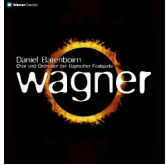


Wagner - Die Walküre (Barenboim) [1991]



1. Die Walküre – Bayreuth 1991 4:12:44 Siegmund: Poul Elming Sieglinde: Nadine Secunde Brünnhilde: Anne Evans Wotan: John Tomlinson Hunding Matthias Hölle Fricka: Linda Finnie Gerhilde: Eva Johansson Ortlinde: Ruth Floeren Waltraute: Shirley Close Schwertleite: Hitomi Katagiri Helmwige: Eva-Marie Bundschuh Siegrune: Linda Finnie Grimgerde: Birgitta Svendén Rossweisse: Hebe Dijkstra Orchester der Bayreuther Festspiele Daniel Barenboim – conductor

Richard Wagner called Die Walküre the “first evening” of the Ring of the Nibelung (he called Das Rheingold the prologue or Vorabend). Musically and dramatically, we are introduced to a radically new and different world when the opening bars of Die Walküre resound. A fully developed orchestral palette of Leitmotifs paints a wild storm scene, and the curtain rises on a modest dwelling: a fully human scene that has nothing to do with the gods, dwarves and nymphs of Das Rheingold. At the same time, however, the way Die Walküre portrays radical beginnings reveals some telling reminiscences of the unfolding of Das Rheingold. Die Walküre is exciting and deeply feeling drama. --- Robert Levine, ClassicsToday.com

Daniel Barenboim is considered by many to be the most interesting Wagner conductor today. He has conducted all the major operas around the world. His base has been Berlin and Bayreuth. Barenboim first appeared at the Bayreuth Festival in 1981 in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's production of Tristan und Isolde (the one where Isolde's appearance in the 3rd act is just Tristan's fantasy or dream). Between 1981 and 1999 Daniel Barenboim conducted 161 performances in Bayreuth, appearing almost every year. --- wagneropera.net

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