4 March 2016

Dear Music Lovers and Friends,

AN INVITATION TO SIGN UP AS A FRIEND OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

The Richard Wagner Association (Singapore) and OperaViva Limited in association with The Finger Players are producing Richard Wagner’s first masterpiece *The Flying Dutchman* in Singapore from 23-29 October 2016.

Melodious and enjoyable, *The Flying Dutchman* is the most accessible of Wagner’s operas and resonates with everyone through its themes of ships, ghosts and wish fulfillment. Ours is the first fully-staged Wagnerian opera staged in Singapore and will combine some of Singapore’s leading theatrical staging talent (Directors Glen Goei and Chong Tze Chien) and feature winners and finalists of the prestigious triennial International Singing Competition for Wagner Voices organized by Richard Wagner Verband International e.v. and Karlshuhe RWV e.v. Asia’s pre-eminent young conductor Maestro Darrell Ang will provide musical leadership with a chorus conducted by Albert Tay and assembled by the Singapore Kodály Academy of Music - Schola Cantorum. The opera will be sung in German with English and Mandarin surtitles. Plans are already under way to develop an Asian concept and setting combining singers and puppets to help tell the story through innovative approaches: the trademark of Chong Tze Chien’s prize-winning company The Finger Players.

We invite you to donate $500 / $1,000 towards the production costs of our opera and become a Friend of the Flying Dutchman. Friends will watch *The Flying Dutchman* in top-tier seats, enjoy a sneak preview into the making of *The Flying Dutchman*, meet the opera’s creative team, and cast up-close-and-personal in special events in the coming months, as preparations for the opera step up.

Please sign up and help us realize this landmark production of *The Flying Dutchman*!

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ong Yong Lock
Chairman, Fund-Raising Committee for *The Flying Dutchman*, Singapore, 2016

A Project Supported by the National Arts Council Production Grant:

Thanks also to: Kentish Court Private Limited and many music lovers.
Richard Wagner's
The Flying Dutchman
(23 – 29 October 2016, Victoria Theatre, Singapore)
Presented by Richard Wagner Association (Singapore)
Produced with OperaViva Limited in association with The Finger Players

The Flying Dutchman opera sails into town

The Richard Wagner opera about a ghostly ship will be staged in full in Singapore for the first time.

Nur Asyiqin Mohamad Salleh

October will bring opera fans here a first: a brooding opera from legendary German composer Richard Wagner, staged in full in Singapore for the very first time.

The Richard Wagner Association (Singapore) and OperaViva, in association with theatre company The Finger Players, will present The Flying Dutchman, an 1843 opera about a captain cursed to sail the seas endlessly on a ghostly ship. It will be produced by a Singapore team that includes theatre maker

Chong Tze Chuan and Glen Goet in direction with help from international experts such as Ms Alessandra Alho-Pogliese, a tenor competition held in Germany by the International Association of Wagner Societies. They will sing at four of five performances here, with the remaining show, billed on Oct 28, performed by Singaporean leads. The other two roles will be sung by Singaporeans for all five shows. Auditions will be held on Jan 24 for the Singaporean leads and Jan 26 for chorus.

Richard Wagner Association (Singapore) president Julianne Lai, 60, says: "The show will be a rare cultural experience for the Singapore audience, and it will also be a rarity for Wagnerian singers – both local and international who are looking for opportunities to showcase their talents."

The Flying Dutchman was licensed in 2012 to introduce and deepen understanding of the composer’s works here and has been giving talks on and screenings of his work. It has about 50 members.

"We were feeling a bit bold and thought about doing a concert version of a Wagner opera to bring the experience to people. Then, we wondered, what about a semi-staged Wagner opera," says Ms Lai. "And in the end, we decided to go all out and settle on a fully staged opera." She hopes the show will also capture great interest in Wagner’s works among Singaporeans.

She says: "It’s a starting point for us, to show that the opera is fun and to make Wagner accessible and exciting people."

The budget for the production is about $160,000, and about two-thirds of that sum have been raised.

Ms Lim roped in director Goet and Chong because she thought they would complement each other. Chong has a "creative, economical style", while Goet has that "I thought, well, together this would be good fun," the says of Goet, 50, associate artistic director at Wild Rice, and Chong, 45, company director of The Finger Players.

"To make the opera accessible to a Singapore audience, the setting will be in South-East Asia. Regional influences such as wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) and Chinese opera will be added and the set will be inspired by a boat, or fishing villages on stilts."

Chong, who is taking on asopa for the first time, says: "The opera places a huge premium on music – the singers, the way the music moves with the plot and characters, these are all more intense and complex in, even more so than a musical."

"But at the same time, these challenges invited me to tackle them. I’m always attracted to challenges."
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The Flying Dutchman
(23 – 29 October 2016, Victoria Theatre, Singapore)
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Dear RWA(S) and OperaViva Limited,

I wish to become a Friend of The Flying Dutchman

And attach my cheque no. ____________ for $500 (single) / $1,000 (couple).

Signature: ___________________________

Name: _____________________________ NRIC: _____________________________

Address: ________________________________

Mobile: _____________________________

Email: ______________________________

Date: _______________________________

Please issue your cheque to OperaViva Limited with “Friends of The Flying Dutchman” on the back and send it with this form to: The Flying Dutchman, OperaViva Limited, c/o Aureus Academy, 35 Rochester Drive, #03-08/15, Singapore 138639.

Donations qualify for 250% tax deduction and attract dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY)’s Cultural Matching Fund (CMF), subject to CMF conditions.

For enquiries, please email flyingdutchmanoperaspore2016@gmail.com or call Michele at 98195986.

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and

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