



Richard  
**WAGNER**

**Der Ring des Nibelungen**

compilation of excerpts for Low Brass

*from*

The Ring of the Nibelung

*compiled by*

Stephen Fissel

Score



Cherry Classics Music  
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## **Performance Notes for the Compilation of Ring Excerpts for Low Brass**

### **(Beyond the Ride of the Valkyries)**

For the low brass enthusiast, opportunities to perform this music are, unfortunately, rare. As a result, not only is its study value often overlooked, but also the artistic satisfaction of performing it seldom realized. This collection of excerpts from *Der Ring des Nibelungen* represents some of the major portions of this great music that Richard Wagner composed for low brass. The selection of these excerpts comes from my own experience in preparing and performing the Ring with Seattle Opera. In conjunction with Ring performances in Seattle, my colleagues and I would often rehearse these sections and present them in a concert along with commentary to explain their importance, either elucidating a musical aspect or an element of plot narrative, or from the standpoint of the development of the low brass instruments of the orchestra.

Wagner's use of the orchestra and instrumentation was both innovative, from the listener's perspective, and challenging from the player's, as exemplified by the significant parts he wrote for the Wagner Tubas, the Bass Trumpet, the Contrabass Trombone, and the Contrabass Tuba. The instrumentation called for in this collection of excerpts is the same as Wagner's scores, however the excerpts can be presented in various ways, given the availability of instruments and players. For example, if there is no Bass Trumpet available, Tenor Trombone can be substituted or the optional cuts can be utilized. In the case of the Trombone IV part, I have noted the places where Wagner specifies that they be played on Contrabass Trombone; however, if one is not available, the modern Bass Trombone can readily perform these passages.

Of all the Ring music, the Ride of the Valkyries is one of the most well known passages to the average listener and for this reason it opens this collection of excerpts. Other than this, the excerpts are in the same order that they appear in Wagner's Ring and are identified by their act and scene number. The tempos indicated are suggested, based on my experience of some 30 Ring performances. There are, of course, places where a tempo may move forward or hold back and further study of the excerpts in their full orchestral context will yield interpretive insight that heightens the musical effect for greater enjoyment, particularly in the music of the final excerpts of both *Die Walkure* and *Gotterdamerung*. Additionally, in this final scene (known as the Immolation Scene), I have taken the liberty of incorporating the Valhalla themes from the Wagner Tuba parts into the Trombone parts in order to achieve a greater musical effect for concert presentation. Aside from this one exception, everything is as Wagner originally scored it.

Stephen Fissel  
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Seattle Symphony Orchestra &  
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# Der Ring des Nibelungen

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## DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

### Excerpt #1

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 96 - 100$ )

Bass Trumpet (optional Trombone)

Trombone I

Trombone II

Trombone III (Bass)

Trombone IV (Bass and Contrabass) \*

Tuba

40

B. Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III (Bass)

Tbn. IV (Contra)

Tba.

attacca

\* preferred instrument designation  
is noted in the Trombone IV part

# DAS RHEINGOLD

## Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

### Excerpt #3

Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

216      in Eb

B. Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

220

B. Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

## Excerpt #4

## **Scene II "Spear"**

Scene II Spear

(♩ = 120)  
in Eb

B. Tpt. 395

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

## Excerpt #5

## **Scene III "Dragon"**

Scene III "Dragon"

Excerpt #5

771 **Lento e sostenuto** ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )  
*Solo*

Tba. 

776 **Un poco piu animato** ( $\text{♩} = 75$ )

Tba. 

# DIE WALKÜRE

## **Act I Scene II "Walhalla"**

## Excerpt #8

## **Lento ( $\downarrow = 54$ )**

a D

176      **in D**

Bass Tpt.

