



WAGNER

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

DISCS ONE & TWO



Disc One

- [1] Prologue - Welch Licht leuchter dort? (7:33)
- [2] Prologue - Treu beratner Verträge Runen (2:09)
- [3] Prologue - Es ragt die Burg, von Riesen gebaut (8:09)
- [4] Prologue - Zu neuen Taten, teurer Helden (6:11)
- [5] Prologue - Willst du mir Minne schenken (5:55)
- [6] Prologue - O heilige Götter! (2:17)
- [7] Prologue - Siegfrieds Rheinfahrt (5:32)
- [8] Act I, Scene I - Nun hör', Hagen (2:16)
- [9] Act I, Scene I - Wen rätst du nun zu frein (7:38)
- [10] Act I, Scene I - Jagter auf Taten wonnig umher (3:40)
- [11] Act I, Scene II - Wer ist Gibichs Sohn? (2:04)
- [12] Act I, Scene II - Begrüße froh, o Held (3:43)
- [13] Act I, Scene II - Willkommen, Gast, in Gibichs Haus! (3:24)

Disc Two

- [1] Act I, Scene II - Deinem Bruder bot ich mich zum Mann (3:52)
- [2] Act I, Scene II - Blühenden Lebens labendes Blut (4:26)
- [3] Act I, Scene II - Frisch auf die Fahrt! (2:34)
- [4] Act I, Scene II - Hier sitz' ich zur Wacht (9:17)
- [5] Act I, Scene III - Altgewohntes Geräusch (7:24)
- [6] Act I, Scene III - Höre mit Sinn, was ich dir sage! (9:14)
- [7] Act I, Scene III - Welch' banger Träume Mären (6:55)

- [8] Act I, Scene III - Was leckt so wütend (1:48)
- [9] Act I, Scene III - Brünnhilde! Ein Freier kam (9:05)

Brünnhilde	Astrid Varnay
Siegfried	Wolfgang Windgassen
Hagen	Josef Greindl
Alberich	Gustav Neidlinger
Gunther	Hermann Uhde
Gutrune	Natalie Hirsch-Gröndahl
Waltraute	Ira Malaniuk
Woglinde	Erika Zimmermann
Wellgunde	Hetty Plümacher
Floßhilde	Gisela Litz
1. Norn	Maria von Ilosvay
2. Norn	Ira Malaniuk
3. Norn	Regina Resnik

Live recording Bayreuth Festival, 12th August 1953

Chor und Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele
Conductor: Clemens Krauss

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, April 2010

Cover artwork detail from painting The Rhine Maidens by Arthur Rackham

Total duration: 4hr 19:53 ©2010 Pristine Audio.

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WAGNER

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN



IV: GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

DISCS ONE AND TWO: PROLOGUE - ACT ONE

ASTRID VARNAY
WOLFGANG WINDGASSEN
JOSEF GREINDL
GUSTAV NEIDLINGER
HERMANN UHDE
NATALIE HIRSCH-GRÖNDAHL
IRA MALANIUK
ERIKA ZIMMERMANN
HETTY PLÜMACHER
GISELA LITZ
MARIA VON ILOSVAY
IRA MALANIUK
REGINA RESNIK

CHOR UND ORCHESTER DER BAYREUTHER FESTSPIELE
CONDUCTOR: CLEMENS KRAUSS

LIVE RECORDING FROM FESTSPIELHAUS BAYREUTH, AUGUST 12, 1953

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PACO 042A

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG (Discs One and Two)
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

PRISTINE
AUDIO

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

DISCS ONE & TWO

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO042

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG (Discs One and Two)
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

PACO 042A

PRISTINE
AUDIO

Prologue: The three Norns, daughters of Erda, gather beside Brünnhilde's rock, weaving the rope of Destiny. They sing of the past and the present, and of the future when Wotan will set fire to Valhalla to signal the end of the gods. Without warning, their rope breaks. Lamenting the loss of their wisdom, the Norns disappear.

As day breaks, Siegfried and Brünnhilde emerge from their cave. Brünnhilde sends Siegfried off to new adventures, urging him to keep their love in mind. As a pledge of fidelity, Siegfried gives her the ring that he took from Fafner's hoard. Bearing Brünnhilde's shield and mounting her horse Grane, Siegfried rides away as an orchestral interlude (Siegfried's Journey to the Rhine) starts.

Act 1: The act begins in the Hall of the Gibichungs, a population dwelling by the Rhine. Gunther, lord of the Gibichungs, sits enthroned. His half-brother and executive servant, Hagen advises him to find a wife for himself and a husband for their sister Gutrune. He suggests Brünnhilde for Gunther's wife, and Siegfried for Gutrune's husband. He reminds Gutrune that he has given her a potion that she can use to make Siegfried forget Brünnhilde and fall in love with Gutrune; under its influence, Siegfried will win Brünnhilde for Gunther. Gunther and Gutrune agree enthusiastically with this plan.

