

**WAGNER SOCIETY MANCHESTER
NEWSLETTER 24 (November 2009)**



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**Jon Vickers – an appraisal
(January meeting)**

I would like this to be more than just a summary of a Wagnerian tenor's career and so need some help. At our September meeting a member told me he 'hated Jon Vickers' voice', whereas my recollections are quite otherwise. Vickers' most famous Wagner roles were Tristan, Parsifal and Siegmund and I have several extracts on DVD and CD for us to hear.

However, I need some extracts by other tenors for comparison. Who was / is your favourite Tristan? Parsifal? Siegmund ?

Please email or telephone me with suggestions or offers of extracts on CD so that I can spend my Christmas holiday preparing for our January meeting.

Speakers for the 2010 – 2011 Season

We have a Committee Meeting on 23rd of November at which we will start the process of planning for next season. If you would like to offer to give a presentation or chair a discussion,

or have any ideas about speakers, please let the Committee know immediately.

Gareth Curtis

If you were unable to be present at our October Meeting, copies of Gareth's handout about Wagner's songs are available. Gareth sent details of the recordings of unfamiliar songs that he used:

" I'm afraid that these are very difficult to find, and not necessarily very rewarding. I used the following:

- Songs by various composers including Wagner (Thomas Hampson, Geoffrey Parsons): EMI Classics 7243 5 75187 2 7 (2 CDs). Probably the best six of the early German and French songs, and beautifully sung, but it seems to have been deleted now.
- Richard Wagner Faust Lieder (Hymnia Chamber Choir, Lone Koppel, Björn Asker): Scandinavian Classics 220502-205. Despite its title, this actually includes almost all Wagner's songs apart from the Wesendonck set. The baritone soloist is adequate if rough-edged, but the soprano isn't very good at all.
- Wagnerian Songs (Patrick Delcour, Diane Anderson): EtCetera KTC1276. Includes all the French songs (with completions of those Wagner left unfinished) together with songs by some other (to me) unknown composers. Not particularly well sung, I'm afraid.

There are plenty of excellent recordings of the Wesendonck songs in the orchestrated version. However, I'd strongly recommend that people try the original version with piano accompaniment, perhaps in the recording by Christine Brewer (Wigmore Hall WH Live 0022).

Jackie Roberts

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