

WAGNER

SIEGFRIED

DISCS ONE & TWO



Disc One

- 1 Act 1, Vorspiel (3:49)
- 2 Scene 1 - Zwangvolle Plage! Müh ohne Zweck! (4:26)
- 3 Hoiho! Hoiho! Hau ein! Hau ein! (1:57)
- 4 Da hast du die Stücken, schändlicher Stümper (2:29)
- 5 Als zullendes Kind zog ich dich auf (1:34)
- 6 Vieles lehrtest du, Mime (8:36)
- 7 Einst lag wimmernd ein Weib (5:23)
- 8 Und diese Stücken sollst du mir schmieden (1:30)
- 9 Da stürmt er hin! (1:56)
- 10 Scene 2 - Heil dir, weiser Schmied! (3:32)
- 11 Hier sitz' ich am Herd und setze mein Haupt (10:05)
- 12 Was zu wissen dir frommt, solltest du fragen (7:33)
- 13 Die Stücken! Das Schwert! O weh! Mir schwindelt! (3:05)

Disc Two

- 1 Act 1, Scene 3 - Verfluchtes Licht! (1:08)
- 2 Heda! Du Fauler! (0:33)
- 3 Bist du es, Kind! (3:21)
- 4 Fühltest du nie im finstren Wald (5:10)
- 5 Her mit den Stücken, fort mit dem Stümper! (3:35)
- 6 Notung! Notung! Neidliches Schwert! (8:09)
- 7 Hoho! Hoho! Hahe! (6:30)
- 8 Act 2, Vorspiel (5:09)

- 9 Scene 1 - In Wald und Nacht (2:16)
- 10 Act 2, Scene 1 - Zur Neidhöhle fuhr ich bei Nacht (6:30)
- 11 Act 2, Scene 1 - Mit mir nicht, hadre mit Mime (2:42)
- 12 Act 2, Scene 1 - Fafner! Fafner! Erwache, Wurm! (3:16)
- 13 Act 2, Scene 1 - Nun, Alberich, das schlug fehl (3:37)
- 14 Act 2, Scene 2 - Wir sind zur Stelle! (6:18)
- 15 Act 2, Scene 2 - Daß der mein Vater nicht ist (1:43)
- 16 Act 2, Scene 2 - Aber Wie Sah Meine Mutter Wohl Aus! (2:14)
- 17 Act 2, Scene 2 - Meine Mutter, Ein Menschenweib! (6:33)

Siegfried	Wolfgang Windgassen
Mime	Paul Kuen
Brünnhilde	Astrid Varnay
Wanderer	Hans Hotter
Alberich	Gustav Neidlinger
Fafner	Josef Greindl
Erda	Maria von Ilosvay
Waldvogel	Rita Streich

Live recording Bayreuth Festival, 10th August 1953

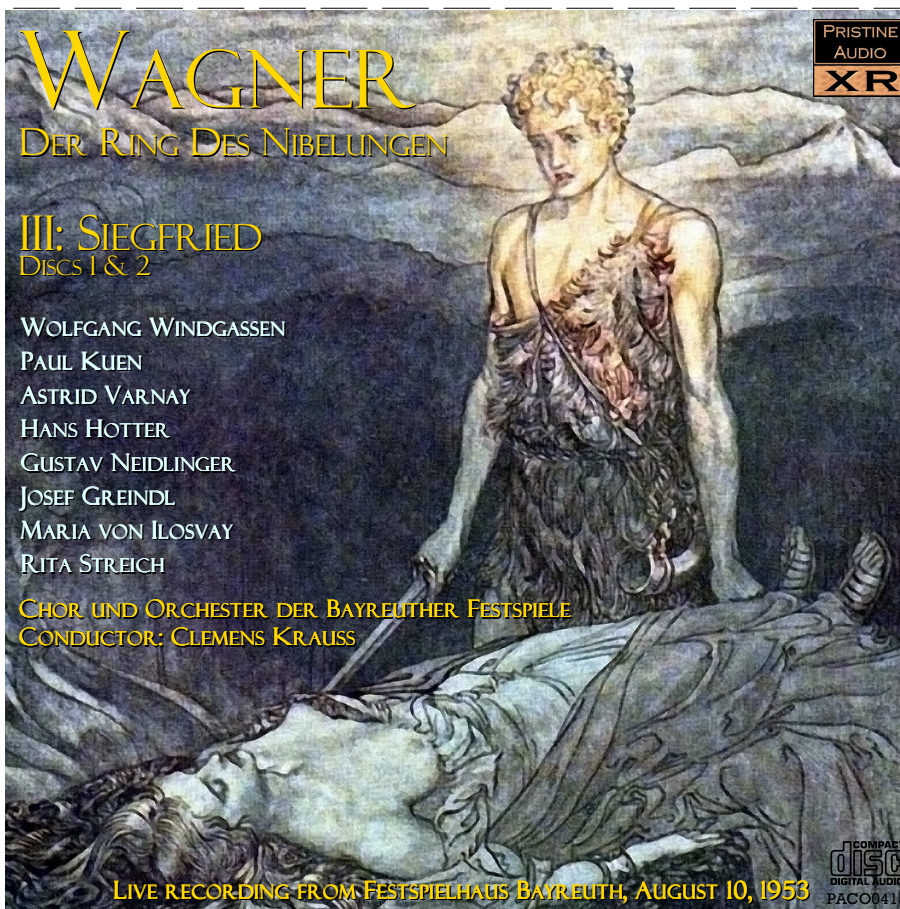
Chor und Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele
Conductor: Clemens Krauss