Siegfried appears at Gibichung Hall, seeking to meet Gunther. Gunther extends his hospitality to the hero, and Gutrune offers him the love potion. Unaware of the deception, Siegfried toasts Brünnhilde and their love. Drinking the potion, he loses his memory of Brünnhilde and falls in love with Gutrune instead. In his drugged state, Siegfried offers to win a wife for Gunther, who tells him about Brünnhilde and the magic fire. They swear blood-brotherhood (Hagen holds the drinking horn in which they mix their blood, but he does not join in the oath) and leave for Brünnhilde's rock. Hagen, left on guard duty, gloats that his so-called masters are unwittingly bringing the ring to him (Hagen's watch).

Meanwhile, Brünnhilde is visited by her Valkyrie sister Waltraute, who relates how Wotan returned from his wanderings one day with his spear shattered. (Wotan is dismayed at losing his spear, as it has all the treaties and bargains he has made—everything that gives him power—carved into its shaft.) Wotan ordered branches of Yggdrasil, the World tree, be piled around Valhalla; sent his ravens to spy on the world and bring him news; and currently waits in Valhalla for the end. Waltraute begs Brünnhilde to return the ring to the Rhine maidens, since the ring's curse is now affecting their father, Wotan. However, Brünnhilde refuses to relinquish Siegfried's token of love, and Waltraute rides away in despair.

Siegfried arrives, disguised as Gunther using the Tarnhelm, and claims Brünnhilde as wife. Though Brünnhilde violently resists, Siegfried overpowers her, snatching the ring from her hand and placing it on his own.

(These notes are continued on the next CD cover)

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



WAGNER

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

DISCS THREE & FOUR



Disc Three

- 1 Act II - Vorspiel (3:04)
- 2 Act II, Scene I - Schäfst du, Hagen, mein Sohn! (9:26)
- 3 Act II, Scene II - Hoiho, Hagen! Müder Mann! (2:35)
- 4 Act II, Scene II - Heiß' mich willkommen, Gibichskind! (3:43)
- 5 Act II, Scene III - Hoiho! Hoihohoho! (9:33)
- 6 Act II, Scene IV - Heil dir, Gunther! (2:56)
- 7 Act II, Scene IV - Gegrüßt sei, teurer Held (4:05)
- 8 Act II, Scene IV - Einen Ring sah ich an deiner Hand (3:29)
- 9 Act II, Scene IV - Heil'ge Götter, himmlische Lenker! (5:48)
- 10 Act II, Scene IV - Helle Wehr! Heilige Waffe! (3:03)
- 11 Act II, Scene IV - Gunther, Wehr' deinem Waffe (3:07)
- 12 Act II, Scene V - Welches Unholds List liegt hier werholden! (3:49)
- 13 Act II, Scene V - Vertraue mir, betrog'ne Frau! (3:43)
- 14 Act II, Scene V - Auf, Gunther, edler Gibichung! (8:22)

- 10 Act III, Scene II - Brünnhilde! Heilige Braut! (4:57)
- 11 Act III, Scene II - Trauermusik beim Tode Siegfrieds (5:57)
- 12 Act III, Scene III - War das sein Horn! (2:45)
- 13 Act III, Scene III - Hoiho! Hoiho! (2:58)
- 14 Act III, Scene III - Nicht klage wider mich! (2:16)
- 15 Act III, Scene III - Schweigt eures Jammers (3:34)
- 16 Act III, Scene III - Starke Scheite schichtet mir dort (8:25)
- 17 Act III, Scene III - Mein Erbe nun nehm' ich zu eigen (2:25)
- 18 Act III, Scene III - Fliegt heim, ihr Raben! (8:08)

Brünnhilde	Astrid Varnay
Siegfried	Wolfgang Windgassen
Hagen	Josef Greindl
Alberich	Gustav Neidlinger
Gunther	Hermann Uhde
Gutrune	Natalie Hirsch-Gröndahl
Waltraute	Ira Malaniuk
Woglinde	Erika Zimmermann
Wellgunde	Hetty Plümacher
Floßhilde	Gisela Litz
1. Norne	Maria von Ilosvay
2. Norne	Ira Malaniuk
3. Norne	Regina Resnik

Chor und Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele
Conductor: Clemens Krauss

Disc Four

- 1 Act III - Vorspiel (1:46)
- 2 Act III, Scene I - Frau Sonne sendet lichte Strahlen (4:55)
- 3 Act III, Scene I - Ein Albe führte mich irr (3:42)
- 4 Act III, Scene I - Was leid' ich doch das karge Lob! (1:26)
- 5 Act III, Scene I - Siegfried! Siegfried! Siegfried! (8:25)
- 6 Act III, Scene II - Hoiho! (3:49)
- 7 Act III, Scene II - 'Trink', Gunther, trink! (2:34)
- 8 Act III, Scene II - Mime hiess ein mürrischer Zwerg (4:37)
- 9 Act III, Scene II - In Leid zu dem Wipfel lauscht' ich hinauf (5:22)

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, April 2010
Cover artwork detail from painting The Rhine Maidens by Arthur Rackham
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PRISTINE
AUDIO

