



## *The Richard Wagner Society of Florida Newsletter*

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Meeting!!!!

November, 2006

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Date: Sunday, November 19<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.

*Please make your reservation by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Invite a friend.  
(727) 391-2658*

**Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres; refreshments will be provided**

Program: ***Tannhauser, an Opera by Richard Wagner***  
*Approximately 3 hours. Introductory remarks by Dr. Richard Rotella*

***Although Tannhauser appears so heavily immersed in Catholic themes, in no way does it cast Wagner as a “crypto-Catholic.” Far from it, for Wagner still clung to his favorite Greco-Roman mythological figures. Venus(Aphrodite) represents the erotic love and Dionysian hedonism of the world of the mythical gods, now relegated to Hades by the power of the Church. Tannhauser must go to the forbidden Venusberg to seek her favors. He needs to tear himself away from the moral constraints and frigid chastity of his fellow singing knights. He is caught in the struggle between his love for Venus, who offers him the path toward artistic expression and creativity, thru carnal sexuality, and his love for Elizabeth, who offers him eternal salvation thru asceticism of the flesh, self-denial and Platonic “agape”. Such is his dilemma which is resolved in a typically unique Wagnerian way\_\_redemption thru the ultimate sacrifice of an angelically pure woman.***



## ***Report:***

Until we find a new location we will continue to hold our monthly Wagner meetings on the last Sunday of each month. However it is sometimes necessary to change the date due to Holidays, or times when I have to be out of town. Our September and October meetings were wonderful, and I'm sure that you will enjoy **Tannhauser**. The first act begins with an exciting ballet, and the entire opera continues with extraordinarily beautiful music and song.

I hope that we will all be able to share this delightful experience.

## **Holidays**

**Our annual holiday extravaganza is scheduled for Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>. Please mark the date on your calendar. In addition to a wonderfully entertaining program, you will enjoy champagne, wine, soft drinks and plenty of your favorite foods. We are asking for a donation of \$20 to cover most expenses.**

I need volunteers to help with committees; and I always welcome recommendations for future programs. Your participation and input are greatly appreciated. Please alert me if you know of a particular young singing talent that you feel we should hear.

## ***Web site:***

Our *Wagner web site*, [www.wagnersocietyflorida.org](http://www.wagnersocietyflorida.org) is in its final stage. Planned items include: a discussion forum, archives of past programs, a schedule of upcoming Wagner Society programs, a section for Wagner research documents such as Paul Heise's annotated anthologies of Wagner's and Ludwig Feuerbach's writings, information on membership, links to other Wagner-related websites, a list of upcoming Wagner-related local, national, and international events. Members are invited to participate in the website's discussion forum, where they may exchange ideas with other contributors from around the globe.

***Hope to see you,***

*Marita*



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