BAY AREA *RING* FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES CONTINUE THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE 2011

CELEBRATION FEATURES SYMPOSIA, EXHIBITS, FILMS, PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S PRESENTATION OF WAGNER'S *DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN*

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA LAUNCHES *NOTES FROM VALHALLA: THE* RING *BLOG*

SAN FRANCISCO (April 27, 2011 UPDATED May 13, 2011)—Presented in conjunction with San Francisco Opera's upcoming presentation of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung*), the Bay Area *Ring* Festival continues throughout May and June 2011. In celebration of the epic four-opera cycle widely considered one of the greatest works ever conceived for the operatic stage, a diverse array of cultural and educational institutions have partnered with San Francisco Opera to present lectures and symposia, exhibits, musical performances, film screenings and other events throughout the Bay Area for audiences who desire to connect with the work in new and compelling ways.

The many *Ring* Festival events that run throughout the completion of the cycle performances give *Ring* audiences the opportunity to explore Wagner and his music from a variety of unique and fascinating angles. Lively panel discussions discuss issues as diverse as the intersection of science and the environment in the *Ring* (California Academy of Sciences); psychological, political and spiritual parallels found in the *Ring* (New School Commonweal); and Buddhist influences evident in the *Ring* (Asian Art Museum). Seminars and symposia presented by Stanford University and the Wagner Society of Northern California will provide an in-depth look at the myths, legends and themes which

run through the four operas and San Francisco Opera will present three symposia featuring members of the music staff, creative team and production staff behind this *Ring* production. Upcoming musical performances range from an orchestral concert of music from the *Ring* (San Francisco Conservatory) and organ transcriptions of Wagner's music (St. Mary's Cathedral), to the lighthearted operetta *The Merry Nibelungs* by Oscar Straus (Opera Frontier). For the first time, San Francisco Opera also partners with the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and the Contemporary Jewish Museum to explore the sensitive and important issues of Wagner's anti-Semitism and the political impact of his music throughout history. Panelists, speakers and performers include an array of scholars and professors, authors, journalists and musicians, as well as a scientist, a screenwriter, a former monk and a psychiatrist.

Ring Festival partners include the Asian Art Museum; California Academy of Sciences; Commonwealth Club; KDFC Classical Radio; Contemporary Jewish Museum; Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of San Francisco; Humanities West; Jewish Community Center of San Francisco; Los Medanos College; Mills College; Museum of Performance & Design; The New School Commonweal; Opera Frontier; OPERA America; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley; San Francisco Conservatory of Music; St. Mary's Cathedral; University of San Francisco: the Center for the Pacific Rim; San Francisco Opera Center; Stanford University and Stanford Lively Arts; and the Wagner Society of Northern California. San Francisco Opera will also present three *Ring* symposia as well as pre-opera talks prior to each performance, and San Francisco Opera Guild will present preview lectures and discussions throughout the Bay Area.

San Francisco Opera Launches *Notes from Valhalla: The* Ring *Blog*

San Francisco Opera announces the launch of a new blog that will give readers an inside look at the creative process and behind-the-scenes activities that take place when planning, rehearsing and performing Wagner's epic four-opera *Ring* cycle. *Notes from Valhalla: The* Ring *Blog*, hosted at sfopera.com/ringblog, will have many contributors, each involved in bringing the *Ring* to life in a unique way. From singers, orchestra musicians and music staff to stage managers, wig and makeup personnel and video directors, this blog will shine light on the extraordinary team of people who come together to present this monumental work. From high atop Valhalla, the mythical home of the gods,

this is a unique opportunity to have a window into the world of the preparation and presentation of the SF Opera's new *Ring*.

"I'm very proud of the many educational, community and cultural organizations that have come together to present *Ring* related programs that are innovative, bold, sensitive, complex and timely," said San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley. "I am also particularly excited about the launch of *Notes from Valhalla*, our new blog that will provide an additional unique way for our audience to get to know the inner workings of this *Ring*."

About San Francisco Opera's 2011 *Der Ring Des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung)*

Siegfried production premiere: May 29 (1 p.m.)
Götterdämmerung production premiere: June 5 (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 1: June 14 (8 p.m.); June 15 (7 p.m.); June 17 (6:30 p.m.); June 19 (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 2: June 21 (8 p.m.); June 22 (7 p.m.); June 24 (6:30 p.m.); June 26 (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 3: June 28 (8 p.m.); June 29 (7 p.m.); July 1 (6:30 p.m.); July 3 (1 p.m.)

