



## Wagner in Leipzig 2022

All thirteen operas in the composer's birthplace

**19–27 June 2022 (MI 402)**

9 days • from £3,390

Lecturer: Barry Millington

**29 June–4 July 2022 (MI 403)**

6 days • from £2,360

Lecturer: Barry Millington

**6–11 July 2022 (MI 404)**

6 days • from £2,860

Lecturer: Barry Millington

---

All of Wagner's thirteen operas including the monumental *Ring of the Nibelung* cycle performed in the composer's birthplace.

We have packaged the festival into three tours which can be booked individually or in combination.

Talks on the operas by Barry Millington, chief music critic for London's *Evening Standard* and editor of *The Wagner Journal*.

Guided walks with local guides to explore the architecture and museums of this historic and lively city as well as excursions to the surrounding area.

---

In the summer of 2022, the eyes of the musical world will be on the Oper Leipzig: in Richard Wagner's birthplace, all thirteen of the composer's operas will be performed in the order in which they were written (though with the four parts of the Ring cycle given in a continuous sequence).

The programme will be performed by the proven and Wagner-experienced ensemble of the Leipzig Opera as well as guests associated with the institution, who are known worldwide for their Wagner interpretations. Already confirmed are Evelyn Herlitzius (Kundry), Jennifer Holloway, Lise Lindstrom, Daniela Sindram, Manuela Uhl, Markus Eiche, René Pape, Iain Paterson, Andreas Schager (Tristan), Stefan Vinke, Klaus Florian Vogt and Michael Volle (Wotan in *Das Rheingold*). The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, renowned for the resplendence of its sound, will be conducted by the Opera's music director Ulf Schirmer.

The final week of the festival is devoted to *The Ring of the Nibelung*, the crowning achievement of Wagner's oeuvre, occupying a unique place in musical history. The story



Leipzig, Market Square & Old Town Hall, wood engraving c. 1890.

it tells of political ambition and the abuse of power, but also of humanity's countervailing capacity for love in all its sensual and compassionate manifestations, is unfolded within a timeless, mythical framework and abounds in soaring lyricism and luxuriant harmonies. Little wonder that many believe the Ring cycle to be one of the pinnacles of Western civilisation. The production is by the English-born, German-trained choreographer and director Rosamund Gilmore, whose staging was described by Opera magazine as 'strong on story-telling' and full of memorable imagery, with Carl Friedrich Oberle's sets evoking grand, decaying interiors.

In addition to the Ring a corpus of productions of Wagner operas has been built up in Leipzig over recent years. Those of other masterpieces include Enrico Lübke's *Tristan und Isolde*, whose central focus is the resonant image of a shipwreck, with the lovers returning after the *Liebestod* to a pristine ship, never previously seen, as well as stagings of *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Tannhäuser*, *Lohengrin*, *Die Meistersinger* and *Parsifal* by such leading directors as David Pountney, Calixto Bieito, Roland Aeschlimann and Michiel Dijkema, But Leipzig is also one of the few houses to do justice to Wagner's three earliest operas.

In Renaud Doucet's *Die Feen* a comfortable Biedermeier domestic scene is transformed into a literally enchanting fairyland; Aron Stiehl's *Das Liebesverbot* celebrates the joys of free love in Wagner's inventive and engaging Shakespearian comedy; while Nicolas Joel's *Rienzi* explores Wagner's timely portrayal of the rise and fall of a charismatic political leader.

There is always a special frisson in experiencing Wagner in the city of his birth. Many great composers have had associations with the Saxon city, but Leipzig has made a special effort to reclaim Wagner. And although Wagner pilgrims will find no birth-house (it was knocked down just three years after his death), Leipzig is the city of many projects connected with the composer, including the founding of the first Wagner Society (1909), now a worldwide phenomenon. Leipzig was also the first place – after Bayreuth – to see a complete Ring, in 1878, just two years after the cycle had been premiered at Wagner's own Festspielhaus.

The musical history of Leipzig encompasses not only Wagner but also J.S. Bach, Telemann, Robert and Clara Schumann, Mendelssohn, Richard Strauss and Mahler. Morning walks and visits investigate this heritage, and also take in the art and architecture of the city.

Wagner in Leipzig 2022  
continued

Leipzig is now, again, a handsome and lively city, following an almost miraculous transformation during the 1990s and beyond. Cleaning, restoration and rebuilding went hand in hand with the emergence of cafés, smart shops and good restaurants. There are excellent museums, including the Fine Arts Museum in spectacular new premises, the radically refurbished Museum of Musical Instruments and the Bach Museum.

