



## The Richard Wagner Society of Florida

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Newsletter for May 2007

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### *“Happy Birthday Richard Wagner”*

Meeting: Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, Time, 2:00 p.m.

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

*Please make your reservation by Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Invite a friend. (727) 391-2658*

*Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres; refreshments will be provided.  
To avoid too many duplicates, please let me know what you will be bringing.*

Program: *“Sing Faster – The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle”*

*Presented by: Karl Hesser, Director of Education of the Sarasota Opera*

*This 58minute documentary film, is a winner of the prestigious Filmmaker’s Trophy at Sundance. “Sing Faster” is a spirited and comical behind-the-scenes look at Richard Wagner’s beloved Ring Cycle, one of the most ambitious and spectacular operas in history.*

*Get the essence of the Ring Operas ! It’s a fantasy soap opera- opera about man’s lust for power, greed, corruption, a huge tragedy of the death of the gods that ushers in a new age of love among mankind.*

*Go to the Amazon website for additional info.*

*Karl will also preview Johannistag, and a viewing of “Die Meistersinger”  
A short, introduction to Wagner’s only comedy.*

### **Report:**

On Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Johannistag in Sarasota at the Sarasota Opera House. It was a great success last year and we hope it will be again this year. Please mark the date on your calendar, and also contact me for additional information.

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*Richard Wagner's Opera "Das Rheingold" given by Constantine Grame, director of "New Century Opera," of Tarpon Springs was a wonderful experience. Not only did Constantine give an incredible two and a half hour piano performance, he at the same time directed the singers and sang the part of Fassel the Giant. Constantine Grame is a rare talent, a young man who brings a new twist to Richard Wagner's operas. He deserves our fullest support.*

***A warm welcome to our new member, Doctor Rosario Musella of St. Petersburg Beach.***

Please visit our Wagner web site, [www.wagnersocietyflorida.org](http://www.wagnersocietyflorida.org) Members are invited to participate in the website's discussion forum, where they may exchange ideas with other contributors from around the globe. Let us know if you had difficulty logging on.

**Would you like to receive your newsletter by e-mail? Please send us your email address: it will save on paper and postage. Many have already agreed to on-line e-mail notifications.**

### **Membership**

**For members who have not yet sent in dues for membership please do so as soon as possible. \$25 for single, \$40 for double. Donations are always welcome. It is important to help support and promote young talent.**

### **Future Programs:**

**We will be planning our next (Fall) season of meetings this Spring. Please feel free to give us your input with suggestions for future programs.**

### **Summer break**

We wish our members, who again have traveled to their summer homes a wonderful, healthy and happy Summer and a safe return to there Florida homes next Fall.

***After our June celebration in Sarasota we will take a break until the last Sunday in September.***

### **Event Locations:**

**Sarasota Opera: For tickets call: 941-366-8450; or: [www.sarasotaopera.org](http://www.sarasotaopera.org)**

**Mahaffey Theater/St. Petersburg: 813-286-2403**

**Ruth Eckerd Hall/Clearwater: 727-791-7400**

**Opera Tampa: 813-229-7827**

**New Century Opera, Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center: 727-942-5605**

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[www.wagnersocietyflorida.org](http://www.wagnersocietyflorida.org) - Marita Wilhelmine Rotella, President.

