



Wagner on the Potomac

The Wagner Society of Washington DC

August, 2011

Vol. 13

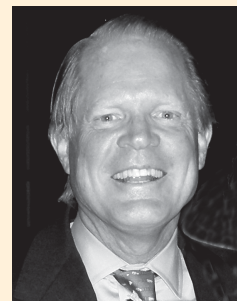
Chairman's Greeting:

We made it to the Kennedy Center! Our beloved Evelyn Lear along with selected artists of the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers program were the soloists with the Washington Chorus in a well received Mostly Mahler concert. We co-sponsored an all day seminar with the Smithsonian Institution, and an all day seminar at the Goethe Institut with Maestro Saul Lilienstein.

This coming May 20 our Emerging Singers will again perform with the Washington Chorus in an All Wagner concert. The *Wagner in der Wildnis* annual weekend retreat is moving to Virginia June 8-10, and on May 22 we are planning a gala banquet, kicking off the upcoming Wagner bicentennial year honoring Wagner's birth.

We thank you, our Members, who make our work possible. As we open our 2012 season, we hope you will join our Society, or renew your membership at a higher level. Help us support great American singers and continue our educational presentations of distinction. Welcome to our upcoming season!

J.K. Holman, Chairman



Upcoming Programs

September 24, 6:00 pm
LisztOmania and Wagner TOO
Pianist **Jeffrey Swann**
at the Spectrum Theater
Rosslyn, VA



October 13
The Revolutions of 1848
Prof. Andrew Zimmerman
Professor of History,
The George Washington
University

November 17
Wagner and Mark Twain
Philip Kennicott
Culture Critic, Washington Post
Author, *Ring Ideal*, *Opera News*,
September 2010



Upcoming 2012
Alex Ross
Music Critic,
The New Yorker Magazine
Author, *The Rest is Noise:*
Listening to the Twentieth Century

CONTENTS

Chairman's Welcome, Season Preview.....	1
Review of The 2010-2011 Season.....	2
The Emerging Singers Program	3
Emerging Singer Updates.....	3-4
Study and Enjoyment of Wagner's Art.....	5
Our Premium Members	6
Membership Application Form	7
Board of Directors; Upcoming Programs.....	8



The Wagner Society of Washington, DC
PO Box 58213
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (703) 370.1923 • Fax: (703) 370.1924
www.wagner-dc.org

The 2010-2011 Season by Bonnie Becker

Goethe, Wagner and the Evolution of Kultur, a Symposium. Presenters were **Maestro Saul Lilienstein**, **Prof. Donald Crosby**, **Prof. Bryan Gilliam** and **Prof. Peter Beicken**. In an evening concert pianist **Jeffrey Swann** performed selections related to the symposium. September 24, German Embassy.

Prof. Nicholas Vazsonyi, University of South Carolina: *Richard Wagner—Self-Promotion and the Making of a Brand*. October 14, GWU.

22nd Thomas Stewart and Evelyn Lear Emerging Singers Concert. October 28, The German Embassy.

Iain Scott, Canadian author and Wagner authority: *Notung Doing? What Happened on Siegfried & Brünnhilde's Second Night Together?* November 15, GWU.

Prof. Daniel Freeman, pianist and musicologist, University of Minnesota, with ESP alumni soprano **Jennifer Wilson** and tenor **Daniel Snyder**: *Bringing Wagner's Vision to Life*, an all day seminar co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. November 20, Ripley Hall.

Launching of **The Wagner Connection**, an online forum hosted by the Society to promote discussion of Wagner's art, life and influence. December 12. (see page 5)

Prof. James West, Middlebury College: *Russian Opera in the Shadow of Wagner*. December 9, GWU.

Prof. Bryan Gilliam, Duke University: *Richard Strauss: Out of Wagner's Shadow*. February 2, GWU.

Die Walküre cast party for the **Virginia Opera** soloists and artistic staff. February 27, at George Mason University Center for the Performing Arts.

Maestro Saul Lilienstein, *Re-discovering Richard Wagner through His Music*, co-sponsored with the **Goethe-Institut**. March 19.

