



The Richard Wagner Society of Tampa Bay Florida

News Letter February 2006

Saturday, February 18th, at 1:00pm. Madeira Beach Public Library
200 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Fl. 33708 / Phone: (727)-391-2828

Directions: take Gulf Blvd to 153rd Avenue (Madeira Beach). Turn onto 153rd Avenue. Follow this road as it curves to the right, past the City Hall to the library. Extra parking is available in the Winn Dixie lot.

How to understand and enjoy Richard Wagner's music.

Program: *Interpretation of Musical Themes
in Rhinegold and Valkuerie*

*An audio presentation narrated in English with piano accompaniment
By: Erich Rapp*

Among Wagner's many musical innovations is the "leitmotiv" or leading theme. This device made possible his concept of "endless melody" in opera, a seamless, uninterrupted stream of music allowing for the interaction of numerous themes that result in a rich, complex musical tapestry. The leitmotiv tagged every character, object and emotion with a particular musical signature, thus complementing and reinforcing the sung dialog; for example: the music of the approach of the Giants, the entrance of the gods into Valhalla, the frolicking of the Rhinemaidens, Loge's fire, Donner's thunder, etc.. Wagner scholars recognize more than 100 leitmotifs in the entire Ring. A familiarity with these themes will substantially enrich the listener's experience and comprehension while listening to the Ring. Because of limited time, only the first two operas of the Ring, with intermission can be offered during this presentation. Gilbert Alberding will begin with some introductory remarks.

President's report

The Board of directors voted to donate \$300.00 to soprano Sarah Peebles to help with the production of a demo DVD.

Sarah is a very talented young singer, who has sung the lead role for several Sunstate Opera productions. We were fortunate to have enjoyed her great talent this past December at our Holiday party.

Our Society's mission is to help support young talents to further their careers in opera. Private donations are very welcome.

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