

BREAKING NEWS – Bayreuth Festival Administration Changes – Dec. 11, 2019

The Bayreuth Festival Administration very recently announced changes in handling ticket requests that will help Wagner societies to assist their members in ticketing for the 2020 Festival. A brief history:

- (1) In September 2019, they announced that all ticket orders would go only through the Festival box office. Some members notified us that they have received invoices for either part or all of what they requested (and some have arrived in the spam folder).
- (2) In late November, the Administration announced that they have returned to their system of past years of allocating a certain number of tickets to societies that are members of the Richard-Wagner-Verband International (RWVI), based on the society's membership.
- (3) Our Bayreuth Committee can now accept requests from members. Our policies are stated below.

We appreciate that some members have let us know, as we had suggested in Sept., that you have ordered tickets and also if you have recently received an invoice and are accepting what you were ticketed for.

1. Current Society membership is a prerequisite for requesting tickets. Members of more than one year's standing will be given priority. "Non-resident" or "Student" or "Senior" members must upgrade to at least "Regular" or a higher category to obtain tickets through WSNY.

2. All requests for tickets must be specific and in writing and must indicate the general price range desired (high, medium, or low). Requests are accepted **from December 1** for the 2020 Festival. In addition to length of membership, they are considered in the sequence received. Send requests with **full contact information**—address, phone(s), and email (essential)—to the Society address: P.O. Box 230949, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023-0949. Email requests are accepted and preferred: wagnerring@aol.com. Please specify if there are dates when you cannot accept tickets. Tickets to individual operas are usually not available. One set per member only; dual memberships may request two. Requests are not held over from one year to the next. The full schedule is on the Bayreuth Festival website and on the WSNY website.

3. We won't know which dates will be allocated to us until we are advised later in Dec. The last week of the Festival has been considered the "international" period, as the RWVI allocation had been for this period and it includes the WSNY lecture series and the gala dinner hosted by the WSSC. Tickets for other dates will become available through members who cannot use their tickets and then offer them to the Society.

4. Requests from members who received tickets previously will be considered after other requests have been filled, to maximize the distribution of tickets among the membership.

6. We call or email those applicants who will be offered tickets to inform them of the offer, with ticket prices and dates of performance. If applicants accept the offer, they must make full payment to the Society within two weeks. The approaching holidays may slow down this process somewhat.

7. All Society invoices for tickets include a 15% surcharge to cover handling expenses and will be used to make financial contributions to the Gesellschaft der Freunde von Bayreuth.

8. If a ticket holder is obliged to cancel plans to attend, he/she must notify the Society and return the tickets immediately; a refund (minus the 15% surcharge) will be made. This is required because the Society must offer canceled tickets to other members on its waiting list. We will only be able to refund tickets if the tickets can be resold.

8. Information on hotel accommodations or rooms in private homes can be provided by the Society, if requested.

We are also a member of, and additional contributor to, the Gesellschaft der Freunde von Bayreuth, so we receive and sell, to members, a few tickets from them and from members who are unable to use the tickets for which they were invoiced.

There are no guarantees of tickets or dates. Check *Wagner Notes* or the WSNY website www.wagnersocietyny.org for any updated information. Please note that the Bayreuth Festival requires that you apply each year in order to keep your request active in their computer. You may also become a member of the Gesellschaft der Freunde von Bayreuth, which receives an allotment of tickets for its members (although it cannot fill all requests). Please see their website for details. Their contact information is also given on the WSNY website links.

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