An **Evelyn Lear** Master Class for *Mostly Mahler* soloists sopranos **Othalie Graham** and **Colleen Daly**, and baritone-bass **Pawel Izbedski**. April 28, at Ms. Lear's residence.

ESP 23--Mostly Mahler, a concert with **The Washington Chorus** featuring soloists from the Thomas Stewart and Evelyn Lear Emerging Singers Program. May 1, Kennedy Center Concert Hall.

Wagner in der Wildnis—Das Rheingold, with concert pianist **Jeffrey Swann** and **Prof. Simon Williams**, UC-Santa Barbara. June 3-5, Cacapon State Park, WV. (see page 5)

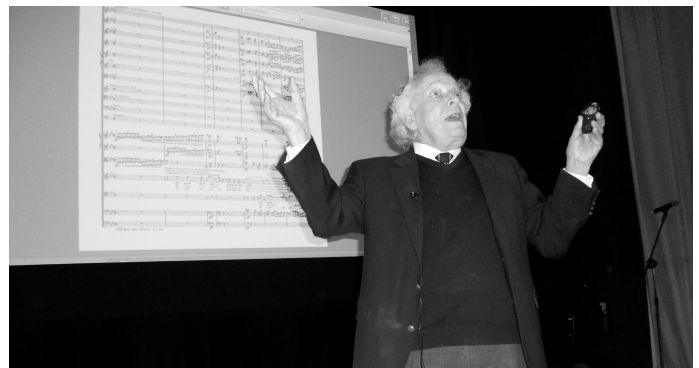
Jim Holman, Chairman of the WSWDC, made presentations to Charlottesville's Ash Lawn Opera and the Santa Fe Opera Guild.



Iain Scott spoke on "Notung Doing..." on November 15.



Daniel Freeman lectured at the Smithsonian Institution in a program jointly sponsored with the Society on November 20.



Maestro Lilienstein lecturing at the symposium at the Goethe-Institut on Re-discovering Richard Wagner through His Music on March 19.



Chairman Jim Holman introducing a speaker at Fonger Hall program.

The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program (ESP)

Mostly Mahler, in cooperation with **The Washington Chorus** under the direction of **Maestro Julian Wachner** at the Kennedy Center. WSWDC and the Thomas Stewart and Evelyn Lear Emerging Singers Program provided the soloists for the **Washington Chorus'** 50th Anniversary **Mostly Mahler** concert. Selections were from Mahler's 8th and 3rd, the second *Resurrection* finale, *Das Klagende Lied*,



Maestro Julian Wachner at the Mostly Mahler concert with mezzo Jennifer Roderer (left) and soprano Othalie Graham (right).

and *Ruckert-Lieder*. A highlight was **Evelyn Lear** performing the narration for von Weber's *Die Drei Pintos*.

In this, the *23rd ESP concert*, soloists included sopranos **Colleen Daly**, **Karen Foster** and **Othalie Graham**, mezzo-sopranos **Shannon Magee** and **Jennifer Roderer**, tenor **Stefan Algieri**, baritones **Bryan Jackson** and **Jose Sacin**, and bass-baritones **Nathan Bahny** and **Pawel Izbedski**. **Roderer** (2002, 04-07), **Bahny** (2002), and **Izbedski** (2005) are ESP alumni.

Washington Post music critic **Joe Banno** wrote that the concert "drew a massive sound from the soloists, most notably soprano **Othalie Graham**, tenor **Stefan Algieri**, and bass **Pawel Izbedski**, whose voices seared through the orchestra.... An abridged Act 3 from Mahler's orchestration of *Die Drei Pintos*, (narrated by **Evelyn Lear** and featuring more lyrical voices, including **Colleen Daly**, baritone **Jose Sacin**, and **Bryan Jackson**), was treated with a Straussian lightness of touch." (May 3)

The Emerging Singers Program Concert 22

Sopranos **Jennifer Wilson**, **Sarah Lynn Sippl**, **Krista McClellan**, mezzo **Erin Murphy**, and bass **Pawel Izbedski** accompanied by pianist **Betty Bullock**, sang selections from *Die Walküre*, *Lohengrin*, *Das Rheingold*, and *Fliegende Holländer*. October 28, German Embassy.

