

# SEATTLE OPERA.

wagner

## **DIE WALKÜRE**

**WELCOME BACK CONCERT  
AUGUST 28, 2021**



A photograph of the Space Needle tower in Seattle, Washington, under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered for an outdoor concert. A stage is visible with a large mural backdrop that reads "SEATTLE OPERA AND SEATTLE CENTER PRESENT CONCERTS AT THE MURAL".

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# FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR



Photo © Philip Newton

## IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

I am truly delighted to welcome you to this concert of *Die Walküre*—our first live, in-person performance with musicians from Seattle Symphony in a year and a half.

This Welcome Back Concert also marks the opening of our 2021/22 season, and our upcoming return to McCaw Hall in October. This is a joyous time for arts communities everywhere. Actors, writers, dancers, musicians, painters, filmmakers, singers, and others have anticipated the opening of performance and exhibition spaces for months. I invite you to take part in this miraculous reawakening of live arts and culture. And while you are experiencing your favorite cultural events, I invite you try something new. There is no better time to connect with the arts than now.

Welcome back!

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Christina Scheppelmann', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Christina Scheppelmann

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# DIE WALKÜRE

Music and Libretto by Richard Wagner

Premiere: National Theater in Munich, 1870

Seattle Opera Premiere: 1973

**Performance at Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center**

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Performed in German

Act I: 1 hour and 3 minutes

Intermission

Acts II and III: 1 hour and 12 minutes

Conductor	Ludovic Morlot
Director	Dan Wallace Miller
Lighting Designer	Connie Yun
Sound Designer	Robertson Witmer

## CAST

**In order of vocal appearance**

Sigmund (Wotan's mortal son)	Brandon Jovanovich
Sieglinde (Sigmund's sister)	Angela Meade
Hunding (Sieglinde's husband)	Raymond Aceto
Wotan (King of the gods)	Eric Owens †
Brünnhilde (Daughter of Wotan)	Alexandra LoBianco

Musical Preparation	John Keene, Philip A. Kelsey, David McDade, Jay Rozendaal
Stage Manager	Jill Krynicki
Assistant Stage Manager	Mike Egan, Cristine Reynolds

† Seattle Opera debut

*Seattle Opera acknowledges Seattle Center, Fisher Pavilion, McCaw Hall, and the Opera Center are located on the ancestral homeland of the Coast Salish peoples. As Seattle Opera strives to create respectful partnerships throughout the Pacific Northwest, we hope to contribute to collective healing and true reconciliation.*

# THE STORY

This concert presentation of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre* has been edited to showcase the lead characters and principal scenes.

## DIE WALKÜRE

### ACT I

Siegmond, exhausted, weaponless, and pursued by his enemies, finds shelter from the storm in Hunding's house, where Sieglinde discovers him lying on her hearth. They are immediately attracted to each other. Siegmund, refreshed, starts to leave so that the ill fate that pursues him will not harm her, but Sieglinde stops him, saying that her life, too, is plagued with misfortune. Her husband Hunding arrives and gradually realizes that Siegmund is the enemy he has been pursuing. Out of respect for the laws of hospitality, he agrees to allow Siegmund to spend the night, but vows to fight him the next day.

Left alone, Siegmund longs for the sword his father had promised to provide at his hour of greatest need. Having drugged her husband, Sieglinde tells Siegmund that on the day she was forced to marry Hunding, a stranger came to her wedding and thrust a sword into the ash tree around which the house was built. Although many have tried to dislodge it, the sword remains there. As the two piece together fragments of their pasts, they realize they are long-lost twin brother and sister. Claiming the sword and naming it Nothung, Siegmund withdraws it from the tree. He claims his sister as his bride, and they make passionate love before fleeing from Hunding's house.

## INTERMISSION

### ACT II

Exhausted in flight, Sieglinde collapses in sleep. The Valkyrie Brünnhilde appears to Siegmund and announces that he must die in his battle with Hunding. When Siegmund hears that he must go to Valhalla without Sieglinde, he prepares to kill his bride first, then himself, so they can remain together even in death. Brünnhilde is deeply moved by Siegmund's overwhelming love. But her father, the god Wotan, is also the father of Siegmund and Sieglinde, and he must either punish their incest or lose all his power.

