

Comprising four separate operas, Wagner's visionary *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (The Ring of the Nibelung) took 25 years to complete. Centred around a ring of power and the attempts of various people to acquire it, the Ring cycle explores the relationship between love and earthly power and the themes of yearning and loss, all within a setting of medieval legend. The prologue *Das Rheingold* deals with the theft and subsequent surrender of the ring forged from the Rhinegold by the Nibelung dwarf Alberich.

Stuttgart State Opera has been voted *Opera Theatre of the Year* four times by critics in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. *The Independent* described its 2002 production of *Das Rheingold* as "clever, witty... well-sung (with Esa Ruuttunen outstanding as Alberich) and expressively conducted by Lothar Zagrosek".



8.660170-71

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Playing Time
2:28:36



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Booklet notes and synopsis in English
Kommentar und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch
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Staatsoper Stuttgart

Richard
WAGNER
(1813-1883)

SWR

Das Rheingold

Wotan Wolfgang Probst, Bass-baritone
Froh Bernhard Schneider, Tenor
Donner Motti Kastón, Baritone
Loge Robert Künzli, Tenor
Fricka Michaela Schuster, Mezzo-soprano
Freia Helga Rós Indridadóttir, Soprano
Erda Mette Ejsing, Contralto
Alberich Esa Ruuttunen, Bass-baritone
Mime Eberhard Francesco Lorenz, Tenor
Fasolt Roland Bracht, Bass
Fafner Phillip Ens, Bass
Woglinde Catriona Smith, Soprano
Wellgunde Maria Theresa Ullrich, Mezzo-soprano
Floßhilde Margarete Joswig, Mezzo-soprano

Staatsoper Stuttgart • Staatsorchester Stuttgart • Lothar Zagrosek

CD 1	72:14		CD 2	76:22
1 Prelude	4:28	9-21 Scene 2	1-6 Scene 3 (contd.)	27:36
2-8 Scene 1	22:29	22 Scene 3	7-22 Scene 4	48:46

A full track listing can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the booklet

The German libretto and an English translation can be found at www.naxos.com/libretti/rheingold.htm

Recorded live at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, Germany, on 28th September and 29th December, 2002

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