Das Rheingold

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA
2010–11 SEASON

Timing: 2 hours, 30 minutes with bows (no intermission)

First performance: Munich, September 22, 1869.

First performance as part of a *Ring* cycle: Bayreuth, August 13, 1876.

First performance in the U.S.: New York, Metropolitan Opera, January 4, 1889.

First performance in San Francisco: Grand Opera House, November 27, 1900; presented by the Metropolitan Opera as part of the first complete presentation of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in San Francisco, with Adolph Mühlmann as Wotan, David Bispham as Alberich, Susan Strong as Fricka, and Ernest Van Dyck as Loge, with Walter Damrosch on the podium. ***An article about the history of the Ring in San Francisco can be found on pages 25–29 of your program.***

First San Francisco Opera performance: November 1, 1935

Orchestra: 3 flutes, 1 piccolo, 3 oboes, 1 English horn, 3 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 3 bassoons, 8 French horns (4 doubling on Wagner tubas), 3 trumpets, 1 bass trumpet, 2 trombones, 1 bass trombone, 1 contrabass trombone, 1 tuba, 2 timpani, 2 percussionists, 2 harps; 51 strings (14 first violins, 12 second violins, 10 violas, 8 cellos, 7 basses).

Backstage instruments: 1 additional harp for the final scene.

Anvils: 6 percussionists playing a total of 15 anvils. These are either long sections of railroad track, stage weights, or metal pipes, dampened with foam rubber. These are played in the chorus room and amplified into the theater.

Other amplification: Alberich when he is "invisible." Gordon Hawkins (Alberich) executes his own whip cracks without electronic assistance. Electronic thunder accompanies Donner's big hammer stroke.

Cuts: None.

Production:
This production of *Das Rheingold,* which received its premiere in Washington, D.C. in 2006, is a co-production with Washington National Opera that appeared in San Francisco in 2008. There

are no major differences between our 2008 performances except for the projections, which have been significantly enhanced and, in some cases, changed. ***A director's note by Francesca Zambello can be found on pages 18 and 19 of your program.***

For Zambello, much of the *Ring* is driven by the performers and had to be built around the unique personalities of the cast. Her process with the cast involved roundtable discussions of the text, and then she asked them to translate their character's text into the individual singer's native language.

Articles about the visual inspirations for this production—which were published in our 2008 programs—are available on the *Das Rheingold* page of our website: sfopera.com/rheingold.

All San Francisco Opera *Rheingold* casts:

	Fricka	Wotan	Loge	Alberich	Erda	Director	Conductor
1935	Eybel	Schorr	Clemens	Schützendorf	Meisle	Agnini	Bodanzky
1936	Manski	Schorr	Clemens	Gabor	O'Dea	Agnini	Riedel
1967	Dalis	Ward	J. Thomas	Modenos	Dunn	P. Hager	Ludwig
1969	Cervena	Mazura	Peterson	Knoll	Lilova	P. Hager	Stein
1972	Lilova	Stewart	Holm	Rintzler	Garabedian	P. Hager	Suitner
1977	Schwarz	Nentwig	Ulfung	Dene	Payne	G. Hager	Hollreiser
1983	Schwarz	Devlin	Lewis	Berry	Runkel	Lehnhoff	de Waart
1985	Schwarz	Morris	Lewis	Berry	Paunova	Lehnhoff	de Waart
1990	Dernesch	Morris Hale	Trussel	Fox Mazura	Svendén	Lehnhoff/ Feldman	Schneider Runnicles
1999	Bishop Lipovsek Zaremba	Morris J. Wells	Sunnegardh	Fox Sidhom	Zaremba Rabiner	Lehnhoff/ Serban	Runnicles Boder
2008	Larmore	Delavan	Margita	Fink	Grove	Zambello	Runnicles

Performances in 1935, 1972, 1985, 1990, and 1999 were given as parts of complete Ring *cycles. The 1969 staging was part of the Los Angeles opera season only.*

Role Debuts: Melissa Citro (Freia), Ronnita Miller (Erda), and Brandon Jovanovich (Froh)