Emerging Singers Program Updates

Jennifer Wilson, soprano (ESP 2001, 04) this past year sang *Aida* at Opera Australia, *Isolde* at Barcelona's Gran Opera, and *Gutrune* at the Los Angeles *Ring*. Upcoming engagements include *Isolde* with the Leipzig opera, the Hong Kong Festival, ABAO Bilbao, *Lenore* in Valencia's *Fidelio*, *Brünnhilde* for Deutsche Oper, the role of *Turandot* at Bayerische Staatsoper, and *Senta* at Vienna Staatsoper and Tokyo's National Theater.

Rebecca Teem, soprano (2005, 07) has just completed a contract with Oper Lübeck, where she sang *Brünnhilde* in the 2008-10 *Ring*. This summer she is singing the role of *Turandot* at Staatstheater Braunschweig. In September she will sing *Gerhilde* in Deutsche Oper's *Die Walküre*. Other upcoming engagements include *Mutter* in Deutsch Oper's *Hänsel und Gretel*, the role of *Turandot* at Theater Lübeck, and Prokofiev's *L'Amour des Trois Oranges* at Deutsch Oper.

Jason Stearns, baritone (2005-07) recently sang *Barnaba* in *La Gioconda* at the Met, *Kurwenal* for the Chicago Lyric Opera's *Tristan*, the role of the Dutchman at the Savonlinna Festival, *Biterolf* in Los Angeles' *Tannhäuser*, the role of *Macbeth* at Belo Horizonte, Brazil, the role of *Monterone* at Ravinia's *Rigoletto*, and *Jack Rance* in Den Norske's (Oslo) *Girl of the Golden West*.

Daniel Snyder, tenor (2009) this past summer sang the role of *Cavaradossi* in *Tosca* at College of New Jersey's Boheme Opera, *Manrico* in Astoria (OR) Festival's *Il Traviatore*, and *Don Jose* in Portland (OR) Festival's *Carmen*. Other engagements included the role of *Dexter* in Christopher Theophanidis' new opera *Heart of a Soldier*, San Francisco Opera, and the New Dominion Chorale (VA) *Summer Sings*. This fall he is singing *Pinkerton* in the Mississippi Opera's *Madame Butterfly*, and the role of *Tom Buchanan* in Ensemble Parallele's (Yerba Buena, CA) *The Great Gatsby*.

The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers (ESP) Program

Carolyn Whisnant (2003) this past year sang Brünnhilde in Essen's *Götterdämmerung* and Karlsruhe's *Ring*, the role of Elektra at the Polish National Opera, the role of Turandot in Mannheim, and is scheduled to sing the role of Regan at Oper Frankfurt's *Lear*.

Othalie Graham (2008-9) sang the role of Turandot at Pensacola Opera, and will sing Minnie in Nashville Opera's *Girl of the Golden West*.

Jennifer Roderer (2002, '04, '06-'07) sang the Witch in the Utah Opera's *Hansel and Gretel*, and the role of Muriel in Sierra's *Faustine* at City Opera

Brian Register (2007-8) recently sang selections from the roles of Siegmund and Walther for Opera Roanoke and Opera Birmingham, and Verdi's *Requiem* with the Buffalo Philharmonic.

Ben Gelfand (2009) sang The Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, and Pirro in *I Lombardi* at the Sarasota Opera.

Michael Hayes (2003, 2007) sang the role of Roscoe in the Kennedy Center's recent production of Sondheim's *Follies*, which will be on Broadway this fall. In 2011 he sang selections from the roles of Siegfried and Siegmund for the Toledo Opera's Gala, and Bacchus in Toledo's *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Ryan Kinsella (2007-8) sang the role of Matthew in a recording of Pasatieri's *La Divina*, and was the soloist for Arizona State University's Belshazzar Music Festival.

Karen Foster (2009) was a Liederkrantz Foundation winner in 2010 and will sing the role of Isolde at Den Norde (Oslo) in 2012.

Jerett Geisler (2008) sang the *Barber of Seville*, Grand Rapids Opera, and *La Boheme* for Stockton CA opera.

