

OPERA EXPLAINED

This audiobook series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recordings of the complete works, the presentation is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

An Introduction to...

WAGNER

Tristan und Isolde

Written and read by **Christopher Cook**



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Tristan und Isolde centres around two lovers who dream of romantic love and yearn for oblivion. No composer had written such a work before. Turning his back on traditional tonality, Wagner changed the course of Western music with *Tristan und Isolde*. But there's also fact behind the fiction: while he wrote his opera Wagner was in love with another's man's wife, Mathilde Wesendonck. So Tristan and Isolde are also Richard and Mathilde. Christopher Cook explores the making of a masterpiece, the story of lovers gripped by a passion that can only be consummated beyond the grave, a forbidden love that is blind to duty, honour and social obligation.

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