San Francisco Opera presents Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in three complete cycles, each in their entirety over the course of one week as the composer originally intended, from June 14–July 3, 2011 at the historic War Memorial Opera House. The four operas in this production by director Francesca Zambello—*Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*—will be presented in San Francisco for the first time as a complete cycle. Wagner's epic cycle explores the lust for power, the lure of gold, the sacred beauty of nature, and the power of redemption and renewal despite the destructive impulses of mankind, through the gradual unfolding of a timeless mythical tale.

Former San Francisco Opera music director and noted Wagnerian Donald Runnicles leads a celebrated international cast, including Nina Stemme (Brünnhilde), Mark Delavan (Wotan), Stefan Margita (Loge), Jay Hunter Morris (Siegfried, *Siegfried*), Ian Storey (Siegfried, *Götterdämmerung*), Gordon Hawkins (Alberich), Elizabeth Bishop (Fricka), David Cangelosi (Mime), Anja Kampe (Sieglinde) and Brandon Jovanovich (Siegmund and Froh). *Das Rheingold, Die Walküre* and *Siegfried* are co-productions with Washington National Opera, and *Götterdämmerung* is a new San Francisco Opera production premiere.

Single tickets for San Francisco Opera's May 29–July 3, 2011 presentation of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* are priced from $95 to $360 and are available online at *sfopera.com* or from the San Francisco Opera Box Office either in person or by phone at (415) 864-3330.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA 2011 *RING* FESTIVAL
CALENDAR OF ANCILLARY EVENTS

Visit sfopera.com/ringfestival for more information and 2011 *Ring* Festival updates.
All schedules/programs are subject to change.

PRE-CYCLE EVENTS:

April 30, 2011 / 8 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall, 50 Oak Street in San Francisco

Orchestral Journeys: Music of Wagner and Elgar
The Conservatory Orchestra is the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's premiere instrumental ensemble and one of the nation's finest young musician orchestras. Music director Andrew Mogrelia conducts a program featuring music from Wagner's *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung* and Elgar's "Enigma" Variations.

Tickets: $20; $15 students and seniors; available through the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Box Office (Monday–Friday 10am–4pm), by phone at (415) 503-6275 or sfcm.edu.

Wednesdays, May 4 through May 18, 2011 / 6-7 p.m.
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Kimball Hall, Stanford University, 661 Escondido Road in Stanford

***Siegfried* Seminar**
The Stanford Institute for Creativity and the Arts and Kimball Hall, the Arts Theme House at Stanford, present a seminar series led by Professor Jonathan Berger on Wagner's *Siegfried*. Guest lecturers and performers will join to introduce the opera to students and the public.

For further information, email scurran@standford.edu.

May 9, 16 and 23, 2011 / 7 p.m. & June–July 2011
MUSEUM OF PERFORMANCE & DESIGN
Veterans Building, Fourth Floor, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

The Museum of Performance & Design is planning multiple projects in association with San Francisco Opera's *Ring* cycle. On three consecutive Mondays, the museum presents a class series that will examine productions across more than 130 years with special design significance, from the most traditional to the most avant-garde. "Designs For Wagner's *Ring*: An Aesthetic and Historical Overview," will be taught by William Eddelman, Associate Professor Emeritus of Theatre History and Design, Stanford University. In tandem with the classes, The Museum of Performance & Design will also mount an exhibition in its galleries on the history of the *Ring* cycle in San Francisco, which will include a section on the development of designs for Wagner's operas.

During the run of San Francisco Opera's *Ring* cycle, the Museum of Performance & Design will also create a special *Ring* exhibition for the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco).

Tickets: $60 MPD members, $90 non-members. For tickets and information, phone (415) 255-4800 or visit mpdsf.org./PAGES/EVENT/calendar.html

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May 14, 2011 / 8 p.m.
STANFORD LIVELY ARTS
Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA

The Gurs Zyklus
Trimpin; Rinde Eckert, director
The concept of *Gesamtkunstwerk* has special contemporary resonance in the work of Trimpin; kinetic sculptor, inventor, musician and MacArthur "Genius" award winner. *The Gurs Zyklus* (*The Gurs Cycle*), commissioned by Stanford Lively Arts, explores Trimpin's personal history as impacted by the Nazi death camps in a multi-media work, equal part sound, sculpture and opera.