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, March 2010

Cover artwork detail from painting Siegfried comes upon the sleeping Brünnhilde by Arthur Rackham

Total duration: 4hr 02:11 ©2010 Pristine Audio.

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WAGNER SIEGFRIED

DISCS ONE & TWO

Act 1: Mime, Alberich's brother, is forging a blade in his cave within the forest. The Nibelung dwarf is plotting to obtain the Ring for himself, having raised Siegfried to kill Fafner for him. He needs a sword for Siegfried to use, but the youth has broken every blade he has made. Siegfried returns from his wanderings in the forest, demanding to know his parentage, and Mime is forced to explain how he took in Siegfried's mother, Sieglinde, who died giving birth. He shows Siegfried the broken pieces of Nothung, which he obtained from her, and Siegfried orders him to reforge the sword.

Siegfried departs, leaving Mime in despair: it is beyond his skill to repair Nothung. An old man (Wotan in disguise) arrives at the door and introduces himself as the Wanderer. In return for the hospitality due a guest he wagers his head on answering any three questions or riddles from Mime. The dwarf agrees in order to dispose of his unwelcome guest. He asks the Wanderer to name the races that live beneath the ground, on the surface, and the skies. These are the Nibelung, the Giants, and the Gods, as the Wanderer correctly answers. Mime tells the Wanderer to be on his way but is forced to wager his own head on three more riddles for breaking the law of hospitality. The Wanderer asks him to name the race most beloved of Wotan, but most harshly treated; the name of the blade that can destroy Fafner; and the person who can make the blade. Mime gives the answer to the first two questions: the Wälsungs and Nothung. However, he is unable to answer the last. Wotan spares Mime, telling him that only "he who does not know fear" can reforge Nothung, and leaves Mime's head forfeit to that person.

Siegfried returns and is annoyed by Mime's lack of progress. Mime realizes that Siegfried is "the one who does not know fear" and that unless he can instill fear in him, Siegfried will kill him in accordance with the Wanderer's prediction. He tells Siegfried that fear is an essential craft; Siegfried is eager to learn it, and Mime promises to teach him by bringing him to Fafner the dragon. Since Mime was unable to forge Nothung, Siegfried decides to do it himself. He succeeds by shredding the metal, melting it, and casting it anew. In the meantime, Mime brews a poisoned drink to offer Siegfried after the youth has defeated the dragon. After he finishes forging the sword, Siegfried demonstrates its strength by chopping the anvil in half with it.

Act 2: The Wanderer arrives at the entrance to Fafner's cave, where Alberich is keeping a vigil. The old enemies quickly recognize each other. Alberich blusters, boasting of his plans for regaining the ring and ruling the World. Wotan calmly states that he does not intend to interfere, only to observe. He even offers to awaken Fafner so that Alberich can bargain with him. Alberich warns the dragon that a hero is coming to fight him, and offers to prevent the fight in return for the ring. Fafner dismisses the threat, declines Alberich's offer, and returns to sleep. Wotan leaves and Alberich withdraws.

