The essential meaning of Wagner’s magnum opus Der Ring des Nibelungen is wrapped up in the composer’s own lifetime pursuit of transcendent romance, with the redemption of eternal love one of the primary tenets of this and his other music dramas. Wagner’s gift for orchestral colour and scenic characterisation make his operas highly suited to the genre of the tone poem, and these seven tableaux evoke major scenarios in the saga, as well as providing a sense of the course and spirit of the greatest operatic drama ever written.

Richard WAGNER (1813–1883)

Das Rheingold (1851–54)
1 Scene 4: Entrance of the Gods into Valhalla (arr. H. Zumpe) 7:37

Die Walküre (1856–70)
2 Act III: The Ride of the Valkyries (arr. W. Hutschenruyter) 4:58
3 Act III: Wotan’s Farewell and Magic Fire Music
   (arr. W. Hutschenruyter) 15:40

Siegfried (1851–71)
4 Act II: Forest Murmurs (arr. H. Zumpe) 7:39

Götterdämmerung (1869–74)
5 Prologue: Siegfried’s Rhine Journey (arr. E. Humperdinck) 10:58
6 Act III: Siegfried’s Death and Funeral Music (arr. L. Šťastný) 8:32
7 Act III: Brunnhilde’s Immolation Scene 8:15

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
JoAnn Falletta

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