Richard Wagner

Students Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course

Date

**About Composer Richard Wagner**

Richard Wagner was born in Leipzig on 22 May 1813 in a family of the court clerk. He was born into a theatrical family. In the family of Carl Friedrich Wagner, he was the ninth born. His father was lucky to secure a position as a police actuary. Her mother was called Johanna Wagner, who dedicated all her effort to raise all children decently and respectably. Richard Wagner was only six months when his father passed away, and as a result, he was raised by his biological mother and stepfather Ludwig Geyer, an actor and a playwriter (Newman, 2014). However, there are some controversies as to whether Geyer, a traveling actor, was the birth father of Richard Wagner. In his schooling time, he never showed any aptitude in music. He was impressed in knowing to play the piano. At the age of seven, Richard Wagner started training to play the piano. Richard Wagner was ambitious and wrote his first drama at the age of 11; he developed a passion for playing the piano. In addition, at the age of 15, he wrote a piano transcription of Ludwig van Beethoven. In his study at the University of Leipzig, he took composition and conducted some lessons with the cantor of St. Thomas in Leipzig.

In operas, Richard Wagner's were not successful, and as a result, this concept affected the development of his development. Richard Wagner became a music director from 1836-1839 in Riga opera. As a music director, he was married to Minna Planer, a singer (Newman, 2014). The Wagner’s borrowed a lot of money to run away from the creditors and fled Riga. As they fled Riga, they stayed in London for two years while working as an arranger of other composers.



Giacomo Meyerbeer promoted the third opera for Richard Wagner. He named the opera Rienzi. His first opera was performed and staged to considerable acclaim by the Dresden court theater. Richard Wagner and their family moved to Dresden, where they stayed for six years. Eventually, Wagner was selected as the Royal court conductor. In his journey being appointed as a court conductor, he was exposed to different political influences (Grey, 2019). He later moved to Germany Paris after the revolution of 1848-1849. In this situation, he found himself bankrupt and unemployed. At this stage, he was suffering from different skin infections for years. Due to the skin illness, he could not continue performing music but decided to start writing essays.

Richard Wagner’s four Ring operas evolved gradually and completed the libretto by 1852. Another year of agony passed before he started to write ''Das Rheingold'' in 1853 December, following it with another that he named ''Die Walkure'' in 1854 (de Morgan, 2017). Each opera had its meaning as per the heading that it was given. His development progress started being evident again. He started developing financially again. He began working with Siegfried in 1856 and decided to put the unfinished opera aside and decided to focus on his new ideas (Newman, 2014). He composed ‘’ Isolde und Tristan "in 1857 and 1859. The political ban of Richard Wagner with Germany was ended in 1861. In 1862, he broke up with Minna. ''Tristan and Isolde" was accepted initially for production in Vienna. The opera showed a great improvement since it had over seventy rehearsals between 1863 and 1864 and continued not performed and gained a reputation of not being played (Newman, 2014). Bavarian King Ludwig II was an admirer of Richard since childhood and greatly helped him settle his debts and financed Richards’ opera production. After the financial support, finally ’Tristan and Isolde" was released in Munich and permitted under the baton of Hans von Bulow in 1865. In 15 years, this was the first premiere of Richard Wagner.

After the production and publication, the conductor’s wife, Cosima von Bulow, started developing indiscrete affairs with Wagner. In their love affair, they gave birth to an illegitimate daughter in 1865. The experience affected Munich and Wagner received many disfavors in court for going with the king's wife. Ludwig was asked to act as a mediator to advise Wagner to leave Munich. He received hate rate acts from individuals. Despite the pressures and jealous acts, Wagner married Cosime in 1870 (Grey, 2019). Inspired composers created one of his most beloved works ''Siegfried Idyll'' for 16 players. It was written to act as a gift to his new wife. However, Richard moved to Bayreuth with opera being performed at a new stage, especially a designed opera house in 1872. In 1874 Ludwig supported the composers with other prominent brands. Here Richard Wagner made a permanent home for their stay in Bayreuth.

While wintering in Venice on 13 February 1883, Richard Wagner died of a heart attack. He was laid and buried in the garden of his Villa in Bayreuth, where he had made a permanent stay. In Switzerland, the Wagner Museum was constructed, and it is now used for art and the collection of the Richard Wagner family.



References

de Morgan, A. (2017). Richard Wagner.

Newman, E. (2014). *The Life of Richard Wagner* (Vol. 3). Cambridge University Press.

Grey, T. S. (Ed.). (2019). *Richard Wagner and his world* (Vol. 21). Princeton University Press.