At daybreak, Siegfried and Mime arrive. Mime decides to draw back while Siegfried confronts the dragon. As Siegfried waits for the dragon to appear, he notices a woodbird in a tree. Befriending it, he attempts to mimic the bird's song using a reed pipe, but is unsuccessful. He then plays a tune on his horn, which brings Fafner out of his cave. After a short exchange, they fight, and Siegfried stabs Fafner in the heart with Nothung.

In his last moments, Fafner learns Siegfried's name, and tells him to beware of treachery. When Siegfried draws his sword from the corpse, his hands are burned by the dragon's blood, and he instinctively puts them to his mouth. On tasting the blood, he finds that he can understand the woodbird's song. Following its instructions, he takes the Ring and the Tarnhelm from Fafner's hoard. Outside the cave, Alberich and Mime quarrel loudly over the treasure. Alberich hides as Siegfried comes out of the cave. Mime greets Siegfried; Siegfried complains that he has still not learned the meaning of fear. Mime offers him the poisoned drink. However, the lingering effect of the dragon's blood allows Siegfried to read Mime's treacherous thoughts, and he stabs him to death. Alberich, observing from offstage, shouts sadistic laughter. Siegfried then throws Mime's body into the treasure cave and places Fafner's body in the cave entrance to block it as well.

The woodbird now sings of a woman sleeping on a rock surrounded by magic fire. Siegfried, wondering if he can learn fear from this woman, heads toward the mountain.

(These notes are continued on the next CD cover)

Notes from Wikipedia - Further notes online at www.pristineclassical.com

WAGNER

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DISCS THREE & FOUR



Disc One

- 1 Act 2, Scene 2 - Haha! Da Hätte Mein Lied (5:45)
- 2 Wer Bist Du, Kühner Knabe, Der Das Herz Mir Traf! (4:53)
- 3 Zur Kunde Taugt Kein Toter (2:11)
- 4 Scene 3 - Wohin Schleichst Du Eilig Und Schlau (2:39)
- 5 Was Ihr Mir Nützt, Weiß Ich Nicht (2:43)
- 6 Willkommen, Siegfried! (9:06)
- 7 Da Lieg Auch Du, Dunkler Wurm! (9:19)
- 8 Act 3, Vorspiel (2:08)
- 9 Scene 1 - Wache, Wala! Wala! Erwach! (2:02)
- 10 Stark Ruft Das Lied (10:34)

- 8 Heil dir, Sonne! Heil dir, Licht! (5:32)
- 9 O Siegfried! Siegfried! Seliger Held! (6:43)
- 10 Dort seh' ich Grane (8:06)
- 11 Ewig war ich, ewig bin ich (12:08)

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Mime	Paul Kuen
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Disc Two

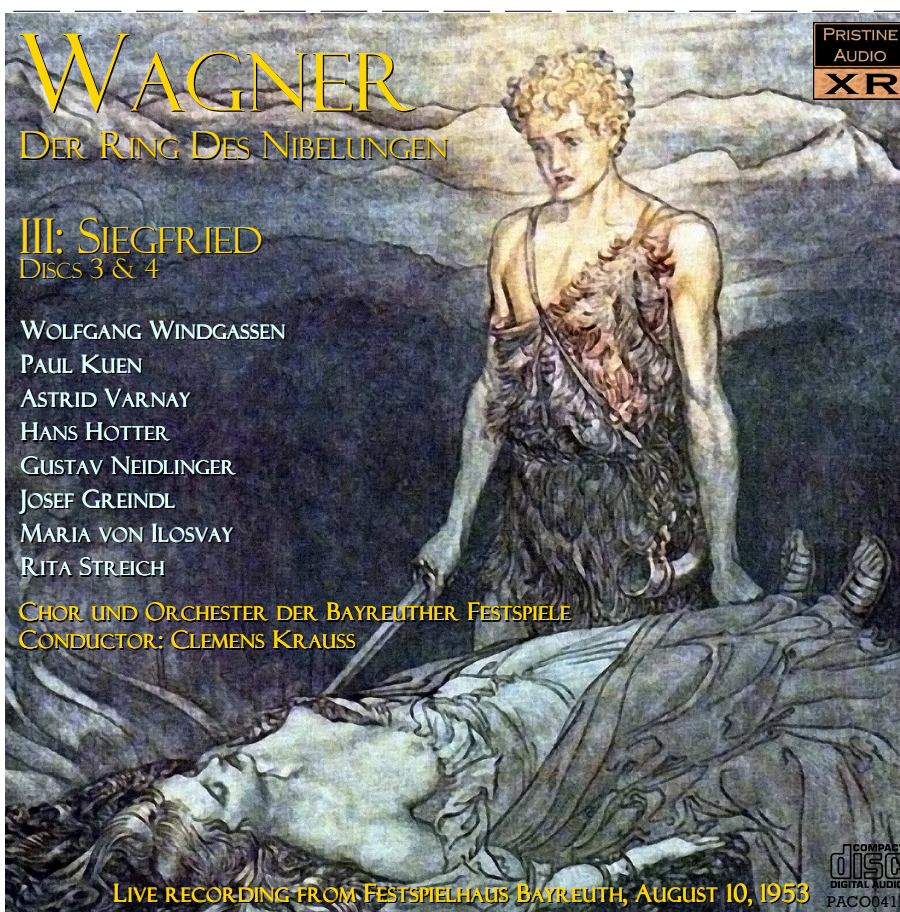
- 1 Act 3, Scene 1 - Dir Unweisen ruf' ich ins Ohr (4:58)
- 2 Scene 2 - Mein Vöglein schwebte mir fort! (0:25)
- 3 Wohin, Knabe, heißt dich dein Weg! (5:31)
- 4 Kennstest du mich, kühner Spross (5:18)
- 5 Mit zerfochtner Waffe wich mir der Feigel! (3:53)
- 6 Scene 3 - Selige Öde auf sonniger Höh! (6:45)
- 7 Das ist kein Mann! (6:57)