The Study and Enjoyment Of Wagner's Art

The Wagner Connection (www.wagner-dc.org)

On December 12 the Society launched **The Wagner Connection**, an online forum for members and friends to discuss Wagner's life, art and influence. Members and friends are encouraged to recommend books and recordings, sell tickets to events or offer exchanges, and/or sell collectibles, including CDs, books, tickets, and memorabilia. The Wagner Connection is open to the public, and members are especially encouraged to post. Just register on the WSWDC web site, www.wagner-dc.com.

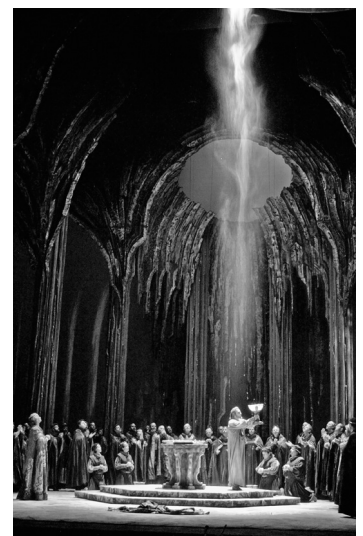
Thomas Stewart in a collector's *Die Walküre* recording made in 1968. In May 2011, Sony Classical released **Stewart's** live Metropolitan Opera performance of Wotan in *Die Walküre* recorded February 28, 1968. The cast includes Jon Vickers, Leonie Rysanek, Birgit Nilsson, and Christa Ludwig. The performance was highly praised in the *New York Times*. In *Opera News* (August 2011), William Braun wrote: "Even in such a top level cast, Stewart's Wotan



is something special. Those of us who came of age after this era have never heard such a magisterial performance."

John Pohanka's, Wagner the Mystic (WSWDC, Washington, 2011)

The Society continues to distribute founding member **John Pohanka's** book *Wagner the Mystic*, available on wagner-dc.org through WSWDC. The book was reviewed in *Opera America* (Summer 2011) where Alexa B. Antopol noted that the book helps "readers appreciate and understand the kinship between religious mysticism and the transformative experience of listening to Wagner's music."



The Study and Enjoyment Of Wagner's Art

BAYREUTH 2010

For 11 consecutive years, through our good relations with the Bayreuth Festival, the Society was again able to make tickets available to our members.

Attending in 2010:

Elton Dixon, Erwin Drucker, Edgar Edelsack and Charlotte Nusberg, Lee Elman, Robin Elwood, Victoria and Erwin Gaar, Peter Heller, Ann Hoopes and Jack Magan, Christian Hoskins, Reinhard and Elsie Ilgner, Etusuro Motoyama and Linda Nardone, Vincent and Helen Sheehy, Richard Sippel, Richard and Cathy Soderquist, Greg Vitercik, and James West.



Bayreuth Festspielhaus



Wildnis 2011 participants took a moment to celebrate the 80th birthday of President Emeritus Aury Fernandez, in photo with his wife Janet.

WAGNER IN DER WILDNIS -- DAS RHEINGOLD

The 11th annual *Wildnis* retreat returned to the study of the *Ring* for a weekend devoted to *Das Rheingold*. The lectures were presented by the *Wildnis* "dream team" of pianist **Jeffrey Swann** and **Prof. Simon Williams**, Chairman of Theater and Dance at UC/Santa Barbara. They led seven lecture presentations and discussions, using musical illustrations, many played live by Maestro Swann. Cacapon State Park, WV, June 3-5.



More than 75 participants took part in the 11th annual Wildnis weekend.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Wagner in der Wildnis XI (2011)

Friday June 3

Moderator Lynne Lambert

Welcome Aury Fernandez

Session 1—Simon Williams—An Introduction to the *Ring*: Its Place in Wagner's Life

Session 2—Jeffrey Swann—The Music of the *Ring*: What Does It Do and How Does It Work?

Saturday June 4

Session 3—Simon Williams—*Das Rheingold*: The Satyr Play of the *Ring*

Session 4—Jeffrey Swann—Leitmotives in the *Ring*: What Are They and How Do They Work?

