

Richard Wagner

DIE WALKÜRE

May 14, 2011

Conductor **James Levine**

Production **Robert Lepage**

Associate Director

Neilson Vignola

Set Designer **Carl Fillion**

Costume Designer

François St-Aubin

Lighting Designer

Etienne Boucher

Video Image Artist **Boris Firquet**

Brünnhilde **Deborah Voigt**

Sieglinde **Eva-Maria Westbroek**

Fricka **Stephanie Blythe**

Siegmond **Jonas Kaufmann**

Wotan **Bryn Terfel**

Hunding **Hans-Peter König**

Production a gift of Ann Ziff and the Ziff family, in memory of William Ziff
In collaboration with Ex Machina

The Met: Live in HD series is made possible by a generous grant from its founding sponsor

The Neubauer Family Foundation

Global corporate sponsorship of *The Met: Live in HD* is provided by

Bloomberg

The HD broadcasts are supported by Toll Brothers, America's luxury home builder.®

ACT I Pursued by enemies during a snowstorm, Siegmund stumbles into an unfamiliar house. Sieglinde finds him, and the two feel an immediate attraction. They are interrupted by Sieglinde's husband, Hunding, who asks the stranger who he is. Calling himself "Woeful," Siegmund tells of a disaster-filled life, only to learn that Hunding is a kinsman of his enemies. Hunding tells his guest they will fight to the death in the morning. Alone, Siegmund calls on his father, Wälse—who is in fact Wotan, leader of the gods, in human disguise—for the sword he once promised him. Sieglinde, who has given her husband a sleeping potion, returns and confesses her unhappiness to Siegmund. He promises to free her from her forced marriage and compares their mutual feelings to the union of love and spring. Sieglinde tells him how at her wedding a stranger thrust a sword into a tree that no one has been able to pull out, then she asks Siegmund if his father was really "Wolf," as he said earlier. When he gives his father's name as Wälse instead, Sieglinde recognizes him as her twin brother. Siegmund pulls the sword from the tree and claims Sieglinde as his bride.

INTERMISSION

ACT II Wotan instructs his warrior daughter, the Valkyrie Brünnhilde, to defend his mortal son Siegmund in the fight with Hunding. But Wotan's wife Fricka, goddess of marriage, insists that Wotan must protect Hunding's marriage rights against Siegmund. She ignores his argument that Siegmund could save the gods by winning back Alberich's all-powerful ring from the dragon Fafner. Wotan realizes he is caught in his own trap: his power will leave him if he does not enforce the law. His plans in ruins, he tells the returning Brünnhilde about the theft of the Rhinegold and Alberich's curse on it, then orders the shocked Valkyrie to fight for Hunding.

Brünnhilde appears to Siegmund as if in a vision, telling him he will soon die and go to Valhalla. Siegmund defies her and threatens to kill himself and Sieglinde if his sword has no power against Hunding. Moved by his love and steadfastness, Brünnhilde decides to disobey Wotan and help Siegmund. The two men fight and Siegmund is about to be victorious, when Wotan appears and shatters his sword, leaving him to be killed by Hunding. Brünnhilde escapes with Sieglinde and the broken sword.

INTERMISSION

ACT III Brünnhilde has taken Sieglinde to the Valkyries' rock. She asks her eight warrior sisters for help, but they refuse to hide her from Wotan. Sieglinde is numb with despair until Brünnhilde tells her she bears Siegmund's child. Now eager to be saved, Sieglinde takes the pieces of the sword, thanks Brünnhilde, and rushes off. Brünnhilde remains behind alone to face her father. Wotan sentences her to become a mortal woman. She pleads that in disobeying his orders she was really doing what he wished but Wotan will not give in: she must lie in sleep, a prize for any man who finds her. She asks to be surrounded in sleep by a wall of fire that only the bravest hero can pierce. Both sense this hero must be the child that Sieglinde will bear. Sadly renouncing his daughter, Wotan summons Loge, the god of fire, to encircle the rock. As flames spring up, he invokes a spell forbidding the rock to anyone who fears his spear.

THE MET: LIVE IN HD SUMMER ENCORES

JUNE 15

Madama Butterfly

JUNE 22

Don Pasquale

JUNE 29

Simon Boccanegra

JULY 13

La Fille du Régiment

JULY 20

Tosca

JULY 27

Don Carlo

To receive cast sheets for future performances, please visit metopera.org/HDlive.

Win a Trip to Opening Night at the Met!

Includes two tickets to the gala dinner and the performance of *Anna Bolena*, roundtrip air travel, and luxury hotel accommodations for two.

Visit metopera.org/GalaContest for official rules and to enter. No purchase necessary. (US residents only.)

Join the Met

Receive a free gift with a contribution of \$75 or more!

Visit metopera.org/HD or call 1-800-MET-OPERA to donate.

The *Live in HD* performances of *Turandot* and *Aida* are now available on DVD exclusively in Target stores.

The Met
ropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE