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# WAGNER

## The Potted Ring, Volume 1

Pristine  
XR

### Producer's Note

The present release is the first of three which will bring together the 122 78 rpm sides of extended excerpts from Wagner's tetralogy which His Master's Voice recorded in London, Berlin and Vienna between 1926 and 1932. The scope of this project centers around the Ring albums – not every disc of music from the Ring which HMV issued during this period. It is, however, “more than complete” in that two HMV recordings which were not part of the Ring albums, but which feature some of the same performers, have been added: Coates' Rhinegold Prelude, and Schorr's Wotan/Fricka duet with Leisner from Act 2 of Die Walküre. The present volume gathers together excerpts from Das Rheingold and Die Walküre; the second will focus on Melchior's Siegfried recordings; and the final one will feature scenes from Götterdämmerung, as well as an appendix featuring alternate recordings from the series and an outline of motives from the Ring cycle.

While Rheingold got rather short shrift in HMV's plans (only two discs in an album otherwise devoted to Siegfried excerpts), more attention was paid to Die Walküre. The sessions were split between a Berlin cast centering around the Brunnhilde of Frida Leider and the Wotan of Friedrich Schorr, conducted by Leo Blech, and a London cast with Walter Widdop as Siegmund and Florence Austral singing Brunnhilde, primarily led by Albert Coates. Göta Ljungberg appeared as Sieglinde in both, save for a single London side. The Act 1 excerpts were all made in London, while Act 3 was done in Berlin and the second act split between the two.

The recordings capture Leider and Schorr, both considered the finest exponents of their roles at the time (and certainly among the finest of all time), at the height of their powers. A decade later, when Kirsten Flagstad came on the international scene, she was invariably compared to Leider, and not always to the latter's detriment. And while later singers could bring more psychological complexity to Wotan (Hans Hotter, for example), few could match the combination of legato and authoritative declamation that Schorr brings to the role.

The original recording quality is variable, coming as it does within a couple years of the introduction of electrical recording. The London sessions were distantly miked in large halls, and the singers are often overwhelmed by Coates' surging orchestra. Some of the Berlin sides can also sound rather dim, depending on the engineering of a particular session. Multiple copies of the finest pressings on which these discs were available (prewar American Victor “Z” and “Gold” label editions) were drawn upon for the present transfers, except for one Rheingold disc which only came out on HMV.

Mark Obert-Thorn

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France

# WAGNER

## THE POTTED RING

### VOLUME ONE

DAS RHEINGOLD  
DIE WALKÜRE

FRIDA LEIDER  
FRIEDRICH SCHORR  
EMMI LEISNER  
FLORENCE AUSTRAL  
WALTER WIDDOP  
GÖTA LJUNGBERG

ALBERT COATES  
LEO BLECH  
JOHN BARBIROLI  
LAWRANCE COLLINGWOOD

BERLIN STATE OPERA ORCHESTRA  
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HMV STUDIO RECORDINGS, 1926-1932

PRISTINE  
AUDIO

PACO 107



bert-Thorn

WAGNER *The Potted Ring, Volume 1*

## CD 1

## Das Rheingold

- 1 Prelude (4:01)
- 2 Spottet nur zu! (4:44)
- 3 Wotan, Gemahl (4:46)
- 4 Zur Burg führt die Brücke ... Abendlich strahlt (8:32)

## Die Walküre

- 5 Act 1 - Prelude ... Wes Herd dies auch sei (4:03)
- 6 Ein Schwert verhiß mir der Vater (4:26)
- 7 Schläfst du, Gast? (0:45)
- 8 Der Männer Sippe (3:51)
- 9 Dich, selige Frau (1:05)
- 10 Winterstürme wichen dem Wonnemond (2:45)
- 11 Du bist der Lenz (7:51)
- 12 Siegmund heiß ich (3:12)
- 13 Act 2 - Prelude ... Nun zäume dein Roß ... Hojotoho! (4:14)
- 14 Der alte Sturm, die alte Müh! (4:38)
- 15 So ist es den aus mit den ewigen Göttern (8:06)
- 16 Was verlangst du? (4:51)
- 17 O heilige Schmach! (4:20)

## CD 2

- 1 So nimm meinen Segen (4:13)
- 2 Raste nun hier (3:01)
- 3 Hinweg! Hinweg! (5:53)
- 4 Siegmund! Sieh auf mich! (4:53)
- 5 Fänd'ich in Walhall (4:21)
- 6 So jung und schön (3:29)
- 7 Zauberfest bezähmt ein Schlaf (4:38)
- 8 Wehvalt! Wehvalt! (2:31)
- 9 Geh hin, Knecht! (1:46)

- 10 Act 3 - Prelude ... Hojotoho! (6:55)
- 11 Rette mich, Kühne! (3:45)
- 12 Wo ist Brünnhild? (8:46)
- 13 War es so schmähhlich (3:31)
- 14 Du zeugtest ein edles Geschlecht (3:46)
- 15 Leb wohl, du kühnes, herrliches Kind! (3:59)
- 16 Der Augen leuchtendes Paar (6:35)
- 17 Loge, hör! (4:54)

Producer and Audio Restoration  
Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph  
of Frida Leider as Brünnhilde

Recorded in London and Berlin, 1926-1932

Due to the varied and complex nature of this recording's origin, there is insufficient space to notate the details of the performers, recording venues and dates, or catalogue and matrix numbers here without rendering the details illegibly small. All of this information, together with further details on the recordings and links to analytical notes and full scores of both works can all be found online at:  
[www.pristineclassical.com/paco107.html](http://www.pristineclassical.com/paco107.html)

Special thanks to Jim Cartwright, Immortal Performances, Inc., for providing D 1546

Total duration: 2hr 33:07

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