Tickets: $38–$68 adults, $10 Stanford students, $34.20–61.20 other students, $19–34 youth under 18; For more information visit livelyarts.stanford.edu/event.php?code=TRIM

May 17, 2011 / 7 p.m.
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
African Hall, 55 Music Concourse Drive in San Francisco

Environmental Awareness: Science and Wagner's *Ring*
Panelists Jan Hartley, *Ring* projection designer; Carol Tang, earth scientist and director of Public Programs, California Academy of Sciences; and other members of the *Ring* production and design team provide perspectives on the intersection of science and the environment in Wagner's work and the rise of environmental stewardship in Germany and the U.S. The *Ring* was first presented in its entirety in 1876 following rapid industrialization in Germany, while at the same time, pioneer conservationist John Muir studied and wrote about plant life in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Tickets: $18 adults, $15 seniors, $15 Academy members. For tickets and information, phone (800) 794-7576 or visit calacademy.org/events

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May 26, 2011 / 7 p.m.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO
3200 California Street in San Francisco

Panel Discussion: Wagner Through a Jewish Lens—The Enigma of Wagner's Genius and Anti-Semitism
Wagner composed music of astounding beauty. He was also a virulent anti-Semite. Is it possible to separate the music from the man and his legacy? Is there evidence of anti-Semitism in the works themselves, or have they been posthumously co-opted by the Nazis? What is the appropriate communal response to the *Ring* cycle—should we follow Israel's lead and ban performances or try to get as close as possible to gain better understanding? A panel of national scholars explores these questions and more as we examine Richard Wagner through a Jewish lens. Panelists include Randy Cohen, author of the New York Times column, "The Ethicist" and 4-time Emmy Award-winning screenwriter; Deborah Lipstadt, Emory University; and Joshua Kosman, *San Francisco Chronicle* music critic.

Tickets: $20-$25 adults, $17-$22 JCC members, $10 students. For tickets and information, phone (415) 292-1233 or visit jccsf.org/arts-ideas/lectures/jewish/wagner-through-a-jewish-lens

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May 28, 2011 / 1 p.m.
WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street in San Francisco

The Transformation of Heroes – Siegfried and the Nibelungen through the Centuries
Winder McConnell, Professor of German Studies at UC Davis will look at the portrayal of Siegfried in the Middle High German Nibelungenlied, the Old Norse analogues of the Siegfried story; the transformation of the figure into a buffoon-like character in later literary treatments of the sixteenth and seventeenth century; and Wagner's recognition of Siegfried's ambivalent nature in his *Ring*.

Tickets: Suggested donation of $10 for non-members. For more information, visit wagnersf.org/wsfevent/transformation-heroes-%E2%80%93-siegfried-and-nibelungen-through-centuries

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June 5, 2011 / 3:30–5:30 p.m.
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL
1111 Gough Street in San Francisco

Wagner Transcriptions for Organ, performed by James Welch
Noted Bay Area organist James Welch will perform virtuoso transcriptions of Wagner's operatic works on the 4842-pipe Fratelli Ruffatti organ at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Tickets: Offering box for suggested donations will be at the door ($5 suggested). For more information, visit stmarycathedralsf.org.

June 6–June 13, 2011
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD: THE *RING* PREVIEW LECTURES
San Francisco Opera Guild's *Ring* Preview Lectures will feature Cori Ellison, dramaturg for New York City Opera, offering an in-depth look into the *Ring* cycle operas. Tickets are $10 except where noted; for additional information, visit sfopera.com/previews.

