



Furtwängler

Wagner Das Rheingold



The first Furtwängler Ring was recorded live in 1950 at the famous La Scala opera house in Milan. The second Ring was broadcast from Rome over Italian radio in 1953, one act per night. Opera fanatics will forever debate the relative merits of the two full cycles. The La Scala set is swifter and boasts the spontaneous excitement (as well as the flaws, noise, awkward balances and grueling exhaustion) of a real opera performance, while the Rome broadcasts are more relaxed and better recorded. For some fans, the choice is dictated by the female lead: the icy beauty of Kirsten Flagstad in 1950 or the rougher drama of Martha Mödl in 1953. True opera buffs would never part with either set and rank both among the finest Wagner ever recorded.

Peter Gutmann, classicalnotes.net *"Wilhelm Furtwängler, Genius Forged in the Cauldron of War"*, excerpt

Furtwängler in the theatre at full tilt, unsurpassable in his particular, cosmic view of the work ... Once again one must praise the unerring blend of the romantic, tragic, elemental and profound in his interpretation, his command of Wagner's *Hauptstimmen* and *Unendliche Melodie*, his mastery of transition heard throughout and, as the late Deryck Cooke put in a famous dictum, Furtwängler's "ability to make the music surge or seethe or melt, so that one has left the world of semiquavers behind". Yet it is from just such close attention to the matter of detail — semiquavers and precise rhythm — that Furtwängler builds his unerring overview of the whole cycle.

A.B., Gramophone, December 1996 *excerpt*

Transfer notes

Ever since I began working on Furtwängler's other *Ring* cycle (RAI, 1953) I have received requests to follow it with this one, recorded live at La Scala in Milan in 1950. Thus what seems almost to have become something of an annual event begins again: Pristine's historic *Ring* for 2013, another "best ever" contender that's suffered from any number of dire-sounding releases in the past. With Richard Wagner's 200th birthday this year in mind, here's the start of this 32-bit XR remastered *Ring*. Initial soundings last year suggested that this recording would respond well to the rigours of the various XR processes, as it has - indeed, better than I'd dared hope. Wagner really does need a full, rich and all-enveloping sound, and at last we're able to hear it in this performance. It's not entirely uniform - there are a handful of short sections where the quality drops slightly - but overall this offers a pretty amazing improvement in audio quality. I've also excised a lot of bumps, coughs and other noises to help provide as involving a musical experience, with as few distractions, as possible. Your musical journey starts here... **AR**

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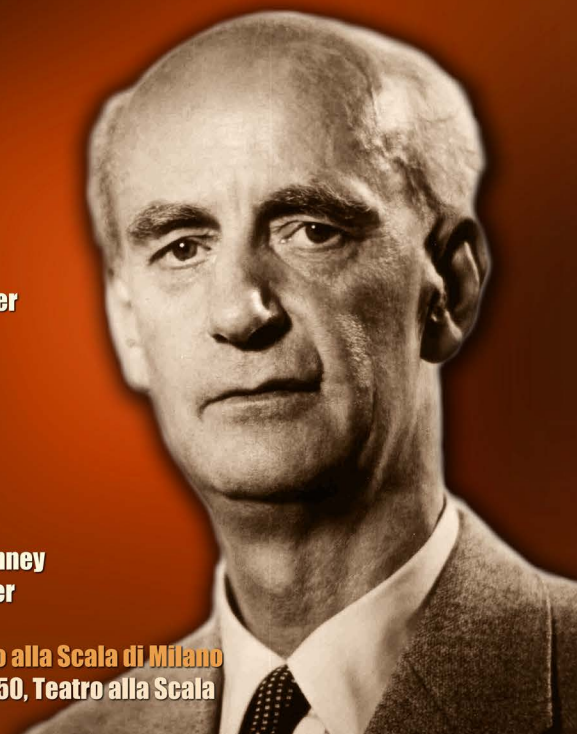
Furtwängler



WAGNER Das Rheingold

Wotan Ferdinand Frantz
Donner Angel Mattiello
Froh Günther Treptow
Loge Joachim Sattler
Alberich Alois Pernerstorfer
Mime Peter Markwort
Fasolt Ludwig Weber
Fafner Albert Emmerich
Fricka Elisabeth Höngen
Freia Walburga Wegner
Erda Margret Weth-Falke
Woglinde Magda Gabory
Wellgunde Margherita Kenney
Floßhilde Sieglinde Wagner

