Walküre* and *Die Meistersinger* accompanied by Betty Bullock. The program is designed to provide emerging singers with support to develop their careers. This annual event will be presented next at the German Embassy on October 19, 2001.



Paul Mow

Bayreuth 2000 (August 2000): The Uniquely Short Wait for Tickets!

The legendary long waiting time for Bayreuth Festival tickets was generously shortened for WSWDC by Wolfgang and Gudrun Wagner with an allotment of tickets for Bayreuth 2000. As this issue of *Wagner on the Potomac* goes to press, over twenty Members headed by Chairman Jim Holman are preparing for travel to Bayreuth 2001.

WSWDC looks forward to continuing ticket allotments for its Members with gratitude to Bayreuth for its courtesy and support.



Members of the WSWDC Bayreuth Class of 2000 at the Third Cycle on the steps of the Festspielhaus. (left to right) first two rows: Aury Fernandez, Phil Rocblin, Ilse Niedermeyer, R.G. Head, Janice Rosen, Joan Jackson, Maureen Polsby, Janet Fernandez, Roberta Mackay and Helga Thorberg, back row: Bill Green, Dan Sherman, Barbara Karn, Betty Byrne, Tom Arthur, Yoko Arthur. Missing from picture: Donald and Bonnie Crosby; Carol Hoover, Elise Kirk, Janet Meyer, Bill Pastor, Phil and Kathy Raines and Adelaide Whitaker



Wolfgang Wagner with Ilse Niedermeyer and Bill Green

Wagner in der Wildnis - A week-end retreat (June 8 to 10, 2001)



Some cast members from *Das Rheingold* reading: (left to right) *Alberich* (Phil Raines); *Frob* (Aury Fernandez), *Flossbilde* (Barb Karn); *Loge* (R.G. Head); *Mime* (Janice Rosen); *Fricke* (Maureen Polsby) and *Wotan* (Simon Williams). (backrow) Stage Manager (Bill Green) *Donner* (Steve Zuiderveen) and "Conductor" (Bob Misbin)

The bucolic hills of West Virginia provided a relaxing setting for 30 Members at a week-end retreat for the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art. The focus was on *Das Rheingold*. Simon Williams delivered daily, insightful lectures. A Saturday night reading was presented of an original play script of *Das Rheingold* written by Member Maureen Polsby. This provided a challenging and rewarding experience for players dressed in amusingly improvised costumes. The week-end was spearheaded by WSWDC Treasurer Barb Karn and was inspired by an idea proposed by Members Ilse Niedermeyer and Bill Green. Next year: *Die Walküre*!



Simon Williams conducts a lecture
Missing from photos: *Erda* (Laura Zuiderveen); *Fafner* (Paul Kearny); *Fasolt* (Tim Scanlon); *Nibelung* (Eric Green)



Flossbilde (Barb Karn) getting a lock on *Alberich* (Phil Raines) in a way that enables both of them to read their scripts. In background *Wellgunde* (Helga Thorberg who also read *Freia*) and *Woglinde* (Kathy Raines)



The Gods weakening from the lack of Golden Apples. (left to right) *Loge*, *Fricke*, *Wotan*, *Donner* (on bended knee) and *Frob*

Third Annual Banquet and Award (June 23, 2001)

The Arts Club of Washington, DC provided a delightful setting for the announcement of the Third Annual Award presented to Plácido Domingo. A video of the award presentation by Chairman Jim Holman and President Aury Fernandez in April was screened for guests. The now well-established annual Banquet brought together 80 Members and guests for an enjoyable social evening marking the end of the 2000-2001 programming season and a chance to announce programs for the 2001-2002 season. Guests this year included the First Annual (1999) Award winner Martin Feinstein and his wife Marcia, Second Annual (2000) Award winner Thomas Stewart and his wife Evelyn Lear; former Senator and Mrs. Larry Pressler and numerous active participants in the monthly lectures and other activities during the year.



Clockwise from left—Guests enjoy the Arts Club patio for drinks before dinner. First Annual (1999) Award Winner Martin Feinstein accepts a newly minted medallion from Chairman Jim Holman. Joan and Bill Kugler at the WSWDC merchandise table.

W Steady Growth of Programs and Memberships

With this issue of *Wagner on the Potomac* we begin our fourth year of activities with over 300 members. Membership continues to be based on the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Our monthly lecture programs and other activities reported in this Newsletter contribute to the purpose of WSWDC: the study and enjoyment of Wagner's art.

W WSWDC "Roots"

Did you know that a Wagner Society was created in Washington, DC in 1884, the year after Wagner's death. The organization sponsored a concert in 1885 at which no Wagner music was performed. The purpose of the organization was "to introduce Chamber Music" in Washington, DC. Dues for active members were \$3! (We are grateful to Larry Lueck, President, The Wagner Society of Hawaii for sending us the documentation revealing this history.)

W Video Library Loan Project with Martin Luther King Memorial (MLK) Library

Five videos of Wagner operas were donated to this major Washington, DC circulating library. For a list and more information, please see www.wagner-dc.org. The program has been developed by WSWDC Founder Janice Rosen who is on the staff at the MLK Memorial Library.

W Growing Contacts with other Wagner Societies in the U.S.

Contacts with the fellow Wagner societies in the U.S. continue to expand with New York (WSNY) through President Nathalie Wagner and Vice President Kit Gill; with Dallas through Virginia Abdo; with Chicago through Bill Smith; with Honolulu through Larry Lueck as well with friends in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Members of those societies were invited to purchase WSWDC tickets for The Washington Opera's *Parsifal* (November 2000) and participated in the *Wagner in der Wildnis* week-end retreat (June 8-10, 2001). Through arrangements made with WSNY, Members of WSWDC may purchase books, videos and other Wagneriana at WSNY Member prices. (Congratulations to WSNY on its 25th Anniversary!)

