



2024 Series 2 Course D

Title **Why Wagner?**

Explore how Richard Wagner was a transcendent and controversial artistic figure from his day through to our own time.

Date **Thursdays 23 May – 20 June 2024**

Time **10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Venue **Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, North Dunedin**

Convenor Elizabeth Wilson
Email: elizabeth.lyall.wilson@gmail.com
Phone: 027 384 0011

Presenter Terence Dennis

Course fee \$40 (please do not pay until you receive an invoice)

Terence Dennis, Pianist, Blair Professor of Music at the University of Otago and current National President of the New Zealand Wagner Society, discusses Wagner's historic significance and modern relevance. He has been long acclaimed both internationally and nationally for his performances and teaching; of particular note has been his extensive recital partnership with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, with whom he presented around 50 performances across the world, including two Royal performances. His recent CD with international tenor Simon O'Neil, *Distant Beloved*, was released worldwide on the Decca label, and was awarded the 2019 NZ Music Award "Classical".

All applications must be received by Thursday 25 April 2024. You will receive a response to your application by Monday 6 May 2024.

Please contact the Programme Secretary courses@u3adunedin.org.nz, phone 467 2594 with any queries.

Why Wagner?

- 23 May** **Towards a new aesthetic**
How Wagner conceived his “music drama”, his radical new concept of opera, from the period of German Romanticism.
- 30 May** **Principles at play**
How “Das Rheingold” and “Die Walküre” exemplify Wagner’s concept of “music drama” as formulated in his influential writings on developing a unified work of art for the operatic stage.
- 6 June** **Wagner and antisemitism**
This session explores the music of the celebrated composer Meyerbeer, the most successful of the 19th century opera composers, and how Wagner’s notorious antisemitism was fired by Meyerbeer’s spectacular career as the greatest composer of the French *Grand Opéra*.
- 13 June** **Wagner in historic performance**
We listen to celebrated singers of Wagner from his own era through the 20th century. A touchstone of style and operatic history.
- 20 June** **Wagner and beyond**
How his work influenced so many future composers with examples from Richard Strauss, Korngold and Chausson.