

# CAST & CHARACTERS

**BRÜNNHILDE:** DEBORAH VOIGT  
**SIEGLINDE:** EVA-MARIA WESTBROEK  
**FRICKA:** STEPHANIE BLYTHE  
**SIEGMUND:** JONAS KAUFMANN  
**WOTAN:** BRYN TERFEL  
**HUNDING:** HANS-PETER KÖNIG

**COMPOSER:** JAMES LEVINE

**RICHARD WAGNER**



MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1813 - FEB 13<sup>TH</sup> 1883

**WORLD PREMIERE:** MUNICH, JUNE 26, 1870  
**U.S. PREMIERE:** NEW YORK, ACADEMY OF MUSIC, APRIL 2, 1877  
**METROPOLITAN OPERA PREMIERE:** JANUARY 30, 1885

TEXT IN GERMAN BY THE COMPOSER, AFTER ANCIENT NORDIC EPICS.

RUNNING TIME 5HOURS

## GODS AND GODDESSES:

**WOTAN** - RULER OF THE GODS; GAVE UP HIS ONE EYE TO WOO FRICKA, HIS WIFE.  
**FRICKA** - WOTAN'S WIFE; GODDESS OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY; SISTER TO FREIA.  
**BRÜNNHILDE** - ELDEST VALKYRIE, DAUGHTER OF WOTAN AND ERDA. SHE HAS EIGHT VALKYRIE SISTERS.  
**FREIA** - GODDESS OF YOUTH AND BEAUTY; HER GOLDEN APPLES KEEP THE GODS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL.  
**DONNER** - GOD OF THUNDER; HE SUMMONS THE MISTS WHICH CREATE THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.  
**FROH** - BROTHER TO DONNER, FREIA, AND FRICKA.  
**LOGE** - GOD OF FIRE AND TRICKERY; HIS CUNNING FREES FREIA FROM THE GIANTS.  
**ERDA** - WISE GODDESS OF THE EARTH; SHE WARNS WOTAN TO GIVE UP THE RING.

## MORTALS:

**SIEGLINDE** - WÄLSUNG, MORTAL DAUGHTER OF WOTAN.  
**SIEGMUND** - SIEGLINDE'S TWIN BROTHER  
**HUNDING** - SIEGLINDE'S HUSBAND

## GIANTS:

**FASOLT AND FAFNER** - THEY BUILT VALHALLA FOR WOTAN IN EXCHANGE FOR FREIA; THEY AGREE TO ACCEPT GOLD INSTEAD.

## RHEINMAIDENS:

**WONGLINDE, WELLGUNDE, AND FLOSSHILDE** - THE THREE NYMPHS WHO GUARD THE RHEINGOLD AND ARE PURSUED BY ALBERICH.

## NIBELUNGEN:

**ALBERICH** - STEALS THE RHEINGOLD AND USES ITS POWER TO FORCE THE OTHER NIBELUNGEN INTO HIS SERVICE.  
**MIME** - ONE OF THE NIBELUNGEN, A BLACKSMITH WHO MAKES THE TARNHELM FOR ALBERICH.