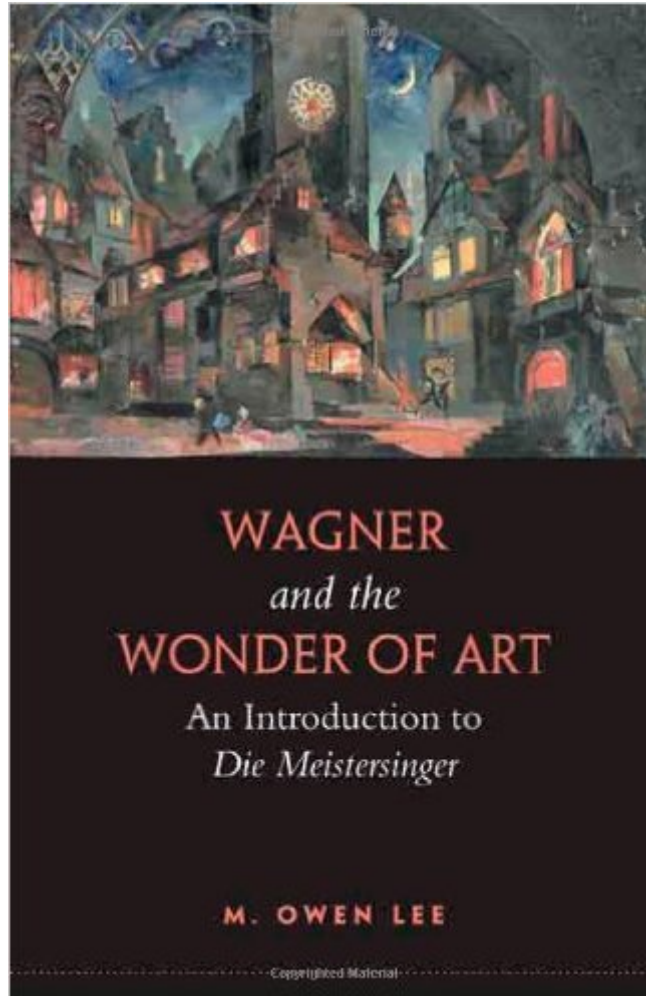


The book was found

# Wagner And The Wonder Of Art: An Introduction To Die Meistersinger



## Synopsis

Richard Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* has always called forth superlatives from those who have fallen under its spell. Toscanini wanted to lay his baton down for the last time only after he had conducted a performance of it. Paderewski called it 'the greatest work of genius ever achieved by any artist in any field of human endeavour.' H.L. Mencken declared, 'It took more skill to plan and write it than it took to plan and write the whole canon of Shakespeare.' And yet Wagner's many-splendoured comedy has come under severe criticism in recent years for what has been called its 'dark underside,' its 'fascist brutality,' and its 'ugly anti-Semitism.' In *Wagner and the Wonder of Art*, renowned opera expert M. Owen Lee addresses that criticism. He also provides an introduction to the opera and an analysis that will surprise even those veteran operagoers who may not have explored the work's intricate structure and the emotional drama at its centre. The book includes the on-air commentary that Father Lee gave during the first radio broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera after the events of 9/11. He thought it necessary, after attempting to refute the charges leveled against Wagner's opera, to say something about its truthfulness, its life-affirming music, its insight into the madness that can destroy human lives, and its witness to the importance of art for the survival of our civilizations.

## Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division (December 15, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802095739

ISBN-13: 978-0802095732

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #915,573 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Â Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Wagner #67 in Â Books > Arts &

Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Ballet #195 in Â Books > Humor & Entertainment >

Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Ballet & Dance

## Customer Reviews

I've been slow getting into *Meistersinger*. It's probably my second to least favorite of the Master's works. But I've been collecting some classic recordings and researching the opera to see what the

fuss is about. Father Lee's short book was terrific! Insightful in the way it explains the structure and importance in this long work, he also tackles a number of the controversies surrounding Meistersinger (e.g., German nationalism, anti-semitism). I listened to the opera fresh after reading the book, and I must say I was hooked. A must read for anyone who considers Wagner great....or who doubts it.

To a good portion of music fans, Wagner's reputation rests solely on two works: *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and *Tristan und Isolde*. Indeed, there are many who seem to believe the "Ride of the Valkyries" encompasses his entire style of composition. However, those who have explored Wagner's work a little further realize what treasures are to be found in his other music dramas. In fact many Wagnerians, myself included, consider *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* to be our favorite among the bunch and know it deserves to stand right alongside *The Ring* and *Tristan* as a genuine masterpiece. Father Lee is another who holds that opinion, and this book is a testimony to his love for *Die Meistersinger*. Father Lee is one of the most discerning and concise writers on Wagner, as anyone who has read his book on *The Ring*, *Wagner's Ring: Turning the Sky Round*, can attest to. As good as that book is, *Wagner and the Wonder of Art* is even better. Where as in *Turning the Sky Round* Lee devotes a chapter to each of the operas of the Ring, here he devotes an entire chapter to each ACT of *Die Meistersinger*. You can imagine how many more details he is able to cover. Not only does he provide an eloquent synopsis of the plot, he also discusses this opera in the context of other great comedies in Western Civilization, the many layers of metaphor in the work, and so much more. This is a wonderful book for those who are looking to explore *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for the first time, as well as those who are already enchanted by it and want to gain even greater insights into this great work of art.

Ever since attending *Die Meistersinger* at the Met, I considered it the Sistine Ceiling of opera. But not until reading Owen Lee's masterly book--one can read it all in much less time than the opera takes to perform!--did I fully appreciate the genius of Wagner, his opera, and the art form. This is quite simply the best book I have ever read about music and drama. It is life-enhancing. It is a treasure.

M. Owen Lee used to give the best programs of anyone on the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts, and virtually all of his books are equally enjoyable. I probably have all of his books and always enjoy reading them.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Wagner and the Wonder of Art: An Introduction to Die Meistersinger Stevie Wonder: Rhythms of Wonder Wonder Woman Classic: I Am Wonder Woman (I Can Read Level 2) La lección de August: Wonder [August's Lesson: Wonder] I Wonder About Allah: Book One (I Wonder About Islam) Dorothy Must Die Stories: No Place Like Oz, The Witch Must Burn, The Wizard Returns (Dorothy Must Die Novella) Dorothy Must Die Stories Volume 2: Heart of Tin, The Straw King, Ruler of Beasts (Dorothy Must Die Novella) Griswold and Wagner Cast Iron Cookbook: Delicious and Simple Comfort Food The Tristan Chord: Wagner and Philosophy Easy Classical French Horn & Piano Duets: Featuring music of Brahms, Beethoven, Wagner and other composers Easy Classical Masterworks for Cello: Music of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi and Wagner Easy Classical Bassoon Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Wagner: Orchestral Excerpts from Operas and Concert Works for Trombone (IMC No. 973) The Birth of Tragedy and The Case of Wagner Richard Wagner And the Jews Easy Classical French Horn Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Masterworks for French Horn: Music of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi and Wagner Easy Classical Trombone Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Flute Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Handel and other composers Easy Classical Recorder Solos: Featuring music of Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner and others.

[Dmca](#)