

Date: 2/14/13

Project Director Deborah Burton

Department Music Theory/SOM

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Humanities Enhancement Projects and Visiting Scholar Awards
Due Date: November 15 or February 15

Project Title: Wagner in Context

Project Abstract: (about 250 words)

The year 2013 is the bicentennial of the birth of Richard Wagner, one of the most important and controversial European figures of the nineteenth century—his music, tainted by association with the Third Reich, is still banned in Israel. Wagner's work transcends any one discipline and his influence extends far beyond his musical creations to the realms of politics, philosophy, literature, and the status of the artist. An exploration of Wagner's legacy should then be interdisciplinary by nature. Marking this anniversary, a series of broad-appeal events at BU collectively entitled "Wagner in Context!" will be held in Fall 2013, examining not only Wagner's music, but his poetry, ideas, philosophy and politics. Planned events will include some of the following: one or more lecture/presentations by Wagner's great-grandson, author and anti-Nazi activist, Gottfried Wagner, possibly in conversation with Elie Wiesel; a round-table of BU professors from the departments of musicology, philosophy, the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies and the Center for the Study of Europe and others; a presentation by opera professionals from the Metropolitan Opera regarding staging Wagner operas; the inclusion of a Wagner instrumental selection on a Boston University Symphonic Orchestra concert, conducted by David Hoose, Director of Orchestral Activities; a recital by renowned Wagner singers; a collaborative performance by the BU Schools of Theatre and Music of Wagner's libretti for the "Ring," spoken with musical interludes; the creation of a facebook page dedicated to the events and linked to cultural sites in many fields.

Detailed information of your project, a complete budget outline, and a letter from your department chair or director should be submitted with this cover sheet.

Project Costs: Request from Center: \$20,253
Contributions from Other Sources: \$ 500
Total Project Costs: \$ 20,753

Project Period: From 9 15 13 To 12 31 13
Month Day Year Month Day Year

Signatures:  

Project Director

Department Chair or Program Director

Approved _____ Denied _____
Director, Center for the Humanities

Applications should be emailed to the Center for the Humanities by November 15th or February 15th. We ask that all documents be compiled into a single PDF attachment and sent to buch@bu.edu. Please read the FAQ section of the BUCH website if you have any questions concerning how to use our on-line application form.

(continued)

Boston University College of Fine Arts
School of Music

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February 12, 2013

Professor Bonnie Costello
Center Interim-Director
Boston University Humanities Foundation
725 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Professor Costello,

I am happy to support Deborah Burton's proposed project, "Wagner in Context." It is very interesting in itself and offers the possibility of wide intramural collaboration within the University. Professor Burton has already acquired commitments in this regard from the departments of Musicology, Philosophy and the School of Theatre, and the Center for the Study of Europe. She expects to do the same with The Elie Wiesel Center and German Department.

It should be noted that 2013 is the bicentennial of Richard Wagner's birth and thus is a particular apposite time for exploring the far-reaching and interdisciplinary influence of this seminal and controversial composer. "Wagner in Context" has been conceived and designed to link many parts of the BU community: music, theatre, philosophy, and others depending on their availability and interest (e.g., the Center for the Study of Europe, and the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies).

Wagner's great-grandson, Gottfried, an author and speaker, has agreed to be a guest lecturer (he is also the great-great grandson of Franz Liszt). Gottfried Wagner is a tireless spokesperson against anti-Semitism and may be available for a conversation with Elie Wiesel.

There will be relevant public performances, including a Boston University Symphony Orchestra concert, a collaboration with the School of Theatre for a spoken "Ring" with live incidental music, and a recital with Wagnerian singers.

Scholarly participation will take place in round-table discussions with BU professors from music theory, musicology, philosophy, literature and other fields. A Facebook page will be created as part of an interactive outreach to students and professionals.

I hope very much that the Center for the Humanities will be able to give this worthy proposal favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Dodson".

Robert K. Dodson
Director, School of Music

(continued)

WAGNER IN CONTEXT

Proposal to the Boston University Center for the Humanities, Humanities Enhancement Projects and Visiting Scholar Awards

“Whatever my passions demand of me, I become for the time being—musician, poet, director, author, lecturer or anything else.”

