

The Wagner Society in Queensland Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

2013 Wagner Bicentenary Competition for Composers

Composers who are permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand are invited to create an instrumental chamber work to celebrate the 2013 bicentenary of the birth of Richard Wagner (1813-1883). The Society is offering a prize of \$10,000 plus a public performance (with orchestra if appropriate) and a recording of the selected work.

The competition is for a chamber work of approximately 10 minutes duration for either a single instrument or a combination of instruments, quoting or otherwise making use of one or more themes from the stage works of Richard Wagner. A panel of highly qualified judges will select the winning composition, which will be announced in December 2012.

The deadline for submissions is **30 June 2012**.

Detailed terms of the competition and an application form are available at www.wagnersociety.com

Submissions and correspondence should be directed to:-

The Secretary

The Wagner Society in Queensland Inc.

PO Box 8357

Woolloongabba

Brisbane, Queensland 4102

BACKGROUND

Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig in the Kingdom of Saxony on 22 May 1813. He set an example of using themes from his stage works in chamber compositions with the beautiful *Siegfried Idyll* of 1870. Many other composers, beginning with Franz Liszt, have created wonderful paraphrases and adaptations of these works, but a vast reservoir of musical ideas remains to be tapped for chamber ensembles and solo instruments. The Society intends that the winning composition would stand as an impressive work of art in its own right and would attract on-going attention in concerts and recordings beyond 2013.

The Wagner Society in Queensland is one of six societies in Australia and New Zealand, and 136 societies around the world (membership in excess of 37,000) formed with the objective of promoting an appreciation of Wagner's works and encouraging performances and performing artists.

Detailed information about the competition is available on the Society's website. Further enquiries may be directed to the *Competition for Composers Organizer* Peter Bassett at pqbassett@bigpond.com or the *Secretary* Barbara Clifford at kbclifford@optusnet.com.au

12 February 2010