

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear friends in the International Association of the Wagner Societies,**

The first media reports on this have already appeared across the world: A few days ago, the first Richard Wagner Society in Israel was recognized by the authorities. The main goals are listening to and discussing the meaning of the music of the composer Richard Wagner in Israel. The initiator and president of the new society, Jerusalem lawyer Jonathan Livny, is emphatic that it is not about forcing people to listen to Wagner's music despite Wagner's anti-Semitic opinions and his reception during the Nazi regime.

Prof. Eva Mårtson, President of the International Association of the Wagner Societies, already received wide support from national and regional Wagner Societies at this year's delegates' conference in Stralsund for her initiative in working with Israeli friends of Richard Wagner's music and this contribution to international understanding. At that time it was already possible to assume it would be a stirring and adventurous path. This sealing of official recognition in Israel can be called sensational.



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