

Wagner & Lord of The Rings Lesson 2- Most Students



All Students- The Ring Cycle

Der Ring des Nibelungen (*The Ring of the Nibelung*) or *The Ring Cycle* is a complex plot which includes gods, giants, dwarves and nymphs. They all struggle for world power through owning a ring made from gold from the river Rhine. A curse has been placed on the ring. Returning the ring to the Rhine River will lift the curse. After spending four years writing the stories for his four-opera cycle, Wagner began composing the music in 1853.

Almost 100 years later in 1937, J.R.R Tolkien began writing a book based on the same legend. This book was *Lord of the Rings* which became one of the best-selling books ever written.

1. All students- What creatures are featured in the operas *The Ring Cycle*?
2. All students- Why is the ring important?
3. All students- What is wrong with the ring?
4. All students- When did Wagner start composing the music?
5. All students- What does libretto mean?
6. All students- How long did it take Wagner to write the series?
7. All students- What is the name of the first opera in the series?
8. All students- What is the name of the third opera in the series?
9. All students- When did Tolkien start writing *Lord of the Rings*?
10. All students- Why is *Lord of the Rings* an important book?



Most students- The Ring Cycle

Wagner wrote the libretto (script) and music over the course of about twenty-six years, from 1848 to 1874. The four parts that constitute the *Ring* cycle are, in sequence:

1. Das Rheingold (*The Rhinegold*)
2. Die Walküre (*The Valkyrie*)
3. Siegfried
4. Götterdämmerung (*Twilight of the Gods*)

Even though the stories were written in reverse, Wagner composed for them in narrative order over the next twenty years. The first instalment was *The Rhinegold* completed in 1854 and the next segment (*The Valkyrie*) was finished in 1856. He began the third part (*Siegfried*) but stopped for several years to write *Tristan and Isolde* (1859) and *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg* (1867). These two productions were not part of *The Ring Cycle*.

11. Most students- How long did it take to write the *Ring Cycle*?
12. Most students- Which opera is the first in the sequence?
13. Most students- Why did Wagner stop composing the *Ring Cycle* in 1859?
14. Stretch & Challenge- Why is important to have a break from a project sometimes? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

M	M	V	E	A	R	R	R	E	V	I	R	S	W
E	A	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	C	U	R	S	E
R	S	S	L	O	R	L	B	N	M	R	T	E	B
E	T	N	L	D	G	R	N	A	E	Y	I	L	W
N	E	D	I	R	I	I	I	T	N	H	S	C	A
U	R	N	B	G	A	G	I	S	Y	R	O	Y	L
R	S	I	R	O	N	O	R	I	M	E	L	C	K
E	I	R	E	S	T	D	F	R	P	S	D	R	U
M	N	H	T	A	S	S	L	T	H	S	E	B	R
B	G	I	T	A	R	S	T	E	S	U	V	N	E
U	E	N	O	S	S	I	E	G	F	R	I	E	D
R	R	E	N	N	W	A	G	N	E	R	S	A	E
G	S	W	R	W	R	I	N	G	S	L	F	I	R
R	E	G	I	R	H	E	I	N	G	O	L	D	R

RHINE
 GIANTS
 NUREMBURG
 WAGNER
 RING
 SIEGFRIED
 RIVER
 TRISTAN
 NYMPHS
 CYCLE
 GODS
 CURSE
 MASTERSINGERS
 RICHARD
 ISOLDE
 WALKURE
 RHEINGOLD
 LIBRETTO