June 6, 2011 / 8 p.m. / San Francisco Opera Guild, Marin Chapter
The Redwoods Auditorium, 40 Camino Alto in Mill Valley

June 7, 2011 / 10 a.m. / San Francisco Opera Guild, San Jose Opera Guild
Saratoga Foothill Club, 20399 Park Place in Saratoga

June 7, 2011 / 7:30 p.m. / San Francisco Opera Guild, Peninsula Chapter
First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street in Palo Alto
(Tickets: $8 for members; $10 for non-members)

June 8, 2011 / 12 p.m. San Francisco Opera Guild / San Francisco Chapter
Koret Auditorium, Lower Level, New Main Library, 100 Larkin Street in San Francisco
(This event is free to the public)

June 8, 2011 / 8 p.m. / San Francisco Opera Guild, East Bay Chapter
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way in Orinda

June 9, 2011 / 10:30 a.m. / San Francisco Opera Guild, Sonoma Chapter
Kenwood Depot, 314 Warm Springs Road, Kenwood

June 12, 2011 / 2–4 p.m.
THE NEW SCHOOL COMMONWEAL
Commonweal Gallery, 451 Mesa Road, Bolinas, CA

Goddess Archetypes in the *Ring* cycle and in Us: Psychological, Political, and Spiritual Parallels
San Francisco Opera *Ring* Circle Chair Kristina Flanagan in conversation with author Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D. and author of *The Ring of Power: Symbols and Themes - Love vs. Power in Wagner's Ring Cycle and in Us*.

For information, visit commonweal.org/new-school or RSVP to thenewschool@commonweal.org.

June 13, 2011 / 6 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD: THE *RING* INSIGHT PANEL DISCUSSION
Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Members of the cast and music and production teams of the *Ring* share their insights and experiences during this informal panel discussion.

Tickets: $5 for the general public, and free for San Francisco Opera members at the $75+ level; available at the door 30 minutes prior to discussions.

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CYCLE 1 EVENTS:

June 16, 23 and 30, 2011 / 8 p.m.
OPERA FRONTIER
Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter Street in San Francisco

***The Merry Nibelungs* by Oscar Straus (1904)**
To celebrate San Francisco Opera's 2011 *Ring* cycle, Opera Frontier will present a Wagnerian satire and revue directed by Ross Halper. This satirical revue will include Oscar Straus' complete operetta, *The Merry Nibelungs* (1904). Multiple performances will take place in San Francisco throughout all three *Ring* cycles so that Wagnerians can attend at their convenience.

For information, visit merrynibelungs.org or email rhalper2002@yahoo.com

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June 14, 2011 / 10:30 a.m–3 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: *RING* SYMPOSIUM—CYCLE 1
Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Many opera companies have produced *Ring* cycles since the work first premiered at the Bayreuth Festival in 1876. What is unique about our production? San Francisco Opera will offer a half-day *Ring* Symposium on the Tuesday of each cycle focused on answering this question. The morning session, led by a music scholar, will be an introduction to Wagner and the story, characters and music of the *Ring.* The afternoon session, moderated by San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration Kip Cranna, will focus on the aspects that are different and special about this production, among which are its distinctly American setting and its approach to issues relating to feminism and environmentalism. Members of San Francisco Opera's music staff will discuss the complexities of Wagner's music and connections to this particular production. Members of the creative team and production staff will share images of the sets, costumes, video projections and lighting and discuss the decisions they made with director Francesca Zambello.

Tickets: $40, available in early 2011; for more information visit www.sfopera.com/ringfestival.

June 14–19, 2011
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: PRE-OPERA TALKS
Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Enhance your experience by attending Pre-Opera Talks, whether you're a newcomer, opera aficionado or anywhere in between. Cycle 1 Pre-Opera Talks will be presented by Kip Cranna, Director of Music Administration, in conversation with Francesca Zambello, *Ring* Director. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 14, 2011 / 7:05 p.m. / Cycle 1, *Das Rheingold*
June 15, 2011 / 6:05 p.m. / Cycle 1, *Die Walküre*
June 17, 2011 / 5:35 p.m. / Cycle 1, *Siegfried*
June 19, 2011 / 12:05 p.m. / Cycle 1, *Götterdämmerung*

June 16, 2011
ASIAN ART MUSEUM
200 Larkin Street in San Francisco

Buddhist Influences on Wagner's *Ring* Cycle
Buddhism and Wagner Exploration, Part I
Join Wagner scholar and former Zen Buddhist monk Paul Schofield, Asian Art Museum Chief Curator Forrest McGill, and San Francisco Opera's head of music staff John Parr for a fascinating presentation exploring Wagner's study of Buddhism and its effect on the structure, story and music of the *Ring* cycle. (Part II takes place at The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at USF on June 20; one does not preclude the other.)