When Hunding and Siegmund meet, Wotan sees that Brünnhilde is protecting Siegmund, despite the orders he gave her that Siegmund is to die in this battle. Wotan steps in and shatters Siegmund's sword. Hunding kills Siegmund. Brünnhilde gathers the shards of the broken sword and flees with Sieglinde. Wotan kills Hunding with a wave of his hand, then pursues his disobedient daughter.

### ACT III

Brünnhilde tells Sieglinde she is to bear a son, Siegfried, who will become the greatest of heroes, and Sieglinde departs, determined to save her son. She takes with her the fragments of Siegmund's sword.

Storming in, Wotan announces that Brünnhilde's punishment for disobeying him will be the loss of her godhood. She will be put to sleep, to be awakened and claimed by the first man who sees her.

Alone with her father, Brünnhilde begs him to protect her from any unworthy man and conceives the idea that she should be surrounded by fire so that only a hero could wake her. Wotan agrees and sadly kisses her godhood away. He calls upon Loge, the fire god, to surround the sleeping maiden with a protective ring of fire. As the flames appear, Wotan proclaims that only a hero unafraid of Wotan's spear can claim Brünnhilde.



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# ARTISTS

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## RAYMOND ACETO

### Hunding



**Bass** (Cleveland, OH)

**Seattle Opera Debut:** Badger/Father Aloes, The Priest, *The Cunning Little Vixen* ('94)

**Previously at Seattle Opera:**

Raimondo, *Lucia di Lammermoor* ('00)

**Engagements:** Fafner, *Siegfried* (San Francisco Opera); Hunding, *Die Walküre*

(Washington National Opera); The Bonze, *Madame Butterfly* and Surin, *The Queen of Spades* (Metropolitan Opera); Soloist, *STARIAS: Opera's Most Powerful Moments* (Wolf Trap Opera); Catan, *Florenzia in the Amazon* (Lyric Opera of Chicago)

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## BRANDON JOVANOVIĆ

### Siegmond



**Tenor** (Billings, MT)

**Seattle Opera Debut:** Cavaradossi, *Tosca* ('08)

**Seattle Opera Young Artists Program ('98)**

**Engagements:** Samson, *Samson et Dalila* (Staatsoper Unter den Linden); Hermann,

*The Queen of Spades* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Siegmund, *Die Walküre* (Deutsche Oper Berlin); Parsifal, *Parsifal* (Wiener Staatsoper); Bacchus, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Metropolitan Opera); Lohengrin, *Lohengrin* (Royal Opera House Covent Garden)

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## ALEXANDRA LOBIANCO

### Brünnhilde



**Soprano** (St. Petersburg, FL)

**Seattle Opera Debut:** Donna Anna, *Don Giovanni* ('14)

**Previously at Seattle Opera:**

Floria Tosca, *Tosca* ('21); Santuzza, *Cavalleria rusticana* ('20); Aida, *Aida* ('18)

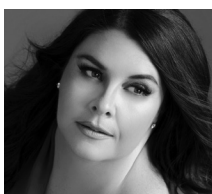
**Engagements:** Chrysothemis, *Elektra* and

Helmwige, *Die Walküre* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Prima Donna/ Ariadne, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Austin Opera); Tosca, *Tosca* (Portland Opera); Overseer/Confidante, *Elektra* (Metropolitan Opera); Leonore, *Fidelio* (North Carolina Opera)

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## ANGELA MEADE

### Sieglinde



**Soprano** (Centralia, WA)

**Seattle Opera Debut:** Leonora, *Il trovatore* ('19)

**Previously at Seattle Opera:** Angela Meade & Jamie Barton in Concert ('20)

**Engagements:** Aida, *Aida* (Gran Teatro del Liceu, Arena di Verona);

Elisabetta, *Robert Devereux* (Los Angeles Opera); Norma, *Norma* (Teatro Municipale di Piacenza, Teatro Regio di Parma); Anna Bolena, *Anna Bolena* (Teatro Carlo Felice)

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## DAN WALLACE MILLER

**Director** (Seattle, WA)



**Seattle Opera Debut:** *The Combat* ('17)  
**Previously at Seattle Opera:** *Tosca* ('21); *The Three Sisters* ('19); *Il trovatore* ('19)  
**Engagements:** Director, *Carmen* (Kentucky Opera); Associate Director, *Silent Night* (Washington National Opera); Director, *Dido and Aeneas* (Central City Opera); Director, *Street Scene* (Young Artists of America)

