

## Wagner & Lord of The Rings Lesson 1

Richard Wagner (1813-1883) brought opera to a whole new level and even had a special theatre built to house his productions.



### All students- Early Life and Career

Six months after his birth in 1813, Wagner's father died and his mother soon remarried. Wagner's step-father died eight years later. During this time Wagner received piano instruction, and he began writing poetry and plays. A few years later, Wagner's mother moved to Leipzig and the young Richard began formal study in music composition at age 15. His early works were mostly for piano but also included an overture and a symphony. Wagner was 19 when he made his debut as an orchestral conductor.

Wagner completed his first opera (*The Fairies*) in 1834 at age 21. In late 1840 Wagner completed his third opera *Rienzi* which was his first huge success. Several more operas followed: *The Flying Dutchman* (1841), *Tannhauser* (1845) and *Lohengrin* (1848). After completing *Lohengrin*, Wagner took the next four years to outline the four dramas that would eventually become known as *The Ring Cycle*.

1. All students- When was Wagner born?
2. All students- Which instrument did Wagner first learn?
3. All students- How old was Wagner when he made his debut as a Conductor?
4. All students- What was the name of Wagner's first opera?
5. Most students- name another opera by Wagner?



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

RING  
FLYING  
CYCLE  
PIANO  
DUTCHMAN  
WAGNER  
RIENZI  
FAIRIES  
LOHENGRIN  
CONDUCTOR  
TANNHAUSER  
LEIPZIG