For information, visit asianart.org.

June 18, 2011 / 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
THE WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
War Memorial Veterans Building, Green Room, 2nd Floor, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Wagner's *Ring*: The Love of Power, the Power of Love – Cycle 1 Symposium
Enhance your *Ring* experience and learn more about Wagner's masterpiece. Each symposium explores different facets of Wagner's *Ring* with unique talks given by noted scholars. Among the topics will be the myths, legends, music, drama and literary aspects of this extraordinary work.

Cycle 1 Program: Cori Ellison (Dramaturg, New York City Opera); John Lindow (Professor of Scandinavian Studies, University of California Berkeley); Hans Rudolf Vaget (Professor Emeritus of German Studies, Smith College); Artist Round Table featuring artists and musicians from the production, moderated by Kip Cranna, San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration.

Registration: $65 per person, Wagner Society of Northern California Members $55 (box lunch included). Registration begins March 2011 at wagnersf.org; for more information phone (415) 421-4412.

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CYCLE 2 EVENTS:

June 20, 2011 / 6 p.m.
HUMANITIES WEST
Co-Sponsors: Humanities and Arts Member-Led Forums, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco
Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, 595 Market Street in San Francisco

The Wagner Problem: Lecture by Hans Rudolph Vaget, Helen and Laura Shedd Professor Emeritus of German Studies and Comparative Literature at Smith College
Ever since Richard Wagner made his mark as an artist and thinker in mid-nineteenth-century Germany, the man and his work have been viewed with suspicion. This phenomenon—"the Wagner Problem"—has a multiplicity of layers. This lecture addresses topics including Wagner's purportedly excessive womanizing, his so-called "dilettantism" in the arts, and his anti-Semitism. Introduced by Kip Cranna, San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration.

Tickets: Free to members of Commonwealth Club; $20 for non-members; available at tickets.commonwealthclub.org or by phone at (415) 597-6700. For more information, visit humanitieswest.org or commonwealthclub.org. Pre-event reception begins at 5:30 p.m.

June 20, 2011
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO: THE CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC RIM
The Fromm Institute For Lifelong Learning, Xavier Auditorium, Fromm Hall, 650 Parker Avenue in San Francisco

Buddhist Influences on Wagner's *Ring* Cycle
Buddhism and Wagner Exploration, Part II
Join panel members for a fascinating interactive exploration of Wagner's study of Buddhism and its effect on the structure, story and music of the *Ring* cycle. Panel members include Paul Schofield (Wagner scholar and former Zen Buddhist monk), Peter Bassett (Wagner and Buddhism scholar), Patrick L. Hatcher, Ph.D. (Kiriyama Distinguished Visiting Professor, Center for the Pacific Rim USF), and John Parr (San Francisco Opera's head of music staff). (Part I takes place at the Asian Art Museum on June 16; one does not preclude the other.)

For more information, visit pacificrim.usfca.edu

June 21, 2011 / 10:30 a.m–3 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: *RING* SYMPOSIUM—CYCLE 2
Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Many opera companies have produced *Ring* cycles since the opera cycle first premiered at the Bayreuth Festival in 1876. What is unique about our production? San Francisco Opera will offer a half-day *Ring* Symposium on the Tuesday of each Cycle, focused on answering this question. The morning session, led by a music scholar, will be an introduction to Wagner and the story, characters and music of the *Ring*. The afternoon session, moderated by San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration Kip Cranna, will focus on the aspects that are different and special about this production, among which are its distinctly American setting and its approach to issues relating to feminism and environmentalism. Members of San Francisco Opera's music staff will discuss the complexities of Wagner's music and connections to this particular production. Members of the creative team and production staff will share images of the sets, costumes, video projections and lighting and discuss the decisions they made with director Francesca Zambello.

Tickets: $40, available in early 2011; for more information visit sfopera.com/ringfestival.

June 21–26, 2011
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: PRE-OPERA TALKS
Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Enhance your experience by attending Pre-Opera Talks, whether you're a newcomer, opera aficionado or anywhere in between. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 21, 2011 / 7:05 p.m. / Cycle 2, *Das Rheingold*
June 22, 2011 / 6:05 p.m. / Cycle 2, *Die Walküre*
June 24, 2011 / 5:35 p.m. / Cycle 2, *Siegfried*
June 26, 2011 / 12:05 p.m. / Cycle 2, *Götterdämmerung*

June 23, 2011 / 7 p.m.
CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM
736 Mission Street in San Francisco

Who's Afraid of Wagner?
San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum presents a panel discussion exploring the Jewish response to Wagner's views on Jews and the political afterlife of Wagner's music and writings.