Richard Wagner, letter to Franz Liszt,

“The ideas and values that Wagner expressed—his attitudes about society, religion, romantic love and sexuality, politics, and art—proved a be a potent mixture that evoked a deep response from people with strikingly varied interests and from markedly differing constituencies: political radicals and monarchists, decadent poets and Victorian moralists, Darwinists and ministers of the cloth.”

David C. Large, Anne Dzamba Sessa, and William Weber, *Wagnerism in European Culture and Politics*, p. 7

A. Project Description

The year 2013 is the bicentennial of the birth of Richard Wagner, one of the most important and controversial European figures of the nineteenth century—his music, tainted by association with the Third Reich, is still banned in Israel. Wagner’s work transcends any one discipline and his influence extends far beyond his musical creations to the realms of politics, philosophy, literature, and the status of the artist. An exploration of Wagner’s legacy should then be interdisciplinary by nature. Marking this anniversary, a series of broad-appeal events at BU collectively entitled "Wagner in Context" will be held in Fall 2013, examining not only Wagner’s music, but his poetry, ideas, philosophy and politics.

B. Content

Opera is by nature interdisciplinary, involving several of the humanities: music, theatre, history, poetry, often dance, and visual arts; and Wagner’s works go beyond even all of these. As befits the interdisciplinary nature of the subject, the organization of these events will be multi-faceted, including scholarly discussions, musical performances and electronic communication. Planned events will include some of the following:

- one or more lecture/presentations by Wagner's great-grandson, author and anti-Nazi activist, Gottfried Wagner, possibly in conversation with Elie Wiesel.
- a round-table of BU professors from the departments of musicology, philosophy, the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies and the Center for the Study of Europe and others.

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- a presentation by opera professionals from the Metropolitan Opera regarding staging Wagner operas. These could include BU alumnus Donald Palumbo, the chorus master for the Metropolitan Opera, BU alumnus David Kneuss, Executive Stage Director, and William Berger, author of *Wagner Without Fear* (1998), and host of the Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts and Opera Quiz.
- the inclusion of a Wagner instrumental selection on a Boston University Symphonic Orchestra concert, conducted by David Hoose, Director of Orchestral Activities; Professor of Music, Instrumental Conducting, School of Music, Boston University
- a recital by renowned Wagner singers, such as Jane Eaglen (New England Conservatory) or Deborah Voigt, an honoree of the Howard Gotlieb Center.
- a collaborative performance by the BU Schools of Theatre and Music of Wagner's libretti for the *Ring*, spoken with musical interludes.
- the creation of a facebook page dedicated to the events and linked to cultural sites in many fields.
- an exhibition of archival material from the Howard Gotlieb Center, including letters, photographs and scores related to Wagner and his family.

C. Rights and Permissions

Permissions will be needed for any image that we use on a poster, with a possible use fee of approximately \$100.

The chamber orchestral version of Wagner's *Ring*, orchestrated by composer Jonathan Dove—parts of which would be performed during the School of Theatre/School of Music co-production—can be obtained from the Birmingham Opera Company (UK), which would charge £300 for royalties and rentals for each of the four operas, for a total of \$1861.

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D. Budget

item	description	cost	TOTAL
<u>travel</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gottfried Wagner: • Donald Palumbo • David Kneuss • William Berger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • airfare Milan-Boston-Milan (\$850) • New York-Boston-New York-Boston (\$214 on Amtrak x 3 = \$642) 	\$1492.00
<u>hotel</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Gottfried Wagner</u>, 3 nights • <u>Donald Palumbo</u>, one night • <u>David Kneuss</u>, one night • <u>William Berger</u>, one night at: Hotel Commonwealth, 500 Commonwealth Ave., Boston 02215	(\$275/night x 6)	\$1650
<u>per diems</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • per diem x 4 days for 1 guest • per diem x 2 days for 3 guests 	(\$75 x 10)	\$750
<u>honoraria</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for one star performer or three young professionals • four guest speakers (\$1000 x 4) 	(\$5000) (\$4000)	\$9000
<u>exhibition costs</u>	white foam board, paint, pins, mounting adhesive, paper for labels clear polyester stripping decorative marbled paper	(\$500)	\$500