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, March 2010

Cover artwork detail from painting Siegfried comes upon the sleeping Brünnhilde by Arthur Rackham

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WAGNER SIEGFRIED (DISCS THREE & FOUR)
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

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WAGNER

SIEGFRIED

DISCS THREE & FOUR

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WAGNER SIEGFRIED (DISCS THREE & FOUR)
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

PACO 041b

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These notes are continued from the previous CD cover)

Act 3: The Wanderer appears on the path to Brünnhilde's rock and summons Erda, the earth goddess. Erda, appearing confused, is unable to offer any advice. Wotan informs her that he no longer fears the end of the gods; indeed, it is his desire. His heritage will be left to Siegfried the Walsung, and their child (Erda's and Wotan's), Brünnhilde, will "work the deed that redeems the World." Dismissed, Erda sinks back into the earth.

Siegfried arrives, and the Wanderer questions the youth. Siegfried, who does not recognize his grandfather, answers insolently and starts down the path towards Brünnhilde's rock. The Wanderer blocks his path, but Siegfried breaks Wotan's spear with a blow from Nothung. Wotan calmly gathers up the pieces and vanishes.

Siegfried enters the ring of fire, emerging on Brünnhilde's rock. At first, he thinks the armored figure is a man. However, when he removes the armor, he finds a woman beneath. Uncertain what to do, Siegfried at last experiences fear. In desperation, he kisses Brünnhilde, waking her from her magic sleep. Hesitant at first, Brünnhilde is won over by Siegfried's love, and renounces the world of the gods. Together, they hail "light-bringing love, and laughing death.

Siegfried is the third of the four operas that comprise *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (The Ring of the Nibelung), by Richard Wagner. It received its premiere at the Bayreuth Festspielhaus on 16 August 1876, as part of the first complete performance of The Ring.

In his review of a previous issue of the 1953 Krauss *Ring* Cycle, Steve Taylor notes:

"I doubt that there has been a greater cast at Bayreuth in all the years since World War II. Astrid Varnay is nothing less than outstanding as Brünnhilde. She clearly has an intimate understanding of the role is an absolute pleasure to listen to.

Wolfgang Windgassen sings Siegfried. It is his first appearance in the role and he is heard to better advantage in other recordings. The thing that makes him special in this recording is his youthfulness. He is at his best in the first two acts of *Siegfried* but is also able to portray well the more mature character in *Götterdämmerung*. This is the performance of a major star in the making.

Towering over them both vocally as well as physically is the Wotan of Hans Hotter. He is at his prime here and it is worth buying the set for him alone. His singing in this set often astounds me. To my mind the best Wotan recorded. By the time he recorded with Solti he was past his peak. Listen to this and you will know exactly what I mean!"

Notes from Wikipedia and www.wagnerdiscography.com - Further notes online at www.pristineclassical.com