For information, visit thecjm.org.

June 25, 2011 / 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
THE WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
War Memorial Veterans Building, Green Room, 2nd Floor, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Wagner's *Ring*: The Love of Power, the Power of Love – Cycle 2 Symposium
Enhance your *Ring* experience and learn more about Wagner's masterpiece. Each symposium explores different facets of Wagner's *Ring* with unique talks given by noted scholars. Among the topics will be the myths, legends, music, drama and literary aspects of this extraordinary work.

Cycle 2 Program: Hans Rudolf Vaget (Professor Emeritus of German Studies, Smith College); Simon Williams (Professor and Chair, Department of Dramatic Art, University of California, Santa Barbara); Jeffrey Buller (Dean, Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University); Artist Round Table featuring artists and musicians from the production, moderated by Kip Cranna, San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration.

Registration: $65 per person, Wagner Society of Northern California Members $55 (box lunch is included). Registration begins March 2011 at wagnersf.org; for more information phone (415) 421-4412.

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CYCLE 3 EVENTS:

June 28, 2011 / 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: *RING* SYMPOSIUM—CYCLE 3
Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Many opera companies have produced *Ring* cycles since the opera cycle first premiered at the Bayreuth Festival in 1876. What is unique about our production? San Francisco Opera will offer a half-day *Ring* Symposium on the Tuesday of each Cycle, focused on answering this question. The morning session, led by a music scholar, will be an introduction to Wagner and the story, characters and music of the *Ring*. The afternoon session, moderated by San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration Kip Cranna, will focus on the aspects that are different and special about this production, among which are its distinctly American setting and its approach to issues relating to feminism and environmentalism. Members of San Francisco Opera's music staff will discuss the complexities of Wagner's music and connections to this particular production. Members of

the creative team and production staff will share images of the sets, costumes, video projections and lighting and discuss the decisions they made with director Francesca Zambello.

Tickets: $40, available in early 2011; for more information visit sfopera.com/ringfestival.

June 28–July 3, 2011
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA: PRE-OPERA TALKS
Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Enhance your experience by attending Pre-Opera Talks, whether you're a newcomer, opera aficionado or anywhere in between. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 28, 2011 / 7:05 p.m. / Cycle 3, *Das Rheingold*
June 29, 2011 / 6:05 p.m. / Cycle 3, *Die Walküre*
July 1, 2011 / 5:35 p.m. / Cycle 3, *Siegfried*
July 3, 2011 / 12:05 p.m. / Cycle 3, *Götterdämmerung*

July 2, 2011 / 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
THE WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
War Memorial Veterans Building, Green Room, 2nd Floor, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

Wagner's *Ring*: The Love of Power, the Power of Love – Cycle 3 Symposium
Enhance your *Ring* experience and learn more about Wagner's masterpiece. Each symposium explores different facets of Wagner's *Ring* with unique talks given by noted scholars. Among the topics will be the myths, legends, music, drama and literary aspects of this extraordinary work.

Cycle 3 Program: Simon Williams (Professor and Chair, Department of Dramatic Art, University of California, Santa Barbara); Jeffrey Buller (Dean, Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University); Christopher Weimer (Professor of Foreign Languages, Oklahoma State University); Artist Round Table featuring artists and musicians from the production, moderated by Kip Cranna, San Francisco Opera Director of Music Administration.

Registration: $65 per person, Wagner Society of Northern California Members $55 (box lunch is included). Registration begins March 2011 at wagnersf.org; for more information phone (415) 421-4412.

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Summer / Fall 2011
KDFC CLASSICAL RADIO 89.9 FM / 90.3 FM

Media partner KDFC Classical Radio 89.9 FM / 90.3 FM will continue its celebration of operas from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House with broadcasts of the *Ring* cycle during the Fall of 2011.

For more information: Broadcast dates and times will be announced at a later date. For more information, visit kdfc.com.

