

## PROGRAMME NOTE

In May 2012 William Howard asked me if I could make a condensed piano version of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* for him to play at a 70th birthday party for our mutual friend Colin Senior, who is a keen Wagnerian. William wondered if I could compress the fifteen hours of *The Ring* into three minutes. I thought this might be a little impracticable, but I managed to do it in five minutes, while retaining enough of the thematic material, I think, to give listeners a clear idea of the story.

In this bicentennial year I hope the piece will give pleasure and amusement to Wagnerians, and may also encourage those who haven't heard the whole cycle to embrace the extraordinary experience that Wagner's great work affords.

DM

for Colin Senior at 70

# THE SHORTER RING

## 1. Das Rheingold

RW arr. DM

At the bottom of the Rhine, the three Rhinemaidens . . .

guard the Rheingold.

**Mäßig bewegt**

(♩. = ♩)

*p*

The dwarf Alberich renounces love in order to . . . steal the gold.

From a mountain height,

*ff* *ff* *p*

Wotan gazes at his new castle, Valhalla.

But he needs money to pay for it, so Loge suggests they go down to . . .

Nibelheim, to take the gold from Alberich.

**accel.** - - - - - **Sehr schnell**

*f* *ff*

With the magic Tarnhelm,  
Alberich changes into a toad.

They seize him.

Back on the mountain height, Wotan

**Mässig**

*p sub.* *f sub.* *p*

### 3. Siegfried

In the forest, Alberich's brother Mime has brought up Siegmund and Sieglinde's child . . . Siegfried.

54 **Mäßig** ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ ) **Rasch**

*pp* *f sub.*

The Wanderer (Wotan in disguise) asks  
Mime who will reforge the broken sword.

Mime doesn't know, but when Siegfried starts forging, Mime, who  
needs the sword to get the gold, realises that it will be him . . .

58 **Wieder mäßig** **Kraftig, doch nicht zu schnell**

*p* *f*

and the sword is reforged!

Deep in the forest, Fafner, in the  
guise of a dragon, guards the gold.

63 **Sehr mässig**

*pp*

Siegfried enjoys the forest murmurs.

He blows his horn, waking up Fafner . . .

67 **Mäßig bewegt**

*f*

and slays the dragon.

Siegfried hears the Woodbird sing, and because he's tasted dragon's blood, understands her. She tells him of the Ring,

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*ff* *pp sub.*