

Opera

WITHOUT WORDS



THE
RING

Carmen

CAPE5
COD5

Masterpiece and CapePOPS!
Series Title Sponsor

Opera

WITHOUT WORDS

January 19 & 20, 2019

Jung-Ho Pak, *Conductor*

Ji-Hae Park, *Violin*

LA SCALA DI SETA (THE SILKEN LADDER) OVERTURE

Gioachino Rossini

CARMEN FANTASIE

Based on music from *Carmen* by Georges Bizet

Franz Waxman

INTERMISSION

THE RING, AN ORCHESTRAL ADVENTURE

Based on music from *The Ring* by Richard Wagner

Arranged by Henk de Vlieger

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Prelude | 4. Entrance of the Gods into Valhalla | 7. Forest Murmurs | 11. Siegfried's Journey on the Rhine |
| 2. The Rhine Gold | 5. The Ride of the Valkyries | 8. Siegfried's Heroic Deed | 12. Siegfried's Death |
| 3. Descent into Nibelheim | 6. Magic Fire | 9. Brunnhilde's Awakening | 13. Funeral Music |
| | | 10. Siegfried and Brunnhilde | 14. Brunnhilde's Sacrifice |



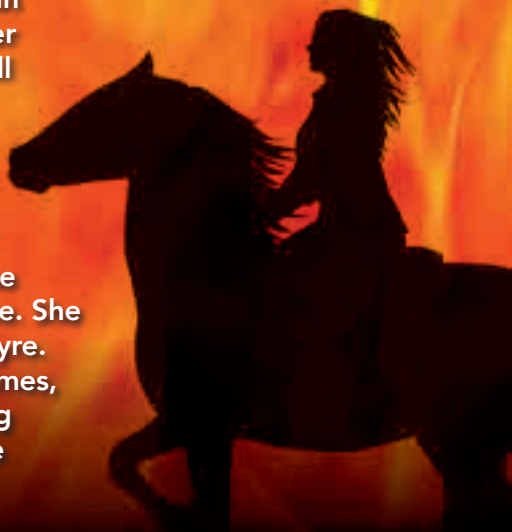
EPIC VISIONS

One of the most radical acts to take place in the history of music, Richard Wagner's vision of the four operas that became known as *The Ring Cycle*—*The Rhinegold*, *The Valkyrie*, *Siegfried*, and *The Twilight of the Gods*—truly defined the word "epic." Wagner's goal was a complete synthesis of music and drama. A visionary in his own right, composer Henk de Vlieger arranged the most important moments of the cycle, following the dramatic flow of this masterpiece.

The opening portrays the pure beauty of the Rhine River, where Alberich the dwarf, denied love by the Rhinemaidens, steals the gold that sits on the bottom of the river (the Rhinegold). In Nibelheim, the dwarves' kingdom, Alberich forges a ring giving him power over all the world (you'll hear anvils!). Wotan, king of the gods, goes to Nibelheim and steals the ring, but Alberich places a curse on it. Wotan is warned that the ring will cause the destruction of the gods, so he casts it aside, and the brother giants Fafner and Fasolt fight over it. The ring's curse immediately begins, resulting in Fafner's murder of Fasolt. The gods ascend into Valhalla.

One of Wotan's Valkyrie daughters, Brünnhilde, disobeys her father. Wotan puts her to sleep surrounded by a wall of magic fire that only a true hero can enter (you'll hear Wagner's marvelous evocation of flickering flames).

The story shifts to the hero Siegfried, whom we first encounter in the forest, where the leaves flutter in the trees. The former giant Fafner is now a dragon, slain by Siegfried, who recovers the ring. After heroically waking Brünnhilde, the two fall in love. She sends him off to do more heroic deeds. Siegfried then travels up the Rhine where he is murdered by Alberich's son Hagen, who wants the ring back. After Siegfried's death, a devastated Brünnhilde decides to put the world back to rights through self-sacrifice. She rides her horse into Siegfried's funeral pyre. The fire flares up; Valhalla bursts into flames, the gods are destroyed, and the flooding Rhine sweeps away Hagen, restoring the golden ring to the river depths.



Opera: For *Every*-one!

Despite the clichés, opera is as rich and varied as any other art form, as the Cape Symphony demonstrates. In Bizet's *Carmen*, a beautiful gypsy is murdered by her jealous former lover when she falls for a matador; intense drama is felt in every note. Humor abounds in *The Silken Ladder*, as a young woman sneaks her secret husband into her bedroom at night, hiding the truth from her guardian who wants her to marry another man. Both operas are completely different from the mythological heroics of *The Ring* cycle, as gods, goddesses, and mortals fight over a magic ring, while the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Whether you like romance, comedy, or action, there's an opera for you.

Ji-HAE...

Ji-Hae Park's 2013 TED Talk, "The violin, and my dark night of the soul," has been viewed by over three million people. This extraordinary young woman is a violin superstar, performing before sold-out audiences worldwide, wowing fans with her "extremely charismatic and emotional" stage presence.

Ji-Hae was an honorary ambassador for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, and represents her country in many other ways, including as the honorary ambassador of the Korean National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 2015.



MUSICIAN ON A MISSION

Since her first solo recording at the age of 14, Ji-Hae has recorded nine CDs and two DVDs, revealing the breadth and depth of her musical experience in many genres from classical to rock, and from traditional Korean folk tunes to gospel.

In addition to giving many solo recitals and orchestral concerts throughout the world, Ji-Hae also performs in churches, prisons, and hospitals, hoping to touch and heal those suffering from broken hearts, and to inspire all kinds of people, not just classical music lovers.



A Night at the Opera

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the opera was the place to see and be seen. Stages and auditoriums were both lit from massive chandeliers, making the audience as visible as the performers. People stopped talking during the arias, but then returned to chatting, playing cards, and staring at each other.

When electric lighting was first installed and auditorium lights were lowered during the performance, audiences complained that they could not be seen. By the mid-19th century, opera glasses were an essential accessory for fashionable theatregoers. Watching the audience was as important as watching the stage.

—Thanks to the Victoria & Albert Museum

COMING SOON



The
Wizard
Of
Oz

IN CONCERT
FEB 9 & FEB 10



**BEETHOVEN
UNLEASHED**

APR 6 & APR 7



Legendary
Love
Stories

MAY 4 & MAY 5