

HUMANITIES WEST

Presents



WAGNER

in His Century

*Presented in cooperation with the San Francisco Opera, the Goethe-Institut of San Francisco,
and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany*





R

ICHARD WAGNER
*was a man of controversy: vilified, adored,
immortal. His behavior was the subject of
scandal, his political stance nationalist in
the extreme, and his music extravagantly
rich in imagination and power.*

*Join Humanities West for a two-day
series of performances and lectures on
Richard Wagner: the man, the music,
and the myth. Renowned scholars discuss
Wagner's life and times, the art of
staging his monumental operas, and the
musical, philosophical, and literary back-
ground of his work. Hear the music,
performed by singers from the San Fran-
cisco Opera Center. Join Humanities
West and the San Francisco Opera for an
illuminating journey back to Wagner's
Century, on the eve of the staging of the
complete "Ring" cycle.*



HUMANITIES
WEST

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THE MAN

THE MUSIC

THE MYTH

Coming Up Next:

OCTOBER 4-5, 1990 "Bada Shanren: A Ming Prince in the Qing Dynasty"

MARCH 15-16, 1991 "The Enchantment of Prague: 1600-1750"

MAY 4-5 1990

580 Funston Avenue San Francisco, CA 94118

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WAGNER IN HIS CENTURY

*Moderated by Peter Pierson
Herbst Theatre*

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 8-11 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

ART AND REVOLUTION IN THE WORK OF RICHARD WAGNER

Lecture by Gordon Craig

In 1851 Richard Wagner wrote "I long for the revolution with passion, and only the hope of experiencing and participating in it gives me the real courage to face life." European historian Gordon Craig will talk about the mixture of politics and art in the work of Richard Wagner from his days on the barricades in Dresden in 1849 until his dominance of the European music scene.

CONCERT

The San Francisco Opera Center

Wagner borrowed from and was influenced by a wide array of composers and musical styles. Singers from the San Francisco Opera Center explore this heritage in a program of music by Beethoven, Gluck, Spontini, Liszt, Weber, and Wagner himself. Performers include Micah Graber, Maria Fortuna, Catherine Keen, Patricia Racette, Mary Mills, Craig Estep, and Hong Shen Li.

RECEPTION

Bavarian pastries and champagne highlight this post-concert reception held in the baroque splendor of the War Memorial Green Room. Hosted by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany.

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 10 AM - 5 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 9:30 AM

THE MUSIC WAGNER LOVED

Lecture by Michael Steinberg

The roots of Wagner's style highlight this urbane and illuminating talk by musicologist Michael Steinberg, Artistic Adviser to the San Francisco Symphony. In this musically-illustrated lecture, Mr. Steinberg reviews both Wagner's inventions and his inheritance from such composers as Beethoven, Weber, and Bach.

HOW IS THE DRAMA IN MUSIC DRAMA MUSICAL?

Lecture by Anthony Newcomb

The sheer grandeur of a Wagnerian opera fires the imagination. The sets are mesmerizing, the spectacle overwhelming. But it is the music that remains the essential element of his work. UC Berkeley's Anthony Newcomb discusses how drama and music interact and reinforce each other to create a Wagnerian symbiosis.



WAGNER AND THE WRITTEN WORD

Lecture by Hans Vaget

The literature of Wagner's time had a profound effect on his life and on his music. In this lecture, Smith College's Hans Vaget considers the operas themselves as works of literature, situating them in the context of European literary history. Prof. Vaget explores the influence of various literary movements upon Wagner and the ways in which he incorporated them into his own work.

STAGING 'THE RING': THE FIRST CENTURY

Lecture by Barry Millington

In the 100 or so years that have elapsed since Wagner's "Ring" was first given at Bayreuth in 1876, the vast tetralogy has been staged in every conceivable theatrical mode. Wagner authority Barry Millington's illustrated lecture traces the history of that staging from the pictorial naturalism of the nineteenth century to the plurality of styles in evidence today.

CONCERT

The San Francisco Opera Center

Wagner's passionate "Wesendonck Lieder" highlight this performance by Catherine Keen, Mary Mills, Hong Shen Li, Patricia Racette, and other artists of the San Francisco Opera Center. Besides songs and opera excerpts by Wagner, the program will include works by Berlioz, Korngold, and Richard Strauss, illuminating Wagner's inescapable influence on his contemporaries and the following generation of composers.



	General	HW Members	Students	Quantity	Total
COMPLETE PROGRAM May 4-5, 1990	\$75	\$68	\$40	_____	\$_____
FRIDAY EVENING May 4, 1990 8-11 p.m.	\$30	\$27	\$15	_____	\$_____
SATURDAY May 5, 1990 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	\$50	\$45	\$25	_____	\$_____
<i>Handling Charge</i>					\$1.00
TOTAL ENCLOSED					\$_____

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NAME

A special discount is available for groups of five or more. For information about group sales, contact Linda Graham at (415)346-7805.

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STREET

Please make checks payable to Performing Arts Ticket Service, and send with a self-addressed stamped business envelope to Performing Arts Ticket Service, 1152 Market Street, Suite 216, San Francisco, CA 94102. Or, Charge by Phone at (415) 552-3656 beginning March 23, 1990. All ticket orders will be processed beginning March 23, 1990.

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CITY, STATE, ZIP

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TELEPHONE (DAY/EVENING)

There are no refunds for tickets purchased. Seating is unreserved and Saturday lunch is not included.

Founded in 1983, Humanities West presents programs designed to enlighten and entertain general audiences through performances, lectures, and discussions, offering a rare combination of the fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of a given era.

Humanities West gratefully acknowledges the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities in presenting this program.

copy by Jackie Burrell