Tbn. I       $\frac{3}{4}$       *ppp*      *lunga*

Tbn. II       $\frac{3}{4} \#$       *ppp*      *lunga*

Tbn. III (Bass)       $\frac{3}{4}$       *ppp*      *lunga*

Tbn IV (Contra)       $\frac{3}{4}$       *ppp*      *lunga*

Tba

## **Act II Scene V "Frustration of the Gods"**

## Excerpt #9

**Lento** ( $\text{♩} = 92$ )

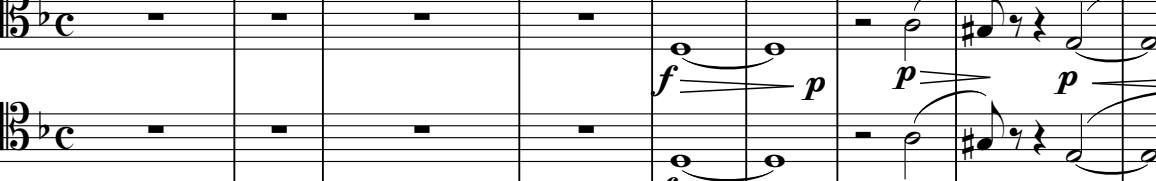
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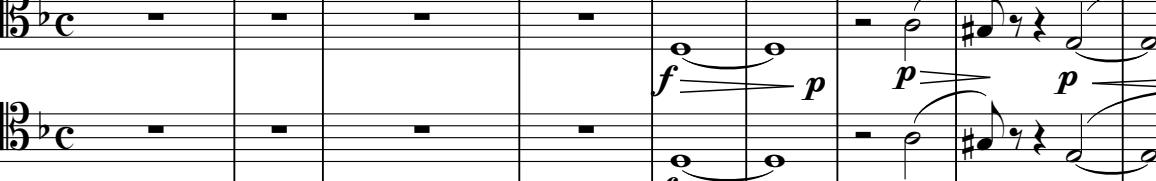
175 in D

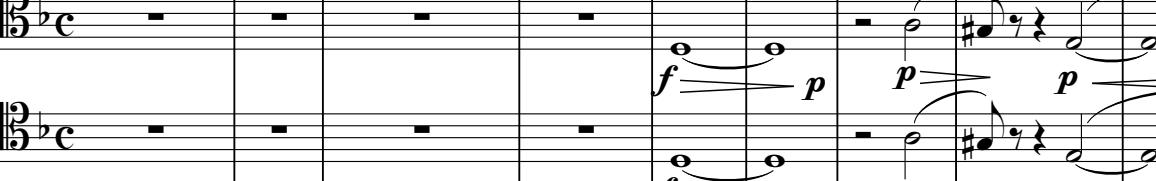
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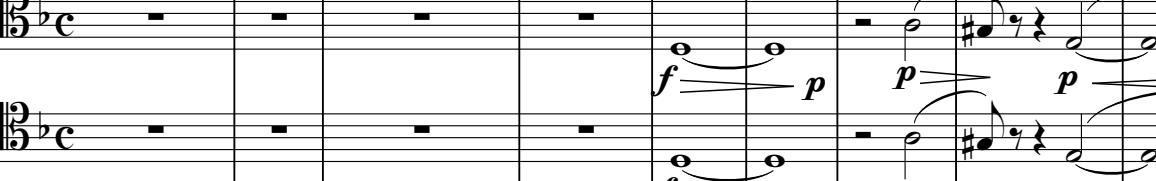
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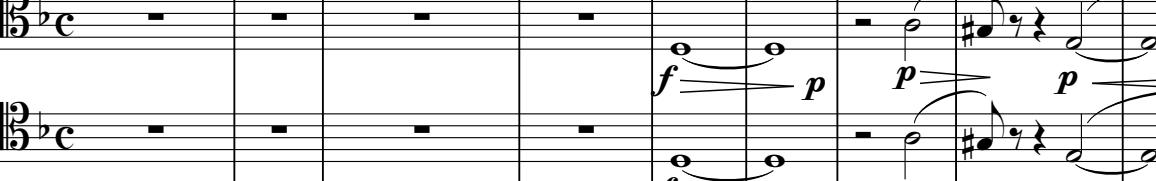
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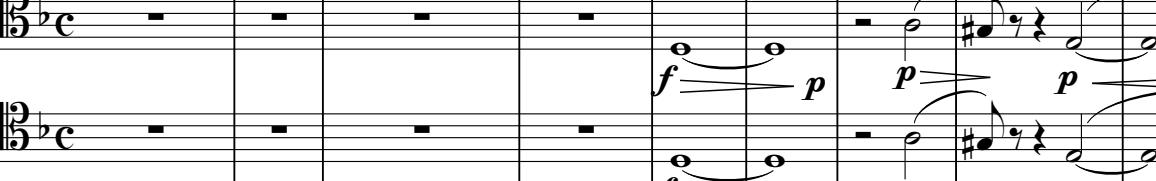
Bass Tpt. 

Tbn. I 

Tbn. II 

Tbn. III  
(Bass) 

Tbn IV  
(Contra) 

Tba. 

# SIEGFRIED

## Act II Vorspiel "Curse"

### Excerpt #15

Commodo e sostenuto ( $\downarrow = 76$ )  
55

Bass Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

67

Bass Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

# GOTTERDAMMERUNG

## Vorspiel "Siegfried's Rhine Journey"

### Excerpt #17

Molto tranquillo ( $\text{♩} = 96$ )  
in Eb

354

Bass Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn. IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

358

Bass Tpt.

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

Tbn. III  
(Bass)

Tbn. IV  
(Contra)

Tba.

