

**WAGNER SOCIETY MANCHESTER
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**Musical Life in Manchester
in the 19th and early 20th centuries**

Our meeting on Monday February 13th will feature Geoffrey Thomasson who has been researching this topic for some time, focussing on the impact of German music and musicians in our city. He is particularly interested in the challenges posed to Manchester's allegiance to the idea of 'Was deutsch und echt' (what is German and true) by the First World War and in the use of this concept by the Nazi Party when annexing Wagner to their cause.

Siegfried Study Day

All 26 people who came to the Study Day in December had a wonderful time. There was unanimous praise for Derek Blyth's ability to appeal not just to those who are highly musically literate but also to those who have never learned to read a note. We also enjoyed his relaxed and informal style, based as it was upon tremendously careful presentation and extensive knowledge of the music.

As a result we have asked Derek to come again in December 2012 to run a Study Day on *Gotterdammerung*, and have booked the dates December 1st and 2nd at the Anthony Burgess Centre. Derek felt he would need at least a day and a half to do justice to the work, and also to include some DVD extracts as light relief. Please put the dates in your Dairy now. If you cannot come to both days there is no reason why you could not sign up for just one day.

Concert Performance of Wagner's Music

Among the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, concerts this season are the **Royal Opera House's Die Meistersinger** on January 11th, **Tristan** conducted by Andrius Nelsons on March 3rd, **Parsifal** conducted by Valeri Gergiev on April 6th (Good Friday), and Opera North's **Die Walkure** on June 30th.

Speakers for the 2012 – 2013 season

We are looking at possible ways of celebrating Wagner's bi-centenary in 2013, and devoting one of our meetings in the spring of 2013 to that. If you have any ideas, please let a member of the Committee know.

A Venue for the 2012-13 Season

The only place we can possibly afford for our meetings in the autumn of 2012 whilst the Friends Meeting House is closed is the Association Room at Chetham's School of Music. Even this costs more than twice as much as the room at the Friends Meeting House, so we may have to make some adjustment to our membership fees for next year, or ask for extra contributions at each meeting. I am arranging to visit Chetham's to see the room and the facilities in the next week or two and will let everyone know in good time how to get there, where to park and so on. [The charge for the Anthony Burgess Centre for the evening was the same as for the whole day on Saturday December 3rd, and it is not available anyway for our October date]

Tickets for Bayreuth

We have been trying without success to get an allocation of tickets for the Manchester Wagner Society, and so will not be affected by the decision of the Festival organisers to stop allocating tickets to Wagner Societies and Travel Agents. It is said that this move is in the interests of opening the Festival to more people, booking on line. Possibly it will speed up the long process of applying privately each year for tickets (it took me more than ten years for my name to come up on the computer). I understand that if one becomes a Friend of Bayreuth there would be priority booking, as is the case with the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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