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## LUDOVIC MORLOT

**Conductor** (Lyon, France)



**Judith Fong Conductor Emeritus of Seattle Symphony**

**Seattle Opera Debut:** *Beatrice and Benedict* ('18)

**Engagements:** Haydn's *Symphony No. 86*; Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor Op.63*, Augusta Read Thomas' *Clara's*

*Ascent* (Seattle Symphony); Dvořák *Selections*, Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 1 in D major*, Haydn's *Piano Concerto No.11 in D major* (Colorado Music Festival)

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## ERIC OWENS

**Wotan**



**Bass-Baritone** (Philadelphia, PA)

**Seattle Opera Debut**

**Engagements:** Wotan, *Siegfried* (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Hagen, *Götterdämmerung* and Porgy, *Porgy and Bess* (Metropolitan Opera); Don Alfonso, *Così fan tutte*

(Washington National Opera)

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## ROBERTSON WITMER

**Sound Designer** (Seattle, WA)



**Seattle Opera Debut:** *The Falling and the Rising* ('19)

**Previously at Seattle Opera:** *Tosca* ('21); *Flight* ('21); *Don Giovanni* ('21)

**Engagements:** *Dracula* (ACT Theatre); *Greenwood* (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater); *Lyric Suite* (Spectrum Dance

Theater); *The Great Leap* (Portland Chinatown Museum)

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## CONNIE YUN

**Lighting Designer** (East Lansing, MI)



**Seattle Opera Debut:** *Die Fledermaus* ('06)

**Previously at Seattle Opera:** *Don Giovanni* ('21); *The Elixir of Love* ('20); *Beatrice and Benedict* ('18); *An American Dream* ('17, '15)

**Engagements:** *La traviata* (Madison Opera); *La finta giardiniera* (Portland Opera); *Snow White* (Seattle Children's Theatre); *Frida*

(Portland Opera); *2021 Festival* (Palm Beach Opera)

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# ORCHESTRA

## Violin I

Eduardo Rios, *Principal*  
Jennifer Bai  
Timothy Garland  
Caitlin Kelley  
Leonid Keylin  
Andy Liang  
Mae Lin, *Asst. Concertmaster*  
Victoria Parker  
Mikhail Shmidt  
Jeannie Wells Yablonsky  
Arthur Zadinsky

## Violin II

Kathleen Boyer, *Principal*  
Gennady Filimonov, *Asst. Principal*  
Natlaya Bazhanov  
Brittany Breeden  
Stephen Bryant  
Linda Cole  
Xiao-po Fei  
Artur Girsky  
Elizabeth Phelps  
Andrew Yeung

## Viola

Susan Gulkis Assadi, *Principal*  
Tim Hale, *Asst. Principal*  
Olivia Chew  
Wesley Dyring  
Allison Farkas  
Kayleigh Miller  
Camille Ripple  
Dorothy Shapiro

## Cello

Eric Han, *Principal*  
Roberta Downey  
Vivian Gu, *Asst. Principal*  
Emily Hu  
Charles Jacot  
Rajan Krishnaswami  
David Sabee  
Page Smith-Bilski

## Bass

Joseph Kaufman, *Principal*  
Jonathan Burnstein, *Asst. Principal*  
Jennifer Godfrey  
Todd Larsen  
Will Langlie-Miletich

## Flute

Jeffrey Barker, *Principal*  
Robin Peery  
Zartouhi Dombourian-Eby

## Piccolo

Zartouhi Dombourian-Eby  
Robin Peery

## Oboe

Mary Lynch, *Principal*  
Dan Williams  
Stefan Farkas

## English Horn

Stefan Farkas

## Clarinet

Ben Lulich, *Principal*  
Emil Khudiyev  
Laura DeLuca

## Bass Clarinet

Eric Jacobs

## Bassoon

Seth Krimsky, *Principal*  
Luke Fieweger  
Paul Rafanelli

## French Horn

Mark Robbins, *Principal*  
Danielle Kuhlmann  
John Turman  
Jenna Breen  
Jonathan Karschney  
Rodger Burnett  
Richard Reed, *Asst. Principal*

## Wagner Tuba

John Turman  
Jenna Breen  
Jonathan Karschney  
Rodger Burnett

## Trumpet

Alexander White, *Principal*  
Michael Myers  
James Ross

## Bass Trumpet

Ko-ichiro Yamamoto

## Trombone

Ko-ichiro Yamamoto, *Principal*  
David Ritt  
Nick Schwartz

## Tuba

John DiCesare, *Principal*

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## Assistant Personnel Manager

