



# Wagner on the Potomac

For the study and enjoyment of Wagner's Art

January 2005

Vol. 7 No.1

**Chairman's Greeting:** An exciting season is coming up: lectures, a concert, a weekend study seminar, a Gala including a dinner and award presentation. Join us for these programs. And become a Member!

### Justice O'Connor Honors Wagner Society

In a generous gesture of encouragement and support for the Society, **Justice Sandra Day O'Connor** was joined by Wagner Society Chairman **J.K. and Mrs. Holman** in hosting supporters and volunteers for a recital and reception in the Supreme Court on October 19, 2004. Emerging Singer Program participants **Jennifer Wilson** and **David Smith** sang before the reception. **Justices Ginsberg** and **Bryer** attended these events.

Left to right: Thomas Stewart, Evelyn Lear, Justice O'Connor, Mr. John O'Connor and Chairman Jim Holman.  
Photo by Tim Scanlon



### TRISTAN UND ISOLDE SEMINAR AND PERFORMANCE



Thomas Rolf Truhitte

The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program will join forces with the Society once again on Friday and Saturday, February 11-12, 2005 to present a two-day seminar in connection with the Sunday, February 13 performance of this Wagner masterpiece by the Virginia Opera at the George Mason University (Fairfax). The performance will feature two Emerging Singer Program participants **Thomas Rolf Truhitte** as Tristan and **Charles Robert Austin** as King Marke. (See seminar schedule page 3.)



Charles Robert Austin

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UPCOMING 2005 WINTER - SPRING SEASON


**WAGNER IN DER WILDNIS V (Die Meistersinger)** will be held from June 3 to 5 at the Cacapon Resort in West Virginia. Watch our website and fliers. (see page 6)

**10TH EMERGING SINGERS CONCERT.** This milestone concert on May 27 will feature emerging Wagner singers under the tutelage of Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart.

**BANQUET, AWARD, AND GALA** festivities will be combined for an important occasion in June to round out the program season and will include an exciting silent auction, dinner and presentation of our Wagner Society Award.

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**Membership Card**  
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2005

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## Highlights of the 2004-2005 Autumn - Winter Season

**Thursday, September 23, 2004** (GWU Fungler Hall) **Professor John DiGaetani**, Hofstra University, spoke on his latest scholarly study titled “*Wagner and Suicide*”, in which he explored a recurring theme in Wagner’s life and operas.

**Friday, October 8, 2004** (The German Embassy, Washington DC) the **9th Emerging Singers Concert** (see pages 4 and 5 for update on Emerging Singers Program.)



The performers accept the applause, left to right: Jason Switzer, Mathew Lepold, David Smith, Brian Carter, Roxanne Rowedder and Betty Bullock with Evelyn Lear, Thomas Stewart and John Edward Niles.

**Thursday, October 21, 2004** (GWU Fungler Hall) **Professor Oswald Georg Bauer**, a long-time aide to Wolfgang Wagner spoke on “*The False Prophet: The Premiere Production of Le Prophète in Paris and Wagner’s Strategy of Denunciation.*” Professor Bauer explained the impact that the premiere of *Le Prophète* in Paris in 1850 had on Wagner.

**Thursday, November 11, 2004** (GWU Fungler Hall) Distinguished film scholar and critic **Paul Fryer** returned to present a lecture-screening of the engrossing 1912, one-hour-long silent film, “*The Life of Richard Wagner*”. An expert on opera, opera singers, and the silent-film industry, Dr. Fryer previously presented the 1904 film version of *Parsifal* in a lecture hosted jointly by the WSWDC and the Library of Congress in 2001.

**Thursday, December 9, 2004** (GWU Fungler Hall) **Simon Morrison**, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Princeton University, spoke on “*Tchaikovsky’s Miracle*”, explaining why the composer’s *Sleeping Beauty*, which premiered in 1890, just seven years after Richard Wagner’s death, provides an antipode to Wagner’s teachings and music.



Simon Morrison

**Thursday, January 13, 2005** (GWU Fungler Hall) **Phillip W. Raines**, WSWDC board member and lecturer, returned for the fourth time to present a multi-media presentation, “*Tristan und Isolde: The Music Drama in Which Nothing Happens?*” Raines illustrated how several directors have successfully met the challenges of staging an opera where very little physical action actually takes place. The program inaugurated the 2005 Winter-Spring activities concerning this opera. (See page 3 regarding the Smithsonian Seminar and the Virginia Opera performance.)



