



The Richard Wagner Society of Tampa Bay Florida Newsletter

September, 2005

MEETING!!!!

Date: Sunday, October 2nd. at 2:00 p.m.

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

Pleas make your reservation by *Friday September 30th*. and bring a friend (727) 391-2658
Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided

Program: *Lecture by: Paul Heise*

“How Elsa showed Wagner the way to Siegfried”

***including a discussion of the influence of philosopher
Ludwig Feuerbach on Wagner.***

Paul will offer an original solution to one of the greatest mysteries in Wagner's artistic legacy: what did Wagner mean when he wrote in his 1850 essay “A communication To My Friends” that Elsa showed him the way to Siegfried?

Paul will show a couple of key excerpts from *Lohengrin* and the *Ring* and explain how Elsa's offer to help Lohengrin keep the secret of his true identity and origin, was the inspiration for Bruennhilde's offer to hear Wotan's confession. By hearing Wotan's confession Bruennhilde will keep Wotan's secret “unspoken.” Paul's solution to this problem shows us what made Wagner's art unique in world history.

Report:

I hope that your summer was wonderful, and that you are looking foreword to a great new Wagner Society season.

A heartfelt welcome back to our members who like to escape the cold weather, to enjoy our Florida sunshine.



Membership

I am in the process of completing our membership roster for this new season. If you have not yet sent in your [membership fee](#) please do so as soon as possible so we can update our files.

Future meetings

Our meetings are always scheduled for the last Saturday or Sunday of every month, the day depends on location and availability.

Meeting dates for 2005

October 2nd / October 30
November 27th / December 17th.

Dates for 2006 to be announced

Web site:

We now have our *Wagner web site*. I want to thank webmeister Tom Borer for working diligently to bring us into cyberspace. Look it up at: www.wagnersocietyflorida.org. It is still under construction.

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 events, local, national, and international, etc.

Education:

The Madeira Beach Library has generously offered us its meeting room for any of our activities including lectures, film showings and Stammtisch / round table discussions etc. The accessibility from various locations is excellent and parking is more than ample. We are guaranteed Saturday's from 10:00am to 5:00 pm. The library director strongly feels that the community will be drawn to the Society's activities.

Revue: The Ring of the Nibelung

Richard and I have recently returned from having seen the Seattle Opera production of The Ring, directed by Stephen Wadsworth, and starring Greer Grimsley as Wotan, Alan Woodrow as Siegfried and Jane Eaglin as Bruennhilde. Tom and Judy Borer had also seen the first cycle of this Ring. Our impression was that the production was generally good. However Jane Eaglin's dimensions were a distraction, and her singing was at times strident and bombastic. After all of the giants' hard work we never got to see their finished product, Valhalla. Its burning

in the last scene of Twilight was left entirely to the imagination. The orchestra was at times too loud, and lacked a certain dynamism. There was no procession to accompany the most solemn and moving funeral march ever composed. On the light side, the Rhinemaids swung around on trapezes, which after a while got a little tacky; and the dragon Fafner wasn't very menacing and couldn't be taken seriously. The sets were meticulously realistic, but tended to overwhelm and dwarf the singers. Tom Borer has written a brilliant in-depth review, which we hope to be able to read off of our website soon.

Hope to see you

Marita Rotella



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