PACO 042B

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

(DISCS THREE & FOUR)

PRISTINE
AUDIO

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
DISCS THREE & FOUR

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO042

WAGNER GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
KRAUSS, BAYREUTH FESTIVAL ORCH & CHORUS, SOLOISTS

PACO 042B

PRISTINE
AUDIO

(These Wikipedia notes are continued from the previous CD cover)

Act 2: Hagen, waiting by the bank of the Rhine, is visited in his semi-waking sleep (sitting up, eyes open, but motionless) by his father, Alberich. On Alberich's urging, he swears to kill Siegfried and acquire the ring. Siegfried arrives via Tarnhelm-magic as dawn breaks, having resumed his natural form and left Brünnhilde on the boat with Gunther. Hagen summons the Gibichung vassals to welcome Gunther and his bride. He does this by sounding the war-alarm; the vassals are surprised to learn that the occasion is not battle, but their master's wedding and party. (The vassals are the only use of a chorus in the entire Ring cycle, unless you count two terrified collective screams from the Nibelungs in Das Rheingold.)

Gunther leads in a downcast Brünnhilde, who is astonished to see Siegfried. Noticing the ring on Siegfried's hand, she realizes she has been betrayed—that the man who conquered her was not Gunther, but Siegfried in disguise. She denounces Siegfried in front of Gunther's vassals and accuses Siegfried of having seduced her himself. Siegfried swears on Hagen's spear that her accusations are false. Brünnhilde seizes the tip of the spear and swears that they are true. Once again Hagen supervises silently as others take oaths to his advantage. But this time, since the oath is sworn on a weapon, the understanding is that if the oath is proven false, the weapon's owner should avenge it by killing the perjurer with that weapon. Siegfried then leads Gutrune and the bystanders off to the wedding feast, leaving Brünnhilde, Hagen, and Gunther alone by the shore. Deeply shamed by Brünnhilde's outburst, Gunther agrees to Hagen's suggestion that Siegfried must be slain for Gunther's standing to be regained. Brünnhilde, seeking revenge for Siegfried's manifest treachery, joins the plot and tells Hagen that Siegfried would be vulnerable to a stab in the back. Hagen and Gunther decide to lure Siegfried on a hunting-trip and murder him. They sing a trio in which Brünnhilde and Gunther vow in the name of Wotan, "guardian of oaths", to kill Siegfried, while Hagen repeats his pledge to Alberich: to acquire the ring and rule the world through its power.

Act 3: In the woods by the bank of the Rhine, the Rhinemaidens mourn the lost Rhine gold. Siegfried happens by, separated from the hunting party. They urge him to return the ring and avoid its curse, but he laughs at them and says he prefers to die rather than to bargain for his life. They swim away, predicting that Siegfried will die and that his heir, a lady, will treat them more fairly.

Siegfried rejoins the hunters, who include Gunther and Hagen. While resting, he tells them about the adventures of his youth. Hagen gives him another potion, which restores his memory, and he tells of discovering the sleeping Brünnhilde and awakening her with a kiss. Hagen stabs him in the back with his spear. The others look on in horror, and Hagen explains in three words ("Meineid rächt sich!" – "Perjury avenges itself") that since Siegfried admitted loving Brünnhilde, the oath he swore on Hagen's spear was obviously false, therefore it was Hagen's duty to kill him with it. Hagen calmly walks away into the wood. Siegfried recollects his awakening of Brünnhilde and dies. His body is carried away in a solemn funeral procession (Siegfried's funeral march) that forms the interlude as the scene is changed and recapitulates much of the music associated with Siegfried and the Walsungs.

Back in the Gibichung Hall, Gutrune awaits Siegfried's return. Hagen arrives ahead of the funeral party. Gutrune is devastated when Siegfried's corpse is brought in. Gunther blames Siegfried's death on Hagen, who replies that Siegfried had incurred the penalty of his false oath, and further, claims the ring on Siegfried's finger by right of conquest. When Gunther objects, Hagen appeals to the vassals to support his claim. Gunther draws his sword but Hagen attacks and easily kills him. However, as Hagen moves to take the ring, the dead hero's hand rises threateningly, and he recoils. Brünnhilde throws herself on the flames, by Arthur Rackham

Brünnhilde makes her entrance and takes charge of events (the Immolation Scene). Brünnhilde issues orders for a huge funeral pyre to be assembled by the river. She sends Wotan's ravens home with "anxiously longed-for tidings."; they fly off. She takes the ring and tells the Rhine maidens to claim it from her ashes, once fire has cleansed it of its curse. The pyre lit, Brünnhilde mounts her horse Grane and rides into the flames.

The fire flares up as the Rhine overflows its banks, and the Rhinemaidens swim in to claim the ring. Hagen tries to stop them but they drown him. The hall of the Gibichungs collapses. As the flames increase in intensity, Valhalla comes into view in the sky, and the Gods, seated within it. As the Rhinemaidens celebrate the return of the ring and its gold to the river, flames flare up in the Hall of the Gods, finally hiding it and them from sight completely.