

Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen – the Ring Cycle

Videos this semester will be different than previous offerings of this course. My objective will be to appreciate Wagner's works as far more than 'entertainment.' He wrote his own libretto. He built his own theater to perform these operas. He was controversial in many ways and displays both his negatives and positives without apology in his story telling. These operas are challenging but my goal is to help you appreciate them for their ultimate worth: no music in the late 19th or all of the 20th century would exist if it were not for Wagner's rewriting of the rules of musical composition.