Session 5—Simon Williams—*Das Rheingold*: Issues of Staging (Evening: Screening of *Das Rheingold* DVD, discussion)

Sunday June 5

Session 6—Simon Williams—*Das Rheingold*: Alberich's Curse

Session 7—Jeffrey Swann and Simon Williams—Closing Comments and Discussion

Wildnis 2011 coordinators Lynne Lambert and Jackie Rosen.
Wildnis 2012 at Graves Mountain Lodge, Blue Ridge Mts., VA!
For an audio recording of the seven sessions (10 CDs) visit www.wagner-dc.org.

The Wildnis "Dream Team," Jeffrey Swann (left) and Simon Williams (right), led seven separate sessions during the weekend devoted to Das Rheingold.



Mark Your Calendars

-May 20, 2012 - All Wagner Concert with ESP-24 soloists and the Washington Chorus, Kennedy Center

-May 22, 2012 - Gala & Banquet kicking off the Year of the Wagner Bicentennial 2013

Premium Members and Contributors 2010-11

The Society is grateful to our 500 members for their support, and particularly those who contribute at the Premium levels: Patrons, Donors, Sponsors, Golden Ring, Pilgrim's Chorus, and Meistersinger's Guild. Since membership dues only cover about 25 percent of our budget, we rely on our Premium Members to cover extra costs incurred, for example, with the Emerging Singers Program singers' auditions and training as well as performances for the Washington Chorus program. We thank our Premium members and encourage others to participate at a Premium level.

Meistersingers Guild

Mark & Annette Golden
Frederic Harwood

J.K. & Diana Holman
Lynne Lambert

John & Lynn Pohanka
Guillermo & Cecilia Schultz

Golden Ring

Betty Byrne
Erwin B. Drucker
Kenneth R. Feinberg

Aurelius & Janet Fernandez
Eliot & Blaine Marshall
Robert I. Misbin & Audrey Pendergast
John Edward Niles

Maika Siebeck
Richard & Cathy Soderquist
Thomas & Diane Stanley
Jack Sulser

Sponsors, Donors and Patrons

Sponsors

Donald Crosby and Bonnie Becker
Robin & Katherine Elwood
Kathleen & Richard Fuller
Cragg Hines
Margaret C. Jones
Ilse Niedermayer
Bill & Cathy Pastor
David Ryan
Richard & Marie Sippel
Barbara Teichert
William Zeile and Maria Yang

Ruth Mitchell
Nancy O'Hara
Vincent & Helen Sheehy
Dan Sherman

Patrons

Peter R. Agnew
Donald R. Allen
Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns
Jean Arnold
Philip Baten
Robin A. Berrington
Julienne Bramesco
Jennifer Choate Woods
Victoria Cordova
Jamison & Robert H. Craft Jr.
William Crocker
C. Mark Davenport, Jr.
Donald Dittberner and Roswitha Augusta
John E. Dixon
Joy Dunkerley
Lee M. Elman
Ann Fenton
Michael Foden

Edwin Gaar
Benno Gerson
John & Rita Grunwald
Joan H. Jackson
Kenneth B. Johnston
S. Jason Kapnick
Dr. Barbara Karn
Alexandra Kauka
Dr. Elise K. Kirk
Patricia Kirkham
Stephen Kitchen
Jan & Elizabeth Lodol
Richard Melanson
Louis Pangaro
Francis Pierce
Philip & Susan Pulaski
James & Henrietta Randolph
Jonathan Reel and Michael Timinski
Kinga Revesz
Jacqueline Rosen
Francois Roy
E. Michael Southwick
Younghee Kim Wait
Ralph & Katheryne West

Donors

Beatrice Bobotek
Thomas C. Brennan
Guillermo Calvo and Sara Guerschanik Calvo
James & Marta Evans
John A. Graham
J. Adams Holman
William Malone
William Martin and Maria L. Wagner
Marilyn Mautz
Roberta V. McKay

In Memoriam: Former Board Member Bill Kugler died in June. Members and friends extend heartfelt condolences to his widow Joan.



The Wagner Society of Washington DC

MEMBERSHIP 2012

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST TIME OR ONCE AGAIN!