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<u>publicity</u>	posters, radio ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 ads on WBUR (\$1200) • 10 ads on WGBH (\$1200) • posters (\$500) 	\$2900
<u>videotaping</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taping of round table discussion • taping of Wagner/Wiesel discussion 	(\$1000 x 2)	\$2000
<u>permissions</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • images for poster • rental of orchestral materials, royalties 	(\$100) (£300 per opera x 4 operas = £1200 or \$1861)	\$1961
<u>receptions</u>	wine/cheese (\$250 x 2 events)	(\$500)	\$500
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$20,753
OTHER FUNDING	Center for the Study of Europe contribution (\$500)		- \$500
TOTAL REQUESTED			\$20,253

- The Center for the Study of Europe has generously offered to contribute \$500 to this project, and Dean Benjamin Juarez (CFA) has indicated that some funds may be available from his office.

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E. Documentation

- email from Gottfried Wagner, great-grandson of Richard Wagner, author and lecturer:

On 12/12/12 6:07 AM, Gottfried Wagner wrote:

Dear Deborah,
thank you for your kind mail.
October or November will be fine for me. Let me know as soon as you can because 2013 will be busy in Europe.

I do not have any problems when you ask Elie Wiesel who I met in Paris at the Sorbonne during one of his big presentations.

I attach [the cover of] my new book

You shall have no other gods before me Richard Wagner - a minefield [Du sollst keine anderen Götter haben neben mir: Richard Wagner - Ein Minenfeld]

which will come out next April. Might be talking also about it could be interesting. Or?

Also to you a peaceful change of the year with my best wishes

Gottfried

Dr. Gottfried Wagner
<http://www.gottfriedwagner.com/>

- email from Vivien A. Schmidt, Director, Center for the Study of Europe

On Tue, Feb 12, 2013 at 10:20 AM, Schmidt, Vivien <vschmidt@bu.edu> wrote:

Dear Deborah,

All of these events sound wonderful. We would be happy to participate in any appropriate way, providing logistic support as well as in advertising your events. We would also be happy to contribute a small amount to the proposed program, if you think this would help your application. Say, \$500? Please consider this email as confirmation of our support.

Best regards,

Vivien

Vivien A. Schmidt
Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration, Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Europe
154 Bay State Road Boston MA 02215 USA
tel: +1 617 3580192 fax: +1 617 3539290

(continued)

• email exchange between Deborah Burton (SOM, CFA) Paul Katsafanas and David Roochnik (Chair, Philosophy Department, CAS)

1. 10/9/12 10:54 AM

A discussion of Nietzsche on Tristan and Parsifal next semester sounds great. I'll be glad to arrange and moderate it. Just let me know when you both want to do this.

All best,

David
roochnik@bu.edu

2. On 10/4/12 9:21 PM, Katsafanas, Paul wrote:

This all sounds great, and I like the format that David suggested. With regard to dates, either way would be fine with me. In November, I'll be away from the 12th through the 18th, but am otherwise mostly free. Thursday evenings wouldn't work, but Monday through Wednesday is fine. I think January and February are wide open at this point.

Paul

Paul Katsafanas
Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy
Boston University

3. Dear Paul and David,

Over the break, I began developing an idea to celebrate Wagner's 200th birthday (2013), with a series of events tentatively entitled "Wagner in Context" for which I will apply for a grant from the BU Center for the Humanities. The proposed events would occur next fall, and would include a visit from Gottfried Wagner (his great-grandson) and passionate speaker, a possible talk with Elie Wiesel, a performance by the School of Theatre of Wagner's *Ring* as spoken drama, and musical performances.

I don't see why the evening we had discussed could not be part of this, rather than a stand-alone event. Or perhaps Paul would like to speak on Nietzsche as part of a panel discussion?

Please let me know your thoughts on this. I'm hopeful that we can do something exciting.

