

## STUDIES IN WESTERN CLASSICAL GENRES

# RICHARD WAGNER *Ring of the Nibelungen*

An in-depth exploration of the central project of Richard Wagner's career—the cycle of four operas he based on the *Nibelungenlied* and other Germanic myths and legends dating back to the Middle Ages. We will examine all four operas closely (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*, *Götterdämmerung*), with study of the sources, the texts, the music, and various stagings, from the original productions at Bayreuth to the ongoing new version directed by Robert Lepage at the Met. We will also consider the ways Wagner's music dramas influenced later composers, from Strauss, Debussy and Korngold to recent minimalists. Finally, we will examine the critical and cultural debates they inspired, and how their messages and meanings have continually been remixed in today's world, as demonstrated in such works as *Apocalypse Now*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Harry Potter*.

**T/Th | 3:30-5pm | Rm. 4-364 | Martin Marks**



**NEW!**

**Music  
Subject  
21M.289**

**(Fall 2012)**

**T/Th  
3:30-5pm**



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