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
The Ring of the Nibelung*

# **Richard Wagner**

compiled by Stephen Fissel

# Bass Trumpet

# DIE WALKÜRE

## **Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres**

## Excerpt #1

## Vivace (♩. = 96 -100)

3

*piu f*

attacca

## Excerpt #2

**Vivace (♩. = 92)**

D

A musical score for piano, featuring four staves of music. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 129 starts with a dynamic ff. Measure 133 follows. Measure 137 starts with a dynamic ff. Measures 141 and 145 conclude the page.

# DAS RHEINGOLD

## Excerpt #3

## **Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"**

Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

216

Musical score for orchestra, page 10, measures 220-221. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and F major. It features a dynamic marking of ***ff***. The bottom staff is in treble clef, 2/4 time, and G major. Measure 220 begins with a forte dynamic. Measure 221 continues the rhythmic pattern established in measure 220.

## Excerpt #4

( $\omega = 120$ )

Musical score for piano, page 10, measures 395-400. The key signature changes to E major (no sharps or flats). Measure 395 starts with a forte dynamic (f) and a 3/8 time signature. Measure 396 begins with a eighth note followed by a sixteenth-note pattern. Measure 397 consists of a single eighth note. Measures 398 and 399 are entirely blank. Measure 400 begins with a long horizontal bar line, followed by a short vertical bar line, indicating a repeat or a new section.

## Excerpt #5

### **Scene III "Dragon"**

## 771 Lento e sostenuto ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

TACET

A musical staff in G clef, B-flat key signature, common time, ending with a fermata over the last note.

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
The Ring of the Nibelung*

Bass Trumpet in C

Richard Wagner  
compiled by Stephen Fissel

## DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

### Excerpt #1

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 96 - 100$ )

Musical score excerpt for Bass Trumpet in C. The tempo is Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 96 - 100$ ). The key signature is one sharp. Measure 3 starts with a rest followed by a sustained note. The music continues with eighth-note patterns. Measure 4 begins with a dynamic *piu f*. The score ends with a fermata and the instruction "attacca". Measure numbers 3 and 4 are indicated above the staff.

### Excerpt #2

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 92$ )

Musical score excerpt for Bass Trumpet in C. The tempo is Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 92$ ). The key signature changes between one sharp and two sharps. Measure 129 starts with *ff*. Measures 130-131 show eighth-note patterns. Measure 132 begins with *ff*. Measures 133-135 continue with eighth-note patterns. Measure 136 begins with *ff*. Measures 137-138 end with eighth-note patterns. Measure numbers 129 through 138 are indicated above the staff.

## DAS RHEINGOLD

### Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{J.} = 100$ )

Musical score excerpt for Bass Trombone (Tba.). The tempo is Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{J.} = 100$ ). The key signature is one flat. Measure 216 starts with *ff*. Measures 217-219 show eighth-note patterns. Measure 220 ends with a fermata. Measure numbers 216 through 220 are indicated above the staff.

### Excerpt #4

Musical score excerpt for Bass Trombone (Tba.). The tempo is  $\text{J.} = 120$ . The key signature is common time (C). Measure 395 starts with a dynamic *f*. Measures 396-399 show eighth-note patterns. Measure 400 ends with a fermata. Measure numbers 395 through 400 are indicated above the staff.

### Excerpt #5

Scene III "Dragon"

771 Lento e sostenuto ( $\text{J.} = 100$ )

TACET

Musical score excerpt for Bass Trombone (Tba.). The tempo is Lento e sostenuto ( $\text{J.} = 100$ ). The key signature is common time (C). Measure 771 starts with a dynamic *f*. Measure 772 ends with a fermata. Measure numbers 771 and 772 are indicated above the staff.

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

Trombone I

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
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Richard Wagner  
compiled by Stephen Fissel

## DIE WALKÜRE

Excerpt #1

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 96 - 100$ )

40

41

42

43

attacca

Excerpt #2

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 92$ )

128

129

130

131

ff

## DAS RHEINGOLD

Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

216 Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{J.} = 100$ )

216

217

218

219

ff

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

Trombone II

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
The Ring of the Nibelung*

Richard Wagner  
compiled by Stephen Fissel

## DIE WALKÜRE

### Excerpt #1

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 96 - 100$ )

9/8

f

piu f

40

>

attacca

### Excerpt #2

Vivace ( $\text{J.} = 92$ )

ff

130

ff

136

ff

## DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

### Excerpt #3

216 Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{J.} = 100$ )

4/4

Tba.

ff

220

ff

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

## **Trombone III (Bass)**

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
The Ring of the Nibelung*

# **Richard Wagner**

compiled by Stephen Fissel

# DIE WALKÜRE

## **Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres**

## Excerpt #1

**Vivace (♩. = 96 -100)**

Musical score for bassoon part, page 40, measures 40-41. The score consists of two staves. The top staff starts with a dynamic *f*. The bottom staff begins with a dynamic *>*. Measure 40 ends with a dynamic *piu f*. Measure 41 begins with a dynamic *>*. The score concludes with an *attacca* instruction.