W *International Association of Wagner Societies*
WSWDC is affiliated as of the past year with the Association, which is based in Freiburg, Germany. The Association counts more than 125 Wagner Societies with 30,000 members around the world dedicated to Wagner's musical legacy.

W *The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)*
CFC of the National Capital Area, Washington, DC has assigned number 7718 to WSWDC, which will be listed under "Local Agencies" in the CFC brochure. This makes it possible for federal employees to contribute to WSWDC through the CFC.

W *Visit Our Website: www.wagner-dc.org*
Keep abreast of our activities on our web site, which is linked to major Wagner web sites around the world. The web site also serves as the WSWDC historical archive, including replicas of our First and Second Anniversary Newsletters. Membership applications have been filed on line in increasing numbers. Your comments and suggestions to develop the web site are welcomed by Editor Aury Fernandez, Webmeisterin Nancy O'Hara and Cyberguru Barb Karn.

W Special Thanks

WSWDC is grateful to the Embassy of Germany for providing the venue for the annual concert, The George Washington University for the use of Fungler Hall for monthly lecture programs and to the Evermay mansion for the venue for the Gala Benefit. Special thanks also to Michelle Krisel, Assistant to Plácido Domingo for her assistance with the third annual award. And to Member Janet C. Meyer who assisted generously during the past year with financial and legal affairs.

W Merchandise

The WSWDC has official T-shirts and latté cups for sale (but not the horns in this picture!). Says Treasurer Barb Karn: "Use your tax rebate wisely; join WSWDC and buy merchandise!" You can shop online at www.wagner-dc.org.



Book Premiums for New and Renewal Members for Years 2001 and 2002

See Membership Application and Renewal Form on reverse side of this page

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.

WSWDC Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Members in the following categories:

Sponsors (\$250 and above)

Walter & Marsha Arnheim
Thomas & Yoko Arthur
Philip Clarke Baten
Betty Byrne
Carolyn Duignan & Milan Valuch
Colin Dunham & Dorothy Scott
Aurelius & Janet Fernandez
William H. Greene
Harry Gutman
Jim and Diana Holman
Christine and William Hunter, Jr
Barbara Karn
William R. McConnell
& Nancy Tighe
Janet C. Meyer
Allen & Myra Mondzac
Ilse Niedermayer
Bill Pastor & Cathy Vohs
John J. Pohanka
Phillip & Kathryn Raines
Janice Rosen
Guillermo Schultz
Maika Siebeck
Dan Sherman

Donors (\$150)

Kenneth Carter
Jere & Jaqueline Daum
Martin & Marcia Feinstein
Herbert A. Fogel
Rene Morgan
M. Maureen Polsby
Helga Thorberg
William Tell, Jr.

Patrons (\$75)

Jim Allison
William Allman
Laird Anderson & Florence Ashby
Marribel Ayers
Henry & Cynthia Bardach
Richard Bleiberg
Sheila Bloom
Alfred C. Boyd, Jr.
Thomas C. Brennan
Elizabeth & Warren Clark
Anne-Marie Crawford
Karon Cullen
Larry Ellis

Keith & Catharine Fretz
Barbara Gauntt
Benno Gerson
Elizabeth E. Graves
R. G. Head
Dorothy Holman
Mark R. & Anastasia Joelson
Kenneth B. Johnston
Paul R. & Nancy Ignatius
Francis Kazista
Jean-Blaise Kikudi
Elise Kirk
Bill & Joan Kugler
Jean D. & J.H. Lauderdale
Michael Lauver
Marc & Jacqueline Leland
Claire M. Lent
Laurence B. and Kiyomi Lueck
Eliot & Blaine Marshall
Stephen G. McKenna
Maurice & Ann Meneguzzi
Robert I. Misbin
Louise Austin Remmey
Jeff Roames & Myra Feldman
John S. Rodgers

Malcolm Rowat
Philip E. Ruppe
Frank Ruppert
Barbara Severin
Richard L. & Marie S. Sippel
Allan Starkey
Fernando & Stephanie Van
Reigersberg
William H. Taft, IV
James & Elinor Vaughter
Kenneth & Dottie Woodcock
William Zeile & Maria Yang

Other generous contributors

Mario & Deborah Boiardi
Susan Schulte Braddock
Jean Wallace Douglass
Howard & Jordan Lynd
Gerald Perman
E.S. Porter
Vito & Patricia Spitaleri

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
Treasurer: Barbara Parish Karn
Legal Affairs: Hank Gutman
Thomas L. Arthur
Betty Byrne

Bill Kugler
R.G. Head
Eliot Marshall
John Edward Niles
John J. Pohanka
Phillip W. Raines

Founder: Janice F. Rosen **Webmeisterin:** Nancy O'Hara

Membership is on a calendar year basis – January 1 to December 31.

Still time to join for Year 2001. Build your membership track record to receive benefits!

Members are welcomed to renew their membership for year 2002 on this form.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Check appropriate boxes- Renewal New Member 2001 2002 Two-year member 2001-2002

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ additional Contribution | | <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to contribute anonymously |

See page 7 (reverse side of this page) for Patron, Donor and Sponsor book premiums!

Check the box indicating the book(s) you wish to add to your library or give as a gift.

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.

Make checks payable to:

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

The Wagner Society of Washington, DC
PO Box 33051
Washington, DC 20033

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