

The Raven

Newsletter of

The Richard Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest

Volume 1 Number 2

Summer 2005



In this issue

Bayreuth: Could 2006 be your lucky number?

- 2006 Rules and Application form

Founders Day Dinner

Election of Board of Directors

and More

We continue with our tradition of members telling their stories of how they became interested in Wagner's music dramas with Carol Thomas, editor of *The Raven*. If you would like to share your story, please let us know! Email newsletter@wagnertc.org or contact Carol Thomas at 763-442-9432.



Carol Thomas

How I started with Wagner ...

My Start
By Carol Thomas

I am a newbie at Wagner and opera since June 2003, but unknowingly Wagner has infiltrated my life since the age of 4. Starting with the Beatles film *HELP!*, I heard the Prelude to Act 3 of *Lohengrin* and just loved it. I remember hearing it again when I became a Marx Brothers fan and one of their films, *Animal Crackers* I think, had the same tune that I so adored. About the time I was 16, a rather bizarre film came out called *Lisztomania*, which ironically had not as much to do with Liszt, as it had to do with Wagner! But I knew nothing, and accepted it as a rather bizarre film with my favorite rock singer, Roger Daltrey. I was surprised how much the music captivated me. It was all synthetically arranged by Rick Wakeman, so I thought he had composed it! I listened to it for years and years. Then one day I joined a message board and met my English friend, Jim Taylor. His increasing fascination with Wagner intrigued me. I had no idea to whom he was referring, or that it was opera. In fact, when Jim had me listen to pieces, sometimes I would get the singing. I remember wanting to say, you don't mean you like the operatic bits do you? Little did I know what Wagner was all about! Since then, Wagner has gripped me heart and soul. It has been hard to break into other operas, but I am trying! But Wagner so captivated me that to date I have heard all his operas several times over, seen all but two operas on DVD, and have attended one live performance of *The Ring* that I shall never forget. I have also read over 12 books on Wagner or related writings. I should have had Wagner and opera in my life years before, but then again, it assures me you are never too old to learn anything new.

Upcoming Event: Founders Day Dinner

Friday 9 September 2005, 5-9 PM
(Please note corrected date from last newsletter)

At the home of David and Wanda Cline
4700 Killarney Drive,
Golden Valley, MN 55422
Phone (763) 588-8391

Please RSVP by Wednesday, 7 September to
David W. Cline, MD
(612) 863-4319
davidwcline@aol.com

The Society first met in July of 1998, and this will be our third Founders Day Celebration. The first meeting in 2003 featured two Alpine Horn Musicians, who even played a little Wagner. The meeting in 2004 featured three musicians from the Minnesota Opera, who performed several numbers from *Lohengrin*, which thrilled us all.

This year we are planning another surprise! Also, members who attended the 2005 Bayreuth Festival will share their experiences, followed by a short annual business meeting and election of the Board of Directors (details on next page).

Please come as guests of David and Wanda Cline and bring a friend!

(Detailed
Map on
next page)



Details of the map to the home of David and Wanda Cline, 4700 Killarney Dr Golden Valley MN



Annual Business Meeting

**Purpose: Election of 2005-2006 Board of Directors;
Reports of 2004-2005 Officers.**

The Founders Day Dinner will conclude with a short business meeting. Following reports from the current officers, election of the Board of Directors for 2005-2006 will be held. The Executive committee submits the following slate for the Board of Directors. Nominations may also be made from the floor, with prior consent of the nominee. Nominees must be current members in good standing. Directors are elected for one year and may be re-elected, per the By-laws. In conformity with our By-laws, officers of the society are elected by the Board of Directors after the Annual Business Meeting, but the list of proposed officers is given below.

NOMINATIONS -- 2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jamie Andrews	Woody Andrews	David W. Cline
B. Kevin Edgar	John Heefner	Carol Thomas

PROPOSED 2005-2006 OFFICERS

President: David W. Cline	Secretary: Woody Andrews
Treasurer: Jamie Andrews	

Bayreuth 2006 Ticket Requests Due by 1 October 2005

2006 will feature the premier of a production of *The Ring* by director Tankred Dorst. As in past years, we will be ordering tickets to the third cycle, approximately August 20-26, 2006. Unlike past years however, the number of tickets we request will reflect the interest expressed by our members *before* we order. Therefore, to meet Bayreuth's deadline of 15 October, members wishing to attend Bayreuth in 2006 must submit requests by the first of October 2005. Exact dates and costs will not be known until we receive our order form in September, but based on past years we anticipate that the price of a ticket to *The Ring* would range from \$600 - \$900. Bayreuth issues a single ticket for all four operas. Tickets to individual operas are not available. The exact price will depend on the specific tickets allocated (if any) and the exchange rate. The rules are:

- 1) Current membership is a prerequisite.
- 2) Only one ticket set per membership.
- 3) All ticket requests must be specific and in writing. A form is enclosed.
- 4) Members should indicate a general price range: high, medium, or low.
- 5) A deposit of \$150 per set is required. Requests without deposits cannot be accepted.
- 6) After our order is submitted in early October, these deposits become non-refundable except in the event we receive fewer tickets than requested. (See below.)
- 7) When Bayreuth provides us with the number and prices of tickets, we will inform members. Upon notification of ticket availability, full payment to the society is required within two weeks.
- 8) Ticket invoices include a 10% surcharge to cover expenses.
- 9) If a ticket holder is unable to attend, the Society must be informed and the tickets returned immediately. A refund (less the deposit) will be made once the tickets have been reassigned. This requirement is imposed on the Society by the Bayreuther Festspiele Kartenbüro.
- 10) Travel and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the member.