# *Tristan und Isolde Weekend Smithsonian Seminar and Performance*

*Friday through Sunday, February 11 - 13, 2005*

**Friday, February 11, 2005.** at the Marion & Gustave Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Independence Ave. & 7th Street, SW, Washington DC

**9:00 to 9:45 am** “The View from the Rim”, **J.K.Holman**, Chairman, The Wagner Society of Washington DC and author of *Wagner’s Ring: A Listener’s Companion and Concordance* speaks on the impact of *Tristan und Isolde* on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Europe

**9:45 am to 12 noon** “A Story for the Ages”, **Iain Scott**, a favorite Wagner expert from Canada speaks on the opera’s timeless story and how Wagner reshaped it

**11:15 am to 12:30 pm** “Discovering the Tristan Melos”, **Saul Lilienstein**, commentator for the Washington National Opera CD series, explores the revolutionary nature of the opera’s music and how it influenced Strauss, Mahler, Debussy and other composers.

**12:30 pm to 2 pm** Lunch: Participants provide their own lunches

**2:00 pm to 2:45 pm** “*Tristan und Isolde* at the Met”, **Winnie Klotz**, former official photographer at the Metropolitan Opera.

**3 pm to 4:30 pm** “*Tristan und Isolde* and the Mystic Experience”, **Jeffrey Swann**, discusses the opera’s power to stir emotions using musical illustrations at the piano.

**Saturday, February 12, 2005** (Hirschorn Ring Auditorium)

**9:30 am to 10:45 am** “Echo Effects: *Tristan* and the Uncanny”, **Carolyn Abbate**, Princeton University, and author of *In Search of Opera*, discusses the affinities among Wagner’s music and literary sources, e.g., von Strassburg and Schopenhauer.

**11 am to 12:15 pm** “*Tristan und Isolde’s Impact on Western Literature*”, **John DiGetani**, Hofstra University. He is the author of *Wagner and Suicide*.

**12:15 pm to 1:45 pm** Lunch: Participants provide their own lunches.

**1:45 pm to 3 pm.** “Conducting *Tristan und Isolde*”, **Peter Mark**, artistic director, Virginia Opera, speaks on the challenges of conducting the work.

**3:15pm to 4:30 pm** “The Potion with the Poison, or the Brew that Is True?” **Jeffrey Buller**, Mary Baldwin College explores the philosophies of *Tristan und Isolde*.

**Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 2 pm: Virginia Opea Performance** at George Mason University Fairfax campus. There will be a discussion in the Concert Hall, Grand Tier 3 at 1:15 pm prior to the performance.

**Cast Dinner Party** tickets are \$55 per person. Call 301.907.2600 to make a reservation.

**Registration: WEEKEND SEMINAR ONLY** Tickets: General Admission \$220, Smithsonian Residents Associates (RAP) and Wagner Society of Washington, DC Members \$175, Senior Members \$158 **WEEKEND SEMINAR AND PERFORMANCE ON FEBRUARY 13.** Tickets: General Admission \$288, RAP and Wagner Society of Washington DC Members \$243, Senior Members \$226.

# The Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart



“When soprano Evelyn Lear and her husband, bass-baritone Thomas Stewart, retired from singing several years ago, they continued to share their knowledge with gifted young artists.” This comment by music critic Tim Page in the *Washington Post* (May 11, 2003) was made on the eve of the 6th Emerging Singers concert in 2003. We recall the comment with satisfaction as we approach the 10th Emerging Singers Concert on May 27, 2005 at the German Embassy.

## The Wagner Singer

Vol. 1 No.1

October 2004

Readers who have not yet seen this publication released in October 2004 can view it on our web site ([www.wagner-dc.org](http://www.wagner-dc.org)) or call 301.907.2600 for a copy. The publication is designed to introduce a new generation of Wagner performers to leading opera directors, producers, intendants, and agents around the world to engage these singers for future performances. A total of 25 singers have been selected in the past five years to perform in nine concerts to date; 16 of them are featured in that issue. Details about the career successes of selected singers are briefly updated in this issue with emphasis on performances of Wagner roles. The concerts — now presented twice yearly — have developed a loyal following and generous contributors

such as Guillermo and Cecilia Schultz who sponsored the 8th concert in 2003. Board Members Jim Holman and John Pohanka have also made generous financial contributions to the ESP and other programs. Members who make financial contributions to develop the Program are invited to attend concert rehearsals. Let us know if you are a contributor and wish to attend a rehearsal. Our special thanks to those who have made financial contributions to the Program in response to appeal in *The Wagner Singer* publication.. An updated list of contributors will be reported in the August 2005 issue of *Wagner on the Potomac*. Your financial contributions are welcomed!

