

'This set is essential,' concluded *Gramophone* of the *Ring* cycle from the home of Wagner performance, the Bayreuth Festival, when this 2008 production was issued complete. Among the most distinguished Wagner conductors of our age, Christian Thielemann leads a performance of masterful pacing and burning conviction that features richly detailed interpretations from many of today's most experienced interpreters of their complex and glorious roles. Now distilled onto two discs, here is the *Ring* in a nutshell.

RICHARD WAGNER (1813–1883)

Der Ring des Nibelungen GREAT SCENES

COMPACT DISC 1

DAS RHEINGOLD

- 1–2 The Rheingold appears
- 3 Descent into Nibelheim
- 4 Alberich's Curse
- 5 Erda's Warning
- 6–8 The gods enter Valhalla

DIE WALKÜRE

- 9–13 Siegmund and Sieglinde
- 14 The Ride of the Valkyries
- 15–17 Wotan's Farewell
- 18 Magic Fire Music

COMPACT DISC 2

SIEGFRIED

- 1 Siegfried's Forging Song
- 2–3 Siegfried defies the Wanderer
- 4 Brünnhilde's Awakening
- 5–8 Siegfried and Brünnhilde

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

- 9 Dawn
- 10–13 Siegfried and Brünnhilde
- 14 Siegfried's Rhine Journey
- 15 Vengeance Trio
- 16–17 Siegfried's Death
- 18–20 Brünnhilde's Immolation

Arnold Bezuyen · Michelle Breedt · Albert Dohmen
Hans-Peter König · Ralf Lukas · Christa Mayer · Andrew Shore
Gerhard Siegel · Linda Watson · Eva-Maria Westbroek · Endrik Wottrich

BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA · CHRISTIAN THIELEMANN

Richard Wagner
BAYREUTH FESTSPIELE

Executive Producer Katharina Wagner
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