Richard Wagner

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

February 11, 2012

Presented by Rockport Music

PROLOGUE The three Norns weave the rope of destiny. When one of them mentions Alberich and the theft of the Rhinegold, the rope breaks: their wisdom has ended. Brünnhilde sends Siegfried into the world to do heroic deeds. As a pledge of his love, he gives her the ring he took from Fafner.

ACT I The sinister Hagen, half-brother of the Gibichung rulers Gunther and Gutrune, advises his siblings to marry. He suggests Brünnhilde as Gunther’s bride and Siegfried as Gutrune’s husband and proposes a plan: a potion will make Siegfried forget Brünnhilde and fall in love with Gutrune. To win her, he will get Brünnhilde for Gunther. Siegfried, travelling along the Rhine, arrives. Hagen offers him the potion, and Siegfried promptly confesses his love for Gutrune. Gunther tells him about his chosen bride, and Siegfried agrees to win her, using the Tarnhelm to transform himself into Gunther. The two men take an oath of blood brotherhood and depart for Brünnhilde’s rock.

Meanwhile, Brünnhilde receives a visit from her sister Waltraute, who asks Brünnhilde to give the ring back to the Rhinemaidens to save the gods. Brünnhilde refuses, declaring that Siegfried’s love is more important to her. Waltraute leaves in despair. Siegfried’s horn sounds in the distance, Valhalla and the gods are seen, surrounded by flames. Brünnhilde’s joy quickly turns into terror when a strange figure appears, claiming her as Gunther’s bride and tearing her Tarnhelm from her head.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Hagen has a vision of his father Alberich, reminding him to win back the ring. Gunther and Brünnhilde arrive and are greeted by the Gibichung clan. When she sees Siegfried, Brünnhilde furiously accuses him of betraying her. Still under the spell of the potion, Siegfried innocently tells her he is to marry Gutrune and that she will become Gunther’s wife. Noticing the ring on Siegfried’s finger, Brünnhilde accuses him of stealing it, since only the night before it was taken from her hand, supposedly by Gunther. Siegfried protests and swears on Hagen’s spear that he has done no wrong. Brünnhilde is beside herself with fury and bent on revenge. Hagen offers to kill Siegfried, suggesting the murder be made to look like a hunting accident. Gunther hesitates to join the conspiracy, but ultimately gives in.

COMING SOON!

Saturday, February 25, 1 pm
Verdi’s Ernani
(11:30 am Pre-Opera Lecture)
(12 pm Pre-Opera Lecture)

Saturday, April 7, 12 PM**
Massenet’s Manon
(11:00 am Pre-Opera Lunch*)

JUST ADDED!
Saturday, April 14, 7 PM (re-broadcast)
(1 PM SOLD OUT)
Verdi’s La Traviata

* Pre-Opera Lunches must be purchased in advance.

**Please note early start times.

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