Should we receive fewer tickets than requested, then these additional

rules apply:

- 1) Tickets will be offered first to those with highest Bayreuth priority. Bayreuth priority is based on a rotating system affording every member a chance to attend the Festival. A list is maintained, initially constructed by listing members in the order of joining the society. When new members join, their names are added to the end. As members accept Bayreuth tickets, their names are placed at the end of the list, after those joining that year.
- 2) Members not receiving tickets will have the option of a full refund (including deposit) or a place on the waiting list.
- 3) Members on the waiting list may withdraw for a full refund at any time before they are notified of ticket availability.
- 4) After notification of ticket availability, the deposit is non-refundable.

Ongoing Events:

DvD Nights First Wednesdays 7-9 PM

We meet approximately the first Wednesday of every month to watch and discuss various productions of Wagner's dramas available on DvD. Coffee and Tea will be provided by host Kevin Edgar. If you like, bring some snacks to share. (A kitchen is available.) The address is 700 Douglas Ave, Minneapolis. (Two blocks south of the Walker Art Center on the Corner of Douglas and Hennepin. The apartment building is called Kenwood Gables. *If you are planning to attend please let Kevin know by email (info@wagnertc.org) or phone 612-381-9429.*

Currently, we are completing the DvD recording of the 2002-2003 Stuttgart *Ring*, a production designed and directed by four individual production teams, with no coordination between them. The intent was to present them as four separate operas and not as a unified whole.

The schedule is

7 September Götterdämmerung Act I

6 October Götterdämmerung Act II

2 November Götterdämmerung Act III

We will be deciding our next production to view in the coming months. If you would like to offer your input, but are unable to attend these dates, please email Kevin at wagner@bke.org

Book Club

Sunday 11 September 2005, 3-5 PM

The WSUM Book Club is a quarterly event. Each person is asked to read the selected book, prior to the meeting, to aide the discussion of the book.

Coffee and Tea will be provided by host Kevin Edgar. If you like, you may bring some snacks to share. (A kitchen is available.) We will meet at 700 Douglas Ave, Minneapolis. (Two blocks south of the Walker Art Center on the Corner of Douglas and Hennepin. The apartment building is called Kenwood Gables.) *If you are planning to attend please let Kevin know: Email info@wagnertc.org or phone 612-381-9429.*

The next book we will read is:

Wagner Nights: An American History
by Joseph Horowitz
University of California Press, 1994. ISBN: 0520083946

Our future dates will be selected at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, but would like to share your input, please email Kevin at wagner@bke.org.

Other Events of Note:

Canton Museum of Art to Present Second Annual Wagner Symposium

November 4, 5, and 6, 2005

Speakers are : Jonathan Dean, Education Associate of The Seattle Opera; Iain Scott of Toronto, who lectures on opera, conducts opera tours, and is a frequent guest on CBC radio's "Saturday Afternoon at the Opera" and the Metropolitan Opera's Opera Quiz; Edward Haymes of Cleveland State University talking on the Two Rings : Wagner and Tolkien; and Craig Russell whose illustrations of The Ring were well-received at The Lyric Opera of Chicago's recent *Ring* cycles. On Sunday evening, November 6, there will be an all-Wagner concert by The Canton Symphony Orchestra with Susan Marie Pierson, soprano, and Charles R. Austin, bass-baritone.

Tickets for the three-day event are \$195, with an additional concert

ticket option of \$31.50. Single day and single session options are available upon request. A limited number of college student discount tickets are available. Early reservations are recommended. For more information or for tickets phone 330-453-7666; fax 330-453-1034; email: Lynn@cantonart.org or visit www.cantonart.org.

The Wagner Symposium II is made possible by a grant from The Mary Renkert Wendling Foundation.

New Members

Dennis Anderson	Debbie Done	Rachel Schneider
Sabra Anderson	Julie DuRose	John Sielaff
Karen Ashe	Irene P. Posalaky	Lillian Tan
Peter Diggins	Irene Posalaky-Kirsten	

Our best recruiters are our members. If you know of anyone with an interest in Wagner and his operas, please tell them about us.

Published by
The Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest
P.O. Box 300014
Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-863-4319
Fax: 612-863-4384
General Email: Info@wagnertc.org
Newsletter Email: newsletter@wagnertc.org

Copyright © 2005 by
The Richard Wagner Society of the Upper Midwest

STAFF
Carol Thomas – Editor
B. Kevin Edgar – Production Design