



SUOMEN WAGNER-SEURA ry
 THE FINNISH WAGNER SOCIETY
 FINNISCHER WAGNER VERBAND
 Turku & Helsinki
 Web-site: www.suomenwagnerseura.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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 Members/Mitglieder: 760 (31.12.2006)

EVENTS

Turku:

- 19.1. Mr. **Martti Parkkari** lecture on Richard Strauss' opera *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
- 27.1. Bus **trip** from Turku to **The National Opera in Helsinki** to see *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
- 15.2. **Prof. Hannu Salmi** lecture about Bayreuth from the aspect of the tourist in the late 19th century. After that we had the **society's annual meeting**
- 15.3. We were shown on video *The Valkyries*, production of **Den Jyske Opera** 1993-96 (part 1).
- 27.5. Bus **trip** from Turku to **The National Opera in Helsinki** to see *Parsifal* – together with the delegates of the RWVI Congress from Tallinn.
- 15.9. Members participated in a **trip** by Aphila (The Friends of Turku Philharmonic Orchestra) arranged to **National Opera in Helsinki to see the world premier** of *Käärmeenhetki* (The Hour of the Serpent) composed by **Mikko Heiniö**. Mr Heiniö (born 1948) lives in Turku.
- 14.10. Bus trip from Turku to our Society's 15th anniversary in Helsinki (see below).
- 14.11. Lecture by Mr. **Robert Storm** on *Debussy and his relation to Wagner*.

Helsinki:

- 11.1. Members attended a **concert by Radio Symphony Orchestra** at Finlandia Hall: The 3rd symphony by Jouni Kaipainen and the first act of **Wagner's Die Walküre**.
- 16.2. Lecture given by **Erkki Pullinen** on Wagner's *Parsifal* with dvd excerpts
- 14.3. Our guest was opera singer **Esa Ruuttunen**, baryton, who told us about his role as Klingsor and other Wagner roles
- 20.4. Lecture by Mr. **Robert Storm** on famous Wagner singers.
- 27.5. A performance on *Parsifal* at The National Opera together with the delegates of the RWVI Congress from Tallinn
- 30.5. *Parsifal* on National Opera. Many members participated this farewell performance of **Raimo Sirkiä**, tenor, who sang the title role in *Parsifal* at the Opera. The society presented him with a flower bouquet in honour of his long and fine career as a Wagner singer.
- 14.10. The Finnish Wagner Society celebrated its **15th Anniversary** with a seminar held at the National Opera and a gala dinner at restaurant Laulumiehet. The Anniversary festivities were organised, by the Helsinki program committee of our Society. Speakers at the seminar were: Mr. **Erkki Korhonen**, Director General of the National Opera, whose subject was *Works of Richard Wagner in the history of the Finnish National Opera*. Mr. **Jari Sinkkonen**, M.D.: *Glory and pain in the lives of Wagner's women*. **Prof.. Anne Sivuoja-Gunaratnam**: *Vocal confrontation of the sexes in Wagner's Parsifal*. Panel of **young members** on their interests in Wagner's operas. *Wesendonck Lieder* sung by **Jutta**

Holmberg, soprano, our stipendiary 2006, accompanied by pianist **Hans-Otto Ehrström** *Siegfried Idyll*: Hans-Otto Ehrström. At the gala dinner we heard several performances of our stipendiaries singing Wagner's music. *Elsa's Dream* was sung by **Liisa Viinanen**, soprano, and *The Graal Tale* by **Petrus Schroderus**, tenor. As a final surprise in came all the valkyries performing the whole *Valkyrie Ride* in addition with the entrance of Brünnhilde (Jutta Holmberg) and Sieglinde (Liisa Viinanen) accompanied by Mr. **Pekka Asikainen**, piano, who sang the necessary notes of angry Wotan.

28.11. **Jack Leo** made a presentation of famous interpreters of Siegmund and Sieglinde. Traditional Glühwein was served to mark the beginning of the Christmas season.

OPERA TOURS

27.1. National Opera in Helsinki, *Die Frau ohne Schatten*

2. – 8.5. Trip to Copenhagen new Opera House, *The Ring*,

27.5. National Opera in Helsinki, *Parsifal*

7.-10.8. The Stipendiary Jutta Holmberg (soprano) at the Bayreuth Festival. (host H Virri)

11.-16.8. Bayreuth Ring – a group of our members attended.

RWVI CONGRESS IN TALLINN AND HELSINKI 24.- 27.5.2006

Our representatives at the congress was Mr Heikki Virri (chairman) and Ms Riitta-Eliisa Laine (deputy chairman).

SCHOLARSHIP

Bayreuth Scholarship 2006 including tickets to *Parsifal*, *Tristan und Isolde* and *The Flying Dutchman* was awarded to Ms Jutta Holmberg (soprano).

PUBLICATIONS & BOOKS

Our members' magazine *Wagneriaani* (The Wagnerian) numbers 27 (3/2006) and 28 (12/2006) were distributed to all members and many international friends. You can find the web version on: <http://www.suomenwagnerseura.org/wagneriaani/index.html>. Along with articles in Finnish there were also articles in English, German. Subscriptions of the paper magazine 24 €/year.

HONORARY MEMBERS & HONORARY CHAIRMAN

Honorary Members		Since
Ms. Anne Evans	(Soprano)	1997
Mr. Frank Shipway	(Conductor)	1997
Mr. Jorma Hynninen	(Baritone)	1998
Herr Wolfgang Wagner	(Festival Director)	1998
Mr. Peter Bassett	(Author)	2000
Mrs. Cecilia Rydinger-Alin	(Conductor)	2001
Mr. Pentti Perksalo	(Tenor)	2001
Ms. Saira Luoma	(died 19th March 2006)	2003
Ms. Anita Vätkki	(Sopran)	2004
Mr Matti Salminen	(Bass)	2005
Honorary Chairman		
Mr. Uolevi Karrakoski	(the founder of our Society)	2001