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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

(German composer and operatic dramatist, b. Leipzig, st. with Schüler and Th. Weinlig; chorus master at Würzburg, conductor at Magdeburg, persecuted by creditors, escaped to ¨Königsberg and Riga, married to actress Minna, deserted him for other lovers, reconciled, escaped from creditors to Paris 1839, friends with Meyerbeer, operatic success at Dresden 1842; revolutionary, escaped to Zürich 1849; w. for King Ludwig II in Bavaria 1865, 1866 exile in Switzeland, love affair with Mathilde Wesendonck; retired in Bayreuth w theorist of the multimedia work of art; anti-Semitic and proto-Fascist ideologist, patriotic activist, author of his librettos)

**Works: Writings**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Die Walküre.* Drama.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *L'Or du Rhin.* (GF 817). Paris: Garnier-Flammarion.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Der Fliegende Holländer.* Rysanek, London. CD/MC. (Bouquet: Grosser Opern – Querschnitt). Hamburg: Polygram Klassik – Decca.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Der fliegende Holländer.* Adam, Silja, etc. Dir. Otto Klemperer. 2 CDs. (Great Recordings of the Century). EMI Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Tannhäuser.* Opera. 1845.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Das Rheingold.* Theo Adam, Gerd Nienstedt, Hermin Esser, Wolfgang Windgassen, Gustav Neidlinger, Erwin Wohlfahrt, Martti Talvela, Kurt Böhme, Annelies Burmeister, Anja Silja, Vera Soukupova, Dorothea Siebert, Helga Dernesch, Ruth Hesse. Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele / Karl Böhm. 2 CDs. Philips Classics.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Götterdämmerung / Twilight of the Gods / Le crépuscule des dieux / Il crepuscolo degli dei.* Helge Brilioth, Thomas Stewart, Zoltan Kelemen, Karl Ridderbusch, Helga Dernesch, Gundula Janowitz, Christa Ludwig, Lili Chookasian, Catarina Ligendza, liselotte Rebmann, Edda Moser, Anna Reynolds. Chor der Deutschen Oper Berlin (Walter hagen-Groll). Berliner Philharmoniker / Herbert von Karajan. Prod. Polydor, 1970. 4 CDs. (The Originals). Hamburg: Deutsche Grammophon, 1998.\* (Notes by Richard Osborne, martin Cooper, Karl Dietrich Gräwe, Guy Ferchault, Curt von Westernhagen; libretto in German, English, French, Italian).

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