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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NASHVILLE OPERA PRESENTS WAGNER'S DAS RHEINGOLD AT BELMONT UNIVERSITY'S FISHER CENTER

Nashville, TN – Nashville Opera closes its 2022 season on May 6 and 8 with the company and city premiere of Wagner's epic DAS RHEINGOLD at Belmont University's Fisher Center for the Performing Arts.

Artistic Director John Hoomes' electrifying production presents the opening opera of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* (*Der Ring Des Nibelungen*) for the first time in Nashville. *Das Rheingold* is part of the celebratory opening of Belmont University's new Fisher Center, whose scale and grandeur provide the perfect setting for this milestone event.

Baritone Lester Lynch as Wotan, Canadian soprano Othalie Graham as Freia, and bass-baritone Samuel Weiser as Alberich are among the all-star cast of this original production. Nashville-based designer Matt Logan is creating a new collection of costumes for the opera's 14 principals and 11 supernumeraries. The Nashville Opera Orchestra will be 62 members strong, and five Wagner tubas are being leased to help achieve the unique sound the composer intended. To augment the immersive experience, *Das Rheingold* will feature a two-story HD video wall which will display original imagery by lighting and video designer Barry Steele.



Lynch

Graham

Weiser

Director John Hoomes writes, "Our production will be the full uncut version of the opera. Every glorious note of music and every bit of drama, intact. And we're producing the show as Wagner originally intended—as an extended one act with no intermission. *Das Rheingold* will clock in at around 2 hours and 30 minutes of non-stop, intense music drama. It really will be an all-consuming experience for our audience."

Tickets are priced \$34 to \$131 and are available at nashvilleopera.org/rheingold.

Free public lectures on *Das Rheingold* are being offered April 12 and May 4 at the Noah Liff Opera Center. Panelists include Dr. Joy H. Calico of Vanderbilt University; Rabbi Michael Shulman of The Temple—Congregation Ohabai Sholom; Nashville Opera's John Hoomes and conductor Dean Williamson; contralto Gwendolyn Brown; and Dr. Kira Thurman, author of *Singing Like Germans: Black Musicians in the Land of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms*. Dr. Cheryl Carr of Belmont University moderates.

Nashville Opera's 2022 season is sponsored by Ann and Frank Bumstead. *Das Rheingold* is made possible through the generous support of Ann Marie and Martin McNamara III, H. Rodes Hart, *Nashville Scene*, and Northern Trust.



Costume sketch
for Freia by
Matt Logan

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About Nashville Opera

Nashville Opera, Tennessee's largest professional opera company, creates artistic experiences that elevate our world. Among the most successful regional companies in the country, Nashville Opera has presented three world premiere operas since its inception in 1981. Mainstage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 10,000 people each year. In May 2022, Nashville Opera will take part in the inaugural season of Belmont University's Fisher Center for the Performing Arts by presenting Wagner's *Das Rheingold* in the new hall. Nashville Opera's extensive education tour annually reaches nearly 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. Visit

About the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

Located on the Midtown Nashville campus of Belmont University, the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts is a state-of-the-art facility adding another diamond to Music City's ring of world-class venues. The advanced technology, production and acoustic capabilities within the complex supports diverse audiences with major concerts, plays, operas, dance, musical theatre and other performances while also supplying Belmont's nationally renowned arts students with a unique learning and performing environment.

About COVID Protocols

Nashville Opera will be observing the Fisher Center's Health & Safety policies for *Das Rheingold* performances. Masks are welcome but optional, and Belmont University does not require proof of vaccination or negative Covid test. Please note: These guidelines may change as Metro and theater policies regarding COVID develop.

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