## Excerpt #2

## Vivace (♩. = 92)

Musical score for orchestra, page 129, measures 129-130. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in 9/8 time, featuring a bassoon line with dynamic markings *ff*, >, and >. The bottom staff is in 4/4 time, featuring a bassoon line with dynamic markings >, >, >, ff, >, and >. Both staves show eighth-note patterns with various slurs and grace notes.

Musical score for orchestra, page 133, showing a bassoon part. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a bassoon solo, followed by a dynamic instruction 'ff' (fortissimo). The second system begins with a forte dynamic 'f' (forte) and continues with a sustained note. The bassoon part is accompanied by other instruments, including strings and woodwinds.

A musical score page from a piano-vocal score. The page number '137' is at the top left. The music is in bass clef. It features a continuous melodic line consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with stems pointing up and some down. There are several rests of varying lengths. The right side of the page shows a series of vertical bar lines, indicating the end of a system.

# DAS RHEINGOLD

### Excerpt #3

## **Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"**

**Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo** ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

220

A musical score for a bassoon part, spanning ten measures. The score is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat. Measure 1 starts with a note followed by a rest. Measures 2 through 10 each begin with a note, followed by a rest, and then a series of eighth-note patterns consisting of a note, a rest, and a note. Measure 11 is a blank measure with a vertical bar line. Measure 12 ends with a double bar line.

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Trombone IV (Bass and Contrabass) \*

## DIE WALKÜRE

Excerpt #1

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

Vivace ( $\text{d}.$  = 96 -100)

Bass Trombone

$f$

*piu f*

40

$ff$

attacca

Excerpt #2

Vivace ( $\text{d}.$  = 92)

Bass Trombone

$ff$

128

$ff$

133

$ff$

137

$ff$

## DAS RHEINGOLD

Excerpt #3

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

216 Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{d}.$  = 100)

Contrabass Trombone

$\text{Tba.}$

$ff$

220

$ff$

# Der Ring des Nibelungen

*compilation of excerpts for Low Brass from  
The Ring of the Nibelung*

Tuba

Richard Wagner  
compiled by Stephen Fissel

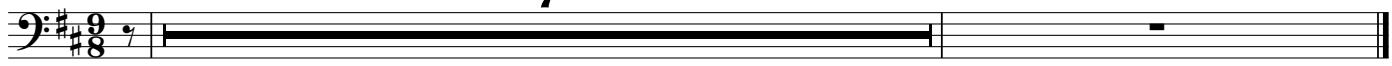
## DIE WALKÜRE

Act III, Scene I, Ride of the Walküres

### Excerpt #1

Vivace ( $\text{J} = 96 - 100$ )

7



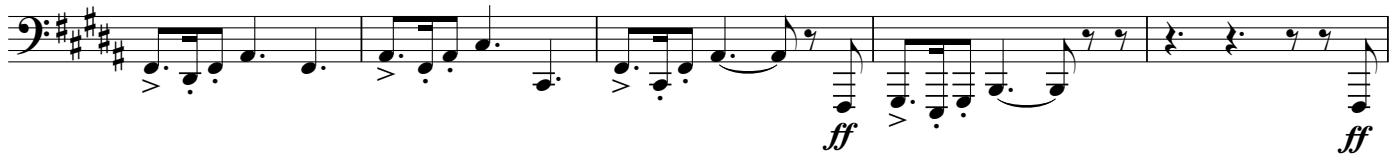
attacca

### Excerpt #2

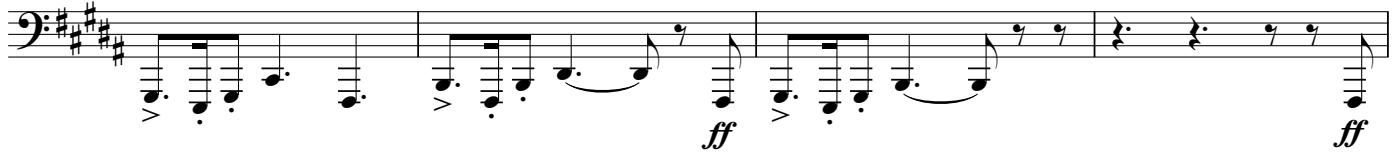
Vivace ( $\text{J} = 92$ )



129



134



138



## DAS RHEINGOLD

Scene II "Entrance of the Giants"

### Excerpt #3

216 Molto pesante e moderato il Tempo ( $\text{J} = 100$ )



220

