

# The Finnish Wagner Society: Annual Report 2010

On 31.12.2011 our society had 548 members, of which 404 individual members and 155 family members (i.e. one (1) main member + wife/husband/child living at the same address) plus 11 honorary members.

## 20th anniversary

Our society celebrated its 20th anniversary in Turku 14.-16th October. Honorary guests the chair of RWVI Prof. Eva Mårtson + the chair of Swedish Wagner Society Ms Kerstin Jonasson. The anniversary included a symphony concert (entirely Wagner) conductor Ralf Kircher with soloists Jenni Lähtilä (sopr), Johanna-Rusanen-Kartano (sopr) and Petrus Schroderus (tenor) all former holders of our society's Bayreuth Scholarship + Esa Ruuttunen (baritone).

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## Events

### Helsinki

31.1.2011 Matti Huttunen: "Wagner as Martin Wegelius' idol"

28.2. Jenni Lähtilä (sopr): Wagner's Wesendonck-Lieder.

Lecture concert with pianist Kiril Kozlovsky.

28.3. Juhani Koivisto: Alfons Almi, the first Finnish Tristan.

The society had its annual general meeting the same evening.

20.4. Parsifal night; Anne Sivuoja et al.

23.5. Jukka von Boehm: "Lohengrin and German nationalism."

6.9. Ring night; Jenni Lähtilä (sopr.) and Hans-Otto Ehrström (piano).

9.9. Dinner at restaurant Elite after Siegfried at the FNO, where maestro Leif Segerstam was invited as honorary member of our society

14.11. Prof. Veijo Murtomäki: "Wagner's influence on Massenet's operas, especially Esclarmonde"

3.12. Christmas party with Airi Tokola (sopr) as a guest from Anita Vällki society; students from

Sibelius Gymnasium Maaria Myllykoski (sopr.) and Saarlotta Virri (piano).

### Turku

9.3.2011 Gillesgården, watching Wagner's *Rienzi* on a Blu-ray.

12.4. Litzen-hall, Hannu Salmi: "Durch Mitleid wissend.-Parsifal and its meanings."

14.-16.10. The society's 20th anniversary celebration included a concert with Turku Philharmonic Orchestra (conductor: Ralf Kircher), 20th anniversary seminar and a dinner.

## Opera Tours

### Abroad:

Capetown (Flying Dutchman) 27.1-5.2.

Karlstad, Sweden (Ring) 12.-21.6. and

Tallinn, Estonia (Parsifal) 27.-28.8.

### Finland:

Parsifal (Good Friday 22.4) and

Ring 5.-11.9, both Finnish National Opera, Helsinki.

Bayreuth Tannhäuser in 1.8., Lohengrin in 2.8. and Parsifal in 3.8 for 24 of our members.

Meeting at Weihenstephan with Finnish soloists Camilla Nylund and Jukka Rasilainen and chorus members Ms Liisa Viinanen ja Mr Ari Hosio.

## Bayreuth scholarship

The Bayreuth scholarship holder for 2011, was stage director, Anselmi Hirvonen. He traveled to Bayreuth 9.8. - 14.8.2011 along with Mr. Hannu Kauppala. The trip included tickets to Tristan and Isolde 10.8. Meistersinger 12.8. and Tannhäuser 13.8.

## Uolevi Karrakoski's Youth Foundation

The purpose of this foundation is to support young member's possibility to attend Wagner performances. Mr Uolevi Karrakoski is the founder of our Society and its honorary chairman. The scholarships in 2011 were granted for Alekski Lemola (tickets to Parsifal in the Finnish National Opera) and Alekski Ahtola (Parsifal tour to Estonian Opera, Tallinn).

## International Wagner Congress

The International Wagner Congress 2011 was held in Wroclaw. The Finnish Wagner Society did not send an official delegate this year.

## Publications & Books

Issues 37 and 38 of *Wagneriaani* ("The Wagnerian"), our society's magazine, were distributed to all members and many international friends. You can find the web version at <http://www.suomenwagnerseura.org/wagneriaani/index.html>. Along with articles in Finnish there were also articles in English and German. The editor of the magazine is Mr. Robert Storm. Subscriptions 27 € per year.

## Honorary Members

Ms. Anne Evans (Soprano) 1997 Mr. Frank Shipway (Conductor) 1997 Mr. Jorma Hyninen (Baritone) 1998 Mr. Peter Bassett (Author) 2000 Mrs. Cecilia Rydinger-Alin (Conductor) 2001 Mr. Pentti Perksalo (Tenor) 2001 Mr. Matti Salminen (Bass) 2005 Mr. Heikki Siukola (Tenor) 2008 Mr. Eero Tarasti (Prof. of Musicology) 2008, Leif Segerstam (Conductor, composer) 2011.

Late honorary members: Saila Luoma † 2006, Wolfgang Wagner † 2010, Anita Vällki † 2011

## Honorary Chairman

Mr. Uolevi Karrakoski (the founder of our Society) 2001

## Coming events (tours)

Opera tours for our members to:

Tampere Tannhäuser, 4.3.2012

Oslo Tristan & Isolde, 30.3. - 1.4.2012

Budapest Parsifal, 7. -10.4.2012

Copenhagen & Malmö, Parsifal x 2, 4.-6.5.2012

Helsinki Festival, Tristan & Isolde (Salonen, Sellars), 18.8.2012

Bayreuth (just a couple of tickets), 25.-27.8.2012

Buenos Aires, dir Katharina Wagner Colon- "Ring", 23.- 3.12.2012

La Plata, Die Walküre, 23.- 3.12.2012