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PREVIOUS EVENTS:

September 25–October 30, 2010 / 12–2 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
50 Oak Street in San Francisco

The World of Wagner's *Ring* – A Composer's View
Composer Conrad Susa (*The Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Love of Don Perlimplin*) served as guide in an examination of the power and scope of Wagner's *Ring* cycle.

November 6, 2010 / 1 p.m.
WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
JCC San Francisco, 3200 California Street in San Francisco

Myths and the Imagination: Artists Interpret Wagner's *Ring* Cycle
Dr. William Eddelman presented a Wagner Society lecture entitled "Wagner's *Ring* – Myths and Imagination." Dr. Eddelman is an associate professor, emeritus, in the Stanford University Department of Drama, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Museum of Performance & Design.

January 11–March 1, 2011 / 1–2:40 p.m.
FROMM INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Xavier Auditorium, Fromm Hall, 650 Parker Avenue in San Francisco

Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung*: Music, Myth and Meaning
Wagner's four-opera saga *The Ring of the Nibelung* is one of opera's great treats with its epic power and music of transcendent beauty. In addition to listening to these musical dramas, Fromm Institute Professor James Keolker explored the many myths Wagner used, his distinctive poetry, his system of musical motifs, his political and social evolution, his challenging anti-Semitism, and various stagings of the *Ring* cycle.

January 21–May 27, 2011 / Online
LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

Opera: The Human Experience in Music, Voice and Drama
Instructor Richard Flynn taught an online college class focusing on the musical and mythical beginnings of Wagner's *Ring* cycle. The first part of this course explored how music and literature have come together through the history of opera. The second part was devoted entirely to the *Ring*, exploring the myths and literary influences that inspired this musical edifice.

February 7–March 14, 2011 / 1–3 p.m.
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
SF State Downtown Campus, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor, in San Francisco

Wagner's *Ring* Cycle for Everyone!
The *Ring* is a monumental experience. From the first theme to the stupendous finale, this is a work of art that changes people's lives. This course concentrated on learning its musical, dramatic, and literary significance, and how this major work has influenced other artists and art forms. Presented by Dr. Marcia Green.

March 1–June 30, 2011 / Online
OPERA AMERICA

Explore Wagner's *Ring* Cycle with *Online Learning*
OPERA America's free *Online Learning* course about Wagner's *Ring* cycle was led by writer and educator Thomas May. The course provided a comprehensive entry into the complex, labyrinthine and endlessly fascinating world that Wagner created through his extraordinary synthesis of the arts. The course offered eight full lectures covering background on Wagner; his musical methods and mythological sources; a history of Ring productions; and individual introductions to each of the cycle's four operas.

April 2, 2011 / 8 p.m.
THE MILLS COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THE CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College Music Building, 5000 MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland

***Foreign Experiences*, an Opera by Robert Ashley**
Featuring Sam Ashley and Jacqueline Humbert
Adventurous members of the *Ring* audience enjoyed *Foreign Experiences* by Robert Ashley, an American avant-garde composer who writes his own operatic cycles of epic proportions. *Foreign Experiences* portrays life in America, focusing on an individual's search for self-realization within the lonely, isolated California cultural landscape.

April 4–May 16, 2011
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT UC BERKELEY
University Hall, 2199 Addison Street in Berkeley

Voices that Touch the Heart: *The Ring* and Beyond
Music critic Jason Victor Serinus led a light-filled voyage of discovery and beauty through recordings and DVDs of Wagner's *Ring*, as well as through arias and songs by other composers.

April 5–May 17, 2011 / 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
SF State Downtown Campus, 835 Market Street, 6th Floor, in San Francisco

Voices that Touch the Heart: The *Ring* and Beyond
Music critic Jason Victor Serinus led a light-filled voyage of discovery and beauty through recordings and DVDs of Wagner's *Ring*, as well as through arias and songs by other composers.

April 10, 2011 / 5:30 p.m.
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER SCHWABACHER DEBUT RECITAL
Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary, 2 Lake Street in San Francisco

Mezzo-soprano Daveda Karanas Sings Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*
The Schwabacher Debut Recital Series presented former Adler Fellow Daveda Karanas in Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, accompanied by pianist Allen Perriello.

- SFO -

For further press information and photographs regarding San Francisco Opera's 2011 *Der Ring des Nibelungen,* please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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