Your Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31 regardless of the time of year you join. To become a Member, mail this form with your check or credit-card authorization to WSWDC, P.O. Box 58213, Washington DC 20037; fax it to 703.370.1924; or download the form and/or pay on our website www.wagner-dc.org

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL ☐ GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Dual member name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Office /Fax/cell _____

Email _____

(Reminder notices of events will be sent by e-mail)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (check only one category)

(NOTE: Membership dues are tax-deductible)

- ☐ Meistersinger Guild \$5000 and up ☐ Pilgrim's Chorus \$2500 to \$4999 ☐ Golden Ring \$1000 to \$2499 ☐ Sponsor \$500 to \$999
- ☐ Donor \$350 to \$499 ☐ Patron \$250 to \$349 ☐ Dual \$90 ☐ Individual Regular \$60 ☐ Individual Senior/Non-resident \$50
- ☐ Youth (age 28 and under) \$10 ☐ Employer Matching Grant Form Enclosed ☐ Additional Contribution \$ _____

MEMBER BENEFITS

-Invitation to all free lectures, subscription to the WSWDC Newsletter, notice of all events.

Meistersinger Guild, Golden Ring, Pilgrim's Chorus, Sponsors, Donors and Patrons category in addition get:

1. Priority for reserving for Bayreuth tickets and other ticketed Wagner Society Programs
2. Priority lodge accommodations at the Wildnis weekend
3. An invitation to a social event, rehearsal and/or master class
4. Set of 4 Commentaries on CD on Wagner's Ring by Saul Lilienstein *(please indicate if interested)* ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Amount to be Charged \$ _____

Signature _____

Please review legibility of numbers and letters you entered above

Board of Directors

J.K. Holman

Chairman

Directors

Betty Byrne

Mark J. Golden

Frederic Harwood

Lynne Lambert

Eliot Marshall

John Edward Niles

John J. Pohanka

Guillermo Schultz

Diane Stanley

Rodrigo Trevino

Jacqueline Rosen

Office Manager

Aurelius Fernandez

President Emeritus

Aurelius Fernandez

Frederic Harwood

Newsletter Editors:

Upcoming Programs

All lectures are free and open to the public!

Saturday, September 24 at 6 pm, *LisztOmania and Wagner TOO*, with **Pianist Jeffrey Swann** at the Spectrum Theater, Rosslyn, VA, followed by the presentation of the Wagner Award. (Tickets may be ordered on the website -- www.wagner-dc.org -- or by the order form sent to the WSWDC postal mail list.)

Thursday, September 15 Garden Party, an annual evening event for premium members.

Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 pm, *The Revolutions of 1848* with **Prof. Andrew Zimmerman**, Professor of History, The George Washington University.

Thursday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, *Wagner and Mark Twain* by **Philip Kennicott**, Culture Critic, Washington Post, and author of the article titled "Ring Ideal" in *Opera News*, September 2010.

Upcoming in 2012, Alex Ross, Music Critic, *The New Yorker*; and author of *The Wagner Identity*, August 15, 2011 issue

Sunday, May 20, 2012, performance of an **All Wagner Program** with the Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center including artists from the Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart Emerging Singers Program.

Tuesday, May 22, 2012, Gala and Banquet marking the upcoming Year of the Wagner Bicentennial.

Weekend June 8 to 10, 2012, *Wagner in der Wildnis* 12th annual retreat at Graves Mountain Lodge in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia -- moving the event from eleven years in West Virginia!

April and May 2012, the Metropolitan Opera cycles of *Der Ring des Niebelungen*.

July and August 2012, the 99th Bayreuth Festival - tickets available to members through the Society.



The Wagner Society of Washington DC

The Wagner Society of Washington, DC

PO Box 58213

Washington, DC 20037

Tel: (703) 370.1923 • Fax: (703) 370.1924

www.wagner-dc.org

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, September 24 at 6 pm, *LisztOmania and Wagner TOO*, pianist **Jeffrey Swann** at the Spectrum Theater, Rosslyn, VA.
Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 pm, *The Revolutions of 1848* with **Prof. Andrew Zimmerman**, Professor of History, GWU.
Thursday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, *Wagner and Mark Twain* by **Philip Kennicott**, Culture Critic, Washington Post.

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

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