**19–27 June (9 days, 5 operas)**

**19 June.** Morning flight from London Heathrow airport to Berlin (British Airways). Drive to Leipzig. Dinner in the hotel.

**20 June:** *Die Feen*

**21 June:** *Das Liebesverbot*

**22 June:** no performance

**23 June:** *Rienzi*

**24 June:** no performance

**25 June:** *Der Fliegende Holländer*

**26 June:** *Tannhäuser*

**27 June.** Afternoon flight from Berlin to London Heathrow airport, arriving c. 5.40pm (or remain in Leipzig).

**29 June–4 July (6 days, 3 operas)**

**29 June.** Morning flight from London Heathrow airport to Berlin (British Airways). Drive to Leipzig. Dinner in the hotel.

**30 June:** *Lohengrin*

**1 July:** *Tristan and Isolde*

**2 July:** no performance

**3 July:** *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

**4 July.** Afternoon flight from Berlin to London Heathrow airport, arriving c. 5.40pm (or remain in Leipzig).

**6–11 July (6 days, 4 operas)**

**6 July.** Morning flight from London Heathrow airport to Berlin (British Airways). Drive to Leipzig. Dinner in the hotel.

**7 July:** *Das Rheingold*

**8 July:** *Die Walküre*

**9 July:** *Siegfried*

**10 July:** *Götterdämmerung*

**11 July.** Afternoon flight from Berlin to London Heathrow airport, arriving c. 5.40pm (or remain in Leipzig).

**Parsifal: 14 July (ticket and accommodation only)**

Option to extend your stay and attend the production of *Parsifal* on 14th July 2022.

Contact us if you are interested– we are offering this on an accommodation- and ticket-only basis (there is no lecture on the performance).

**Lecturer**

**Barry Millington.** Writer, lecturer and broadcaster specialising in Wagner. He is founder/editor of *The Wagner Journal* and author of eight books on Wagner including *The Wagner Compendium* and *Richard Wagner: The Sorcerer of Bayreuth*. He is Chief Critic for the Evening Standard. He has also acted as dramaturgical adviser at opera houses internationally.

**Practicalities**

**Price.** Please see the chart opposite. Flights are only charged once if two or more packages are combined. There is a further reduction of £50 per person for combining more than one package and £100 per person for all three. Additional nights between packages can be booked for a supplement.

*Deduct £180 from the prices opposite for taking no flights.*

**Included:** air travel (Euro Traveller) on British Airways flights (Airbus A319 and A320); private coach or car for transfers; accommodation as described below; opera tickets; breakfasts, 1 lunch 2 dinners and interval finger food and drinks at 3 performances (19–27 June) 1 lunch and 1 dinner and interval finger food and drinks at 3 performances (29 June–4 July & 6–11 July); admission to museums, etc.; all tips for waiters, drivers and local guides; all taxes; the services of the lecturer and a tour manager.

**Music:** tickets for 19–27 June and 6–11 July are in the second category, 29–4 July are in the third category. *Parsifal* tickets are first category.

**Accommodation:**

**Marriott Hotel** ([marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/lejdt-leipzig-marriott-hotel/](http://marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/lejdt-leipzig-marriott-hotel/)). Conforming to its brand, the Marriott is a smart 4-star hotel. It is located on a pedestrian street just inside the north-eastern section of the ring road that runs around the city centre, and no more than ten minutes on foot from the opera house. Rooms are spacious, with cosy neoclassical furnishings and are equipped to a high standard.

or

**Park Hotel** ([parkhotelleipzig.de](http://parkhotelleipzig.de)). Five minutes on foot from the opera house, this is a modern and comfortable hotel. The quirky design uses plenty of wood and is vaguely nautical. Bedrooms are a good size. There is a glass panel in the wall separating bathrooms and bedrooms. Good restaurant. Morning lectures for all participants take place in the Marriott Hotel.

*Single rooms are doubles for sole use.*

**How strenuous?** Vehicular access is restricted in the city centre and participants are expected to walk to the opera house. Average distance by coach per day: 45 miles (although only on the first and last days of the tour between Leipzig and Berlin Brandenburg airport).

**Group size:** between 10 and 22 participants.

Prices – per person

**Marriott Hotel**

**Park Hotel**

	Two sharing	Single occupancy	Two sharing	Single occupancy
19–27 June 2022	£3,780	£4,450	£3,390	£3,730
29 June–4 July 2022	£2,590	£3,010	£2,360	£2,570
6–11 July 2022	£3,070	£3,490	£2,860	£3,070
Two additional nights: 27, 28 June 2022	£170	£330	£125	£210
Two additional nights: 4, 5 July 2022	£170	£330	£125	£210