Best, Deborah

4. On 1/21/13 9:34 AM, Katsafanas, Paul wrote:

Dear Deborah and David,

This sounds like a great idea. I'll look forward to hearing more about it.

Best, Paul

(continued)

- emails from James Petosa, Director, School of Theatre, Boston University

On 1/23/13 9:48 AM, Petosa, James A wrote:

Hi, Deborah -

I had a good meeting with Bill Lumpkin as well and shared our conversation. He certainly "gets" the value and is also excited. So, by all means, feel free to discuss. (I've also spoken with Jim Noone, head of our scene design program, who is also enthusiastic.)

Best,
Jim

On 2/12/13 10:27 AM, jimjamespeto@aol.com wrote:

Hi, all -

The idea of staging all four libretti of the cycle as spoken text has been kicking around for awhile. When Deb and I were sharing ideas of how CFA might participate in a Wagner celebration, I shared the idea with her. [...] I would hope that the project could be done at the BU Theatre. Also, I would love to see the whole thing developed as a kind of production deconstruction of the *Ring* that gets the whole cycle performed in under three hours. Music should, of course, play an important role in such an undertaking. The reduction Bill shares in his email might be very useful source material to investigate the role of music in the production. [...]

All best!
Jim

- email from David Hoose, Director of Orchestral Activities; Professor of Music, Instrumental Conducting, School of Music, Boston University

On 2/8/13 12:40 PM, David Hoose wrote:

Dear Deborah,

I'm very happy to plan to include a Wagner work on a BUSO and/or BUCO concert during the fall. [...] I do hope that our doing some Wagner in the fall on one of the first two BUSO concerts would be a wonderful (and useful) thing. Let me know!

All best,
David

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- email from Donald Palumbo, chorus master for the Metropolitan Opera

On 2/14/13 1:55 PM, Palumbo, Donald wrote:

Dear Ms. Burton,

I would be very pleased to come to Boston University to take part in your series of events celebrating Wagner's 200th birthday. Your suggestion of teaming me with William Berger is an excellent one, as we have had great fun together in various interview encounters here at the Met. I will be back in touch shortly with possible dates in the Fall when I would be available.

Best wishes,
Donald Palumbo

- email from William Berger, author of *Wagner Without Fear* (1998), and host of the Metropolitan Opera Radio Broadcasts and Opera Quiz

On 2/10/13 10:27 PM, Will wrote:

Hi Deborah - The Wagner in Context series sounds excellent and I would love to be a part of it. Do you have any idea about the date involved? We will be getting the schedule for next season soon and then I will be able to know for certain. [...]

all the best

Will

- email from Thomas Peattie, Assistant Professor of Music, Musicology and Ethnomusicology:

Hi Deborah,

Thanks for thinking of me. In principle I would be delighted to participate. I can think of a few possible topics including Wagner reception c. 1900.

Hope the New Year is off to a good start.

Best,

Thomas

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Thomas Peattie
Assistant Professor of Music
School of Music
College of Fine Arts
Boston University
Boston, MA 02215

- emails from Hannah Baines, Assistant General Manager, Birmingham Opera Company

On 2/14/13 6:31 AM, Hannah Baines wrote:

Dear Deborah,

After talking with my colleagues I think we would be happy to offer costs of £300 per opera from the cycle that you choose to perform. I think this would cover our costs in producing the parts and getting them sent over to you along with the small fee for rental and royalties.

I hope to hear from you soon,

Hannah Baines
Assistant General Manager
Birmingham Opera Company

hb@birminghamopera.org.uk
www.birminghamopera.org.uk

Dear Deborah Burton,

Thank you for your interest in Jonathan Dove's re-orchestration of Wagner's 'Ring Saga'. We usually work out the fees for royalties and music hire based on the potential box office revenue that may be generated by the production. However in cases such as yours we understand that you will not be making much, if any, profit. Generally if the rental is agreed with an educational institution we generally only charge a nominal royalty fee and just charge for the hire of the materials and the postage charges incurred in sending them out. [...]

With best wishes,

Hannah Baines
Assistant General Manager
Birmingham Opera Company

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summary:

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