



Richard Wagner Society of Florida

Newsletter for November 2009

Meeting: **Sunday November 22, at 2:00 p.m.**

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

*Make your reservation by Friday, November 20. (727) 391-2658 Invite a friend.
Bring your favorite appetizer. Refreshments will be provided.*

Program: **“Der Rosenkavalier”**

*An Opera by Richard Strauss,
DVD of an 1988 Otto Schenk production*

This year for a good many of us has been full of anxiety and apprehension. The media has bombarded us daily with scenarios of political turmoil, economic doom and social gloom. So it's time for a break. Let's get an early start on our Holiday cheer with an opera that has delighted so many countless audiences:

Der Rosenkavalier. *This musical comedic masterpiece by Richard Strauss has some references to Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, and Verdi's Falstaff. Here is a fading beauty, the Marschallin, having an intimate affair with a seventeen year-old lesser noble, Octavian, who is commissioned to deliver a silver rose to Sophie, a wealthy man's lovely young daughter. This ceremony is to announce the marriage proposal to Sophie from Baron Ochs, a boorish, obnoxious old man, also cousin to the Marschallin. But it's love at first sight when Sophie and Octavian, the rose-bearer see each other face-to-face. You can guess what happens next, as a Viennese masquerade, Falstaffian brawl ensues. All ends well as Baron Ochs obligingly accepts defeat, Sophie and Octavian become betrothed, and the Marschallin resigns herself to growing old gracefully. Carlos Kleiber conducts the Bayerischen Staatsoper with a superlative cast of singers.*



Report

Congratulations are in order. Please note that I changed the meeting to Sunday, November 22nd.

I am happy to announce that I have received two very special invitations. Both founders of **The Wagner Society of Florida**: are celebrating milestones in their lives. Mary Jo Bell of Largo, Florida will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday, November 21st. Carmen Wagner and her husband Horst of Hamburg, Germany will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on December 1st.

In 2001 Mary Jo Bell and Carmen Wagner together placed a small advertisement in the local newspaper inviting to a meeting everyone who loved the music of Richard Wagner, or wanted to learn more about the composer and his operas. We began with 16 persons at that first assembly and grew to at least 100 members to date, including our international members.

Mary Joe Bell was the first President and Carmen Wagner was Vice-president of the Society. Mary Joe is still an avid contributor, and Carmen is Vice-President International. I want to congratulate both these two ladies on their momentous anniversaries, and thank them for helping to realize a dream.

My husband and I will help May Jo Bell celebrate her 80th birthday on November 21st. I will also help Carmen and Horst celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 1st, in Hamburg, Germany. During my stay, Carmen and I will meet with our members in Hamburg. I will give them an overview of our Wagner society in Florida, and thank them for their continuing support despite the fact that most of them have never been to our meetings.

I shall also attend the Christmas party for the Wagner Society of Hamburg. President of the society, Professor Werner Hahn has been a trusted friend for several years, so it will be exciting to spend some time with him again.

I also plan to meet for the first time with a wonderful young classical pianist, Albert Mamriev. We have spoken by Phone and have exchanged e-mails for the past three years.

Albert Mamriev is a renowned concert pianist in Europe, has also performed in various concert halls throughout the US. He would love to give some concerts in Florida. I hope that we will be able to host him sometime in the future.

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Marital Wilhelmine Rotella, President

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