

TIMELINE FOR WAGNER'S *RING*: FORGING AN EPIC

1848	Begins work on the prose draft and libretto for the <i>Ring</i>
9 May 1849	Flees Dresden because of his involvement in revolutionary uprisings
1851	Completes treatise <i>Oper und Drama</i>
1852	Completes <i>Ring</i> poem
1853	Has 50 copies of <i>Ring</i> poem privately printed
1 November 1853	Begins music draft of <i>Rheingold</i>
28 June 1854	Begins complete draft of <i>Die Walküre</i> (full score completed 23 March 1856)