Keith Higgins

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Dramaturg

Paula Podemski  
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2021/22 Seattle Arts Fellow,  
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Stephanie Sintef  
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Assistant Stage Carpenters

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Martin Cunningham  
Assistant Master Electrician

Molly Brindley, Chris Dimoff,  
Jim Gable  
Assistant Electricians

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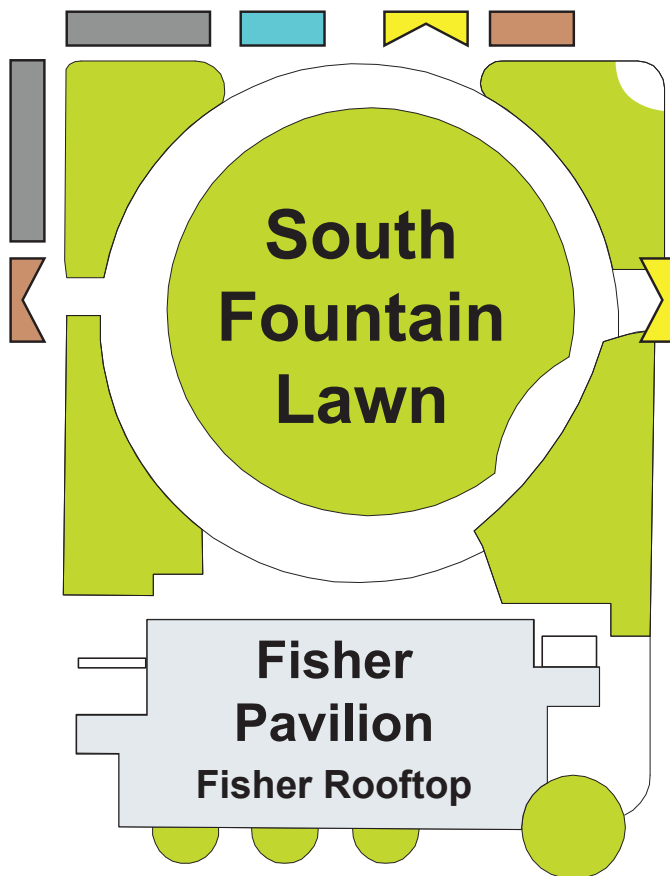
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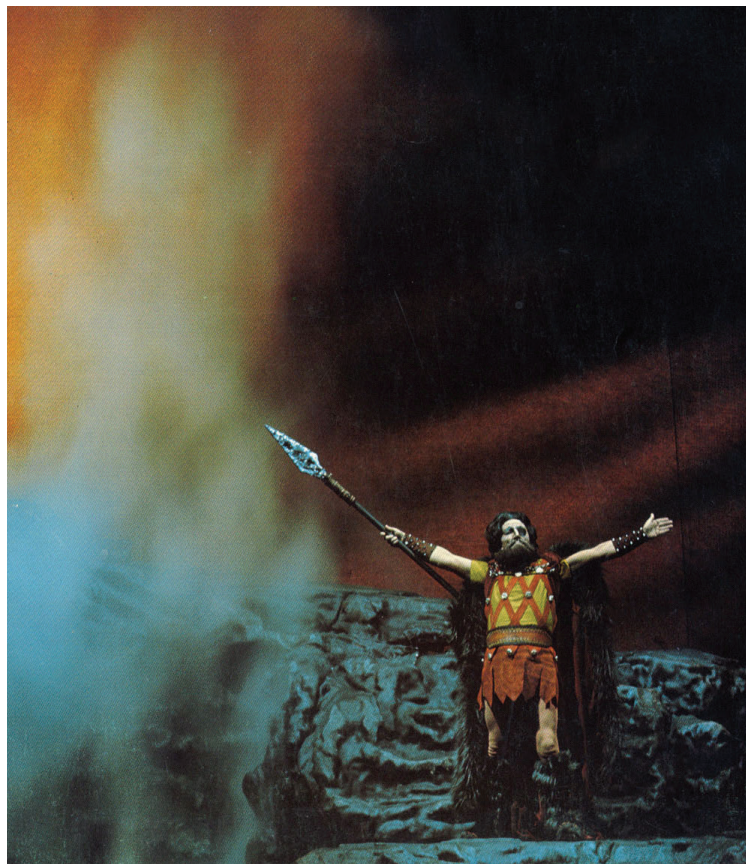
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# WHY DIE WALKÜRE?

