



SEATTLE OPERA
SPEIGHT JENKINS GENERAL DIRECTOR

RING NEWS

For Release July 30, 2005

Seattle Opera Shows 1913 Silent Film

The Life of Richard Wagner

As Part of 30th Anniversary of the *Ring* in Seattle

On the 30th anniversary of the *Ring* in Seattle, Seattle Opera presents Carl Froelich and William Wauer's 1913 silent film, *The Life of Richard Wagner*. This 70-minute epic will be shown three times in August—August 11, 19, and 27—at 7:00 p.m. in the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall. Tickets are \$20 and available through the Seattle Opera Ticket Office at 206-389-7676 or www.seattleopera.org.

Seattle Opera will be featuring the work as a part of this summer's *Ring* festival, along with a lecture by Dr. Paul Fryer (a British specialist on early film and opera) on the reconstruction of the film. Dr. Fryer has presented the lecture and film to the Wagner Societies of New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins attended the film in San Francisco and found the work to be of unique historical value.

"It gives us a chance to see how Wagner was perceived in 1913, when he was still considered a demi-god," explained Jenkins. "These people did not have the [benefit of the] past sixty years of Wagner scholarship that we now have to rely upon. I think it's an interesting film in itself, one that all Wagnerians would enjoy."

Most silent films in the early 1900s were quite short, but this rare Wagner silent film is a full 70 minutes. It will be shown with English titles and accompanied by a newly composed musical score by Barry Seaman (a British composer who also wrote a musical score for Feodor Chaliapin's 1915 silent film *Ivan the Terrible*).

The screenings are open to the public, not just *Ring* ticketholders.

The Life of Richard Wagner, Silent Film, Seattle Opera, August 2005

Ticket Information

\$20; 206-389-7676

August 11, 19, and 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at McCaw Hall
321 Mercer Street, Seattle, Washington 98109

(over)

Der Ring des Nibelungen, Seattle Opera, August 2005

Music and Libretto by Richard Wagner

In German with English Captions

Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Seattle, Washington

Ticket Information

Sold Out. Standing room only; SRO tickets go on sale on the first day of each cycle for \$20 each.

OPERA	CYCLE I	CYCLE II	CYCLE III
<i>Das Rheingold</i> (7:00 p.m.)	(Sun) August 7	(Mon) August 15	(Tues) August 23
<i>Die Walküre</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Mon) August 8	(Tues) August 16	(Wed) August 24
<i>Siegfried</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Wed) August 10	(Thurs) August 18	(Fri) August 26
<i>Götterdämmerung</i> (6:00 p.m.)	(Fri) August 12	(Sat) August 20	(Sun) August 28

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Founded in 1963, Seattle Opera has developed into one of the leading opera companies in the United States. The company is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances, especially the Opera's presentation of the works of Richard Wagner.

Seattle Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of the following for the *Ring*: Marion O. McCaw Garrison, Craig and Joan Watjen, Bagley Wright Family Foundation, 4Culture, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington State Arts Commission, John Graham Foundation, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle, Carol Franc Buck Foundation, Dilettante Chocolates, Town & Country Chrysler/Jeep

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