



## Richard Wagner Society of Florida

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### Newsletter for January 2009

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**Meeting:** **Sunday January 25, at 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** The home of Dr. Richard and Marita Rotella  
515 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Redington Beach, FL. 33708

*Make your reservation by Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. (727) 391-2658. Invite a friend.  
Bring your favorite Appetizer. Refreshments will be provided.*

**Program:** **An Introduction to the Ring of the Niebelungen**  
**By Mr. Karl Hesser**

***Our membership is eagerly anticipating Constantine Grame's production of "Siegfried" – Wagner's third opera of the Ring in Tarpon Springs this March. Karl Hesser has graciously prepared an exciting lecture/video presentation of at least four past productions of Siegfried spanning several decades: Bayreuth 70's, the Met 80's, Bayreuth 90's and Copenhagen 2006. This will provide us with a comparison of different directors' artistic and philosophic approaches to this pivotal opera in the Ring, in addition to enjoying the artistry of some truly great voices over the years. Expect a very rewarding adventure into the Arts.***

### Report

Our December 28<sup>th</sup>. 2008, Holiday Gala of "Wagner and Friends" was a tremendous success. Thank you for your participation and for inviting your friends.

A Special thanks to: Mr. Aaron Fodiman, editor of The Tampa Bay Magazine.  
To Ms. Margaret Burnside and Ms. Martha Margolis also of the Tampa Bay Magazine.  
We are very grateful for their support and for the wonderful article with photograph in the January 2009 edition. It can be found on page 40.

Thanks to: Maestro Mark Sforzini, Artistic Director of the St. Petersburg Opera Company.  
Maestro Sforzini will be directing the "The Merry Widow" at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg on Friday Jan. 16, at 7:30 PM, Saturday 17, at 7:30 PM, and Sunday 18, at 2:00 PM.  
For information call: 727-822-3590 or, [www.stpeteopera.org](http://www.stpeteopera.org)



Thanks to Dr. Kathy Moynehan, director of the Tarpon Springs Cultural Treasures Performing Art Center. Mark your calendar for the Siegfried production in March. For information call: 727-942-5605 or, [www.tarponarts.org](http://www.tarponarts.org)

### **Without our artists there would be no Gala.**

Musical director, Maestro Constantine Grame, Director of the New Century Opera of Tarpon Springs was again brilliant at the piano. He also gave a very lucid introduction to his upcoming opera production "Siegfried", Richard Wagner's third opera of the Ring of the Niebelungen.

Siegfried will be performed in English on Friday, March 13, and 20, at 7pm, also Sunday March 15, and 22, at 2 pm. at the Tarpon Springs Performing Art Center. For information call: 727-942-5605 or, [www.tarponarts.org](http://www.tarponarts.org)

We want to thank opera singer and voice teacher Ms. RoseMarie Freni from Sarasota for recommending our wonderful talented singers: Sara Peeples Mc'Natt. Sara is well known in the Tampa Bay area for her crisp and beautiful soprano voice and we are very fortunate to have enjoyed her talent for several years. You will also hear much more from, Dana Fauske and Debra Polkinhorn.

A heartfelt thanks to Prof. Susana Szakacs of Tampa for her beautiful violin performance. Prof. Szakacs teaches violin and piano in the Tampa area. A special thanks to Sandy Santangelo for her wonderful Spiritual Christmas Songs. Sandy has that gorgeous voice that you just want to keep listening to.

I am extremely grateful to our Master of Ceremony, Mr. Karl Hesser. Mr. Hesser is Director of education for the Sarasota Opera, he is a lecturer and judge for major opera competitions in the Bay are and in other parts of the country. He also serves on the board of directors for the Wagner Society, and as Vice President. Information for the Sarasota Opera: 914-366-8450 or 1-888-673-7212, [www.sarasotaopera.org](http://www.sarasotaopera.org)

And of course last but not least, Chair and Committee persons Lilo Schumacher, Eike Deighton, Mark Deighton, Dr. Richard Rotella. I thank you all for the many hours of work and dedication for a job well done.

I also want to thank Madeline Crotty, President of the Pinellas Opera league for inviting 16 guests. Contact information: Post Office Box 15403 Clearwater , Fl. 33766-6403 <http://pinellas-opera.tripod.com>

I personally would love to mention each person by name, but space does not permit it. We are profoundly grateful to all for your support.

***Please continue to support the arts, the opera and the various societies***



## **Membership:**

*A very special thanks to Mr. Donald J. Grossman and Ms. Elaine T. Hirsch of Tarpon Springs, FL for their very generous donation to our Young Artist scholarship fund.*

### **Membership Application and Renewal**

Our fiscal year begins on January 01 and ends on December 31.

If you have not yet send in your dues, please fill out your form and return it with your check or money-order. Should you decide to pay by cash, you must still complete the form. It must also be signed by the person the cash is given to and a copy is to be returned to you.

This system helps simplify our bookkeeping and membership roster.

Let me know if you need another form. Please include your e-mail address if you have one. We certainly appreciate your membership. And we always welcome your participation and ideas.

### **Other events of interest**

The Florida Orchestra Guild St. Petersburg, Inc. P.O. Box 40184 St. Petersburg FL. 33743-0181

Florida Suncoast Opera Guild, Inc. 3894 37<sup>th</sup>. ST. South #41 St. Petersburg , Fl 33711

Opera Tampa / Tampa Bay Performing Art Center 1010 N MacInnes Pl. Tampa - 813-229-7827

Ruth Eckard Hall, Clearwater 727-791-7400 or Ticketmaster.com

On Wednesday January 28 at 2:00 pm REH will feature, Musical Instruments of Opera  
Sponsored by: The Pinellas Opera League, Maestro Mark Sforzini will lecture and 8 year old Angelina Ma will perform varied selections on both the piano and violin.

**Wishing you all the best,**

**Marital Wilhelmine Rotella, President**

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Marita Wilhelmine Rotella, President.