Orchestra e Coro del Teatro alla Scala di Milano
Live recording, March 4, 1950, Teatro alla Scala



Wagner Das Rheingold

DISC ONE

- [1] **Scene 1 - Prelude** (4:36)
- [2] **Weia! Waga! Woge, Du Welle!** (*Woglinde, Wellgunde, Flosshilde*) (2:57)
- [3] **Garstig Glatter Glitschriger Glimmer!** (*Alberich*) (5:26)
- [4] **Wallala! Lalaleia!** (*Rhinemaidens*) (2:34)
- [5] **Lugt, Schwestern!** (*Woglinde, her sisters*) (6:19)
- [6] **Der Welt Erbe Gewänn' Ich Zu Eigen Durch Dich!** (*Alberich, Rhinemaidens*) (4:55)
- [7] **Scene 2 - Wotan! Gemahl! Erwache!** (*Fricka, Wotan*) (10:19)
- [8] **Sanft Schloss Schlaf Dein Aug'** (*Fasolt, Wotan*) (7:18)
- [9] **Zu Mir, Freia! Meide Sie, Frecher!** (*Froh, Donner, Fafner, Fasolt*) (2:03)
- [10] **Endlich Loge!** (*Wotan, Loge*) (3:50)
- [11] **Immer Ist Undank Loges Lohn!** (*Loge, Wotan*) (7:35)
- [12] **Ein Runenzauber Zwingt Das Gold Zum Reif** (*Loge, Donner, Wotan, Froh, Fricka, Fafner*) (3:20)
- [13] **Hör', Wotan, Der Harrenden Wort!** (*Fafner, Wotan*) (3:07)
- [14] **Was Sinnt Nun Wotan So Wild!** (*Loge, Fricka, Donner, Froh*) (4:33)
- [15] **Auf, Loge, Hinab Mit Mir!** (*Wotan, Loge, Fricka, Donner, Froh*) (4:34)
- [16] **Scene 3 - Hehe! Hehe! Hieher** (*Alberich*) (0:43)

DISC TWO

- [1] **Schau, du Schelm!** (*Alberich*) (2:03)
- [2] **Nibelheim hier- durch bleiche Nebel was blitzen dort** (*Loge*) (5:18)
- [3] **Nehmt euch in acht! Alberich naht - Sein harren wir hier** (*Mime, Wotan*) (8:20)
- [4] **Vergeh, frevelnder Gauch! - Was sagt der! - Sei doch bei Sinnen!** (*Wotan, Alberich, Loge*) (4:12)
- [5] **(Ohe! Hahaha! Ohe! Hahaha! Schreckliche Schlange** (*Loge, Wotan*) (6:29)
- [6] **Scene 4 - Da, Vetter, sitze du fest!** (*Loge*) (5:26)
- [7] **Gezahlt hab' ich; nun laßt mich zieh'n!** (*Alberich*) (5:43)
- [8] **Bin ich nun frei! Wirklich Frei!** (*Alberich*) (3:46)
- [9] **Fasolt und Fafner nahen von fern** (*Loge*) (4:46)
- [10] **Gepflanzt sind die Pfahle** (*Fafner*) (5:40)
- [11] **Weiche, Wotan, weiche!** (*Erda*) (5:39)
- [12] **Hort, ihr Riesen! Zurück, und harret! - Halt, du Gieriger!** (*Donner, Fasolt*) (6:12)
- [13] **Schwules Gedunst - Zur Burg fuhr die Brücke** (*Donner, Froh*) (3:15)
- [14] **Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge** (*Wotan*) (4:49)
- [15] **Rheingold! Rheingold! Reines Gold! Wie lauter und hell** (*Woglinde, Wellgunde, Flosshilde*) (4:03)

Soloists, Orchestra & Chorus of La Scala Wilhelm Furtwängler



XR remastering by
Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a photo
of **Wilhelm Furtwängler**

Live recording, 4 March, 1950,
Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy

Total duration: **2hr 30:07**

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