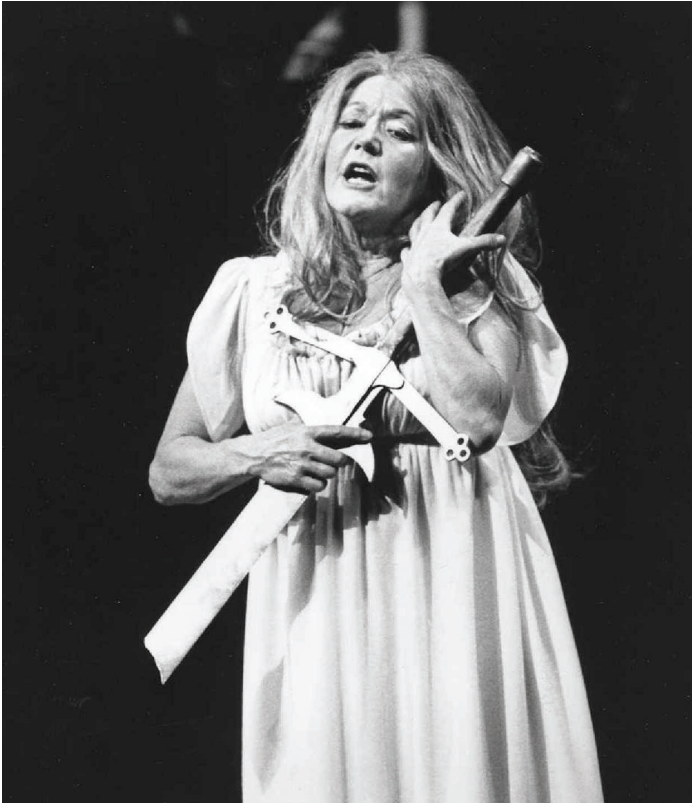


Archie Drake (Wotan) puts Iby Laszlo (Brünnhilde) to sleep in 1973.



Walkure Horses from Seattle Opera's Ring 2 (1995) look like they've just escape 19th century carousel.

Of course, the spectacular music and intense drama are reason enough for Seattle Opera to present this concert production of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre*. However, you should know that Seattle Opera has a long history with Wagner's *Ring* cycle, which the *Die Walküre* is a part. The company first staged the complete four-opera cycle in 1975. *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*, had not been given together in this way, performed over the course of one week, in the United States since 1939. That show was a big hit, and we went on to present the *Ring* twice every summer, once in German and once in English, for the next nine years. Seattle performances of *Ring* operas became a little less frequent after 1987. But the cycle became a beloved and much-anticipated local tradition, drawing opera-lovers from the world over. Three different artistic teams gave Seattle three quite different productions of Wagner's masterpiece. Enjoy these photographs of memorable Seattle *Die Walküres* from days gone by.



*The great Viennese soprano Leonie Rysanek sang an impassioned Sieglinde in 1987.*



*For Ring 3 in 2000, Philip Joll (Wotan) protected his sleeping daughter with a wall of real flame.*



*Stephanie Blythe (Fricka) and Greer Grimsley (Wotan) first sang these roles together in 2005, and the intensity and pathos of their relationship matured in 2009 and 2013.*



*Danish bass Stephen Milling was an intimidating Hunding in 2005.*



*Alwyn Mellor (Brünnhilde) and Greer Grimsley (Wotan) shared a joyous moment in 2013.*

# SEATTLE OPERA.



## puccini **LA BOHÈME**

**OCT. 16-30, 2021  
MCCAW HALL**

**"Puccini's score is intoxicatingly beautiful."**

— THE SEATTLE TIMES

A timeless story of love and loss. An audience favorite for over a century, this tale of four young Parisians who dedicate their lives to art and love is guaranteed to touch your heart. Puccini's lush, romantic score perfectly captures the simple joys and heartbreaking sorrows of the idealistic young. Their camaraderie, conviction, and passions, masterfully conveyed by an iconic score, make *La bohème* easy to love—and impossible to forget.

**TICKETS ON SALE: SEPT. 1 AT 10 AM**

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Chorus and members of Seattle  
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