WAGNER OUTSIDE “THE RING”

Roderick Swanston

Course Syllabus

A modified list of lectures and reading will appear during the year, but the overall plan is outlined below.

TERM ONE

Autumn Term 2017

1 Introduction to the course. Wagner’s early life and the part of drama and politics played in it. An account of German Romantic opera before Wagner, particularly Weber and Marschner. Some aspects of German ideas that affected Wagner’s. An initial study of Die Feen

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner  Die Feen
Weber  Der Freischütz
Marschner  Hans Heiling

SOME SUGGESTED READING
Donald J Grout A Short History of Opera ch 22
Newman, E Wagner as man and artist
Abraham, G (ed) New Oxford History of Music vol VIII
Section X (Oxford)
Warrack, J Carl Maria von Weber (Cambridge)
Millington, B Wagner (Master Musicians, Oxford)
Magee, B Wagner and Philosophy

2 More on Die Feen and beginning of Das Liebesverbot

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner  Die Feen and Das Liebesverbot

3 Das Liebesverbot

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner  as above

SOME SUGGESTED READING
Shakespeare Measure for Measure

4 Wagner and Grand opera. France and Meyerbeer. Rienzi

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Rienzi
Wagner’s move to Dresden and shift to German Romantic Opera, stories and ideas. 
*Der fliegende Holländer.*

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Rienzi*

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6  Wagner’s move to Dresden and shift to German Romantic Opera, stories and ideas. *Der fliegende Holländer.*

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Der fliegende Holländer*

**SOME SUGGESTED READING**

Wagner  Prose sketch to ‘Der fliegende Holländer (Wagner 2/1)
Spencer, S  Wagner the medievalist (Wagner 1/1)
Robertson, JG  Richard Wagner as poet and thinker (5 articles: Wagner 6/1, 6/2, 6/4, 7/1, 7/2)

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7  Wagner’s move to Dresden and shift to German Romantic Opera, stories and ideas. *Der fliegende Holländer* and a start on *Tannhäuser*

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Der fliegende Holländer  Tannhäuser*

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8  Wagner’s troubles in Dresden. *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin*

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Tannhäuser and Lohengrin*

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9  Wagner’s politics in Dresden. Flight to Switzerland.

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Lohengrin*

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**TERM TWO**

**SPRING TERM 2018**

10  Wagner’s exile in Switzerland. New ideas and new books. “Transforming” his musical style

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Tristan Act One*

**SOME SUGGESTED READING**

Wilson, M  The ‘Tristan chord’: some reflections (Wagner 10/3)
Spencer, S  Tristan in medieval Britain (Wagner 11/3)
Lorenz, A The musical structure of ‘Tristan und Isolde’ (Wagner 2/3)
Stannard, D ‘Tristan und Isolde’: the sea-motif (Wagner 2/3)
Arratoon, A Talking of ‘Tristan’ with Reginald Goodall (Wagner 2/3)
Mann, T Schopenhauer - introduction (article)
de Rougemont Passion and Society (Faber, 1940/1956)
Gardiner, P Schopenhauer (Penguin, 1971)
Magee, B Aspects of Wagner (London, 1968)
Magee, B Schopenhauer (London, 1997)
Magee, B Wagner and Philosophy (London, 2000)
Schopenhauer, A The World as Will and Idea (Dover)
Taylor, R Richard Wagner, his life and thought (London, 1979)

11 Wagner Tristan

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Tristan Act 2

12 Wagner Tristan

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Tristan Act 3

13 Wagner in Switzerland. Planning a comic opera. Catching up with his biography. German overtures from King Ludwig &c

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Die Meistersinger Act 1

14 Wagner’s Die Meistersinger

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Die Meistersinger Act 2

15 Wagner’s Die Meistersinger Act 2.

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Die Meistersinger Act 2

16 Wagner nationalism. Interior ·v· Exterior. Wahn and German unity

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Die Meistersinger Act 3

17 Wagner, Nietzsche and Parsifal

MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED
Wagner Parsifal Act 1
18  **Wagner Parsifal**

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Parsifal* Act 2

19  **Wagner’s Parsifal**

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Parsifal* Act 3

20  **Wagner: conclusions and wind up (or catch up!)**

**MUSIC TO BE DISCUSSED**

Wagner  *Parsifal &c*

### Some books on Wagner (some duplicated from above)

- Dahlhaus, C  *The Music Dramas of Wagner* (Cambridge, 1979)
  
  *(the best short critical insight into the Ring cycle. (invaluable but currently out of print)*

- Millington, B  *Wagner* (Master Musicians, Oxford)

- Newman, E  *Wagner as Man and Artist* (Cape pb. 1914)

- Taylor, R  *Richard Wagner, his life and thought* (London, 1979)

- Newman, E  *Wagner Nights* (London, 1949 and subsequently reprinted many times)
  
  *(though Wagner Nights has been around for over fifty years it is still an excellent introduction to Wagner’s operas as it deals a good with sources for the plots and a reasonable description of how the stories are told through music).*

- Magee, B  *Aspects of Wagner* (London, 1968)
  
  *(This is still an excellent introduction to Wagner’s ideas about music and drama, and a good deal else. In some respects even the up-date has however been superseded by Magee’s excellent)*


- Berry, Markj  *Treachorous Bonds and Laughing Fire* (though the book is mostly about the Ring it is also excellent on many other aspects of Wagner operas)

### Some background books on Wagner and music of the period

  
  *Also very useful and informative is the Grove Composer’s Volume on Wagner, which is an expansion of the article in the Dictionary.*

- Burbidge and Sutton (ed)  *The Wagner Companion* (Faber, 1979)

- Longyear, RM  *Nineteenth Century Romanticism in Music* (Prentice-Hall, )

### Some books on German history


- James Sheehan  *German History 1770-1866* (The Oxford History of Modern Europe, 1989)

- Gordon A Craig  *Germany 1866-1945* (Oxford, 1978)