### 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  \$2,500  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### *The 9th Emerging Singers Program (ESP) Concert at the German Embassy on October 8, 2004*

The concert featured an outstanding roster of singers. In her second appearance in the concert series, Mezzo Roxanne Rowedder performed Waltraute's narrative, *Höre mit Sinn* (*Götterdämmerung*, Act I). Two artists made their first ESP appearances. Tenor Brian Carter sang *Winterstürme* and *Siegmund bin ich* (*Die Walküre*, Act I) and baritone Jason Switzer performed Wotan's *Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge* (*Das Rheingold*). Ms. Rowedder and Mr. Switzer sang the Fricka-Wotan scene from *Die Walküre*, Act II). Tenor David Smith sang Parsifal's concluding verses, *Nur eine Waffe taugt* and baritone Matt Lepold joined Messrs. Smith, Switzer, and Carter for the Act II Song Contest from *Tannhäuser*. To enhance listener understanding and appreciation of the concert, English and German language texts of the vocals were distributed to the audience. This concert was also briefly reported in *The Wagner Singer* publication (Vol 1, Nr 1) in October 2004.

## Updates on Selected Emerging Singers

*Tristan and King Marke at Virginia Opera! A Liederkrantz Competition Winner! Upcoming Roles in Bayreuth! A cover for Jane Eaglen! A Turandot at Santa Fe!*

Two distinguished participants in the ESP sing this winter in the Virginia Opera performances of *Tristan und Isolde* in Norfolk, Richmond and Fairfax, VA. Tenor **Thomas Rolf Truhitte**, who sang in the 3rd (2001) and 4th (2002) ESP concerts returns to the area to sing Tristan as a follow up to his Sigmund in *Die Walküre* at the Virginia Opera in 2002. Bass-Baritone **Charles Robert Austin**, who sang in 6th and 7th (2003) ESP concerts returns to perform King Marke as follow up to his performance as Rocco in the 2003 Virginia Opera production of *Fidelio*.

**Tomas Rolf Truhitte** performed the title role in *Parsifal* in Genoa in October and November 2004. In addition to *Tristan* with the Virginia Opera his upcoming engagements include Don José (*Carmen*) in Nashville, Froh (*Das Rheingold*) in Seattle and the National Opera of Canada later this year and Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) in 2006. **Charles Robert Austin** is a well seasoned King Marke having performed the role in San Juan with Jane Eaglen as well as in Los Angeles. His upcoming engagements include appearances with Opera Pacific and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.



Amanda Mace

**Amanda Mace** has been engaged at Bayreuth to sing Ortlinde in 2006 and will reprise Eva in 2007. She recently sang Britten's *War Requiem* with the Hannover Bach Orchestra. She sings Lenora in *Fidelio* at the Leipzig Oper in March. She will sing Donna Anna at the Heidenheim Music Festival this summer and the Mahler 8th again in Spain. (Email: vatosca@yahoo.com)



David Smith

**David Smith** has won the 2005 Wagner Prize in the 2005 Liederkrantz Vocal Competition. He also performed in October 2004 at a wonderful afternoon concert at the Supreme Court in Washington where he and **Jennifer Wilson** sang the Act I, sc. iii Duet from *Die Walküre*. (Email: dalch39@comcast.net)

**Roy Stevens** returns to the Tyrol Festival to sing Loge, which he will also sing in Santander, Spain and Erl, Austria.. He performed excerpts of the role in the 7th ESP Concert (2003); he also sang Tristan at the 8th ESP Concert (2004). He is engaged to cover the title role in *Siegfried* as well as in *Götterdämmerung*. He sings Loge in *Das Rheingold* in the Tyrol Festival in St. Polten in 2006 and 2008. (Email: RoyStevens96@cs.com)



Roy Stevens



Jennifer Wilson

**Jennifer Wilson** sang with **David Smith** the Act I, sc. iii Duet from *Die Walküre*. in the October 2004 recital at the Supreme Court. She will sing Helmwige and Gutrun in the Chicago Lyric *Ring der Niebelung* cycles this winter while covering Jane Eaglen as Brünnhilde as well as the the 3rd Norn. Subsequently she will sing in Holland in a production of the rarely performed Erwin Shulhoff *Flammen*. She will be opening the 2005 Santa Fe Opera summer season in the title role of Puccini's *Turandot*, which she will also perform at the Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires. (Email: www.funkhauserartists.com)

# Die Bayreuther Festspiele 2004 and 2005

## Die Bayreuther Festspiele 2004



Some members of the class of 2004 at the Festspielhaus entrance: left to right John Dixon, Kent Obee, John Graham, Ruth Obee, John Kattler, Joan Kugler, Frederick Harwood, Bill Kugler, Richard Soderquist, Cathy Nogaard.



*Caption*  
Frau Wolfgang Wagner with Paul Ignatius

## Bayreuther Festspiele 2005

We are honored once again to have a generous allotment of tickets for the Third Cycle (August 17 to 21, 2005). The five operas to be performed this year are *Parsifal*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Lobengrin*, *Tannhäuser* and *Der fliegende Holländer*. The February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to apply for tickets will be extended slightly to accommodate late comers. Questions? Call 301.907.2600.

### *Seattle Ring 2005*

Our 40-ticket allotment for the **Third Cycle (August 23-28)** for Members (only) is sold out! Tickets for the **Second Cycle (August 15-20)** are still available as this issue goes to press. Call Kugler Tours 301.652.0132 or email [jkugler@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jkugler@worldnet.att.net).

### *Other Upcoming Programs of the Winter-Spring 2005 Season*

To be scheduled: **Dana Gioia**, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

**May 12, 2005 Dr. Hugh MacDonald**, Professor of Musicology at Washington University, St. Louis will discuss "*Berlioz and Wagner: Master Sculptor and Master Singer*" at the George Washington University, Fonger Hall.

**May 27, 2005 The 10th Emerging Singers Concert** will be presented at the German Embassy, Washington DC.

**June 3 to 5, 2005** The Fifth Annual *Wagner in der Wildnis V*, the popular weekend study seminar will be held at the Cacapon Resort near Berkeley Springs, WVa. This year's event will focus on *Die Meistersinger*. Registration forms will be sent to Members in February.

The season will have a festive ending with the **Annual Banquet and Award Ceremony** combined with a **GALA and Silent Auction** — date is to be announced soon!

Questions? See our press announcements, fliers and our website. If you wish to be on our mailing list call 301.907.2600 or send an Email to [webmeisterin@wagner-dc.org](mailto:webmeisterin@wagner-dc.org).

# MEMBERSHIP 2005: Time to join again or for the first time.!

The Membership Year runs from January 1 through December 31, 2005, regardless of the time of year you join. To become a member, please complete this form and alternatively (1) mail it with your check or credit card authorization to P.O. Box 33051, Washington, DC 20033, or (b) fax it to 301-907-8671 or (3) become a member on our website: [www.wagner-dc.org](http://www.wagner-dc.org).

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(Note: Dues levels have changed since the 2004 Membership Year.)

\$50 Regular                       \$75 Dual                       \$40 Senior/Non-Resident  
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**PLEASE REVIEW LEGIBILITY OF NUMBERS AND LETTERS ENTERED ABOVE.**

*Video recordings of WSWDC programs at Martin Luther King Library in Washington DC.  
Wagner opera performances videos also available to the public.*

The Society continues to expand its program designed to make available to the public video recordings of the monthly lectures at the George Washington University Funger Hall. These are available at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Library, Washingtonian Department in Washington DC. The collection also includes videos of more than 25 programs including recent Emerging Singers Concerts as well as the full proceedings of the 2004 *Wagner in der Wildnis (Götterdämmerung)* week-end study seminar and recent annual banquet and award ceremonies. The videos are catalogued by founder Janice Rosen. In a related program also initiated by Ms. Rosen, the MLK Library also has video recordings of historic Wagner opera performances. See our website for details.



**Faye P.Haksins**, archivist at the Martin Luther King Library in Washington, DC receives a recent presentation of video recordings of WSWDC programs. left to right: Ms. Haskins, President Aury Fernandez, Founder Janice F. Rosen and *Webmeisterin* Nancy O'Hara.

## The Society gives special thanks to:

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*Editor:* Aurelius Fernandez

- + Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for hosting the recital and reception on October 19, 2004 for supporters and volunteers of the Society.
- + Evelyn Lear and Thomas Stewart for their continuing dedication to the Emerging Singers Program named in their honor.
- + Carol Bogash, Mary McLaughlin, Rachel Spurrier, and their staffs at Smithsonian for helping with the *Tristan und Isolde* seminar.
- + Faye P. Haskins, archivist, the Martin Luther King Library, Washington DC for facilitating the shelving of videos of our programs.
- + Member Tim Scanlon for his dedicated video recording of all Society programs for the Martin Luther King Library archives.
- + Recent contributors to the Emerging Singers Fund who responded to the appeal in the *Wagner Singer* publication released in October 2004. These contributors and others to come will be listed in the August issue of *Wagner on the Potomac*.
- + Members Jerry Floyd and McKinney Russell for their editorial advice, copy and proof editing of this issue.



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### BECOME A MEMBER!

- The Autumn 2004 Program Season
- 9th and 10th Emerging Singer Concerts
- 2005 Bayreuth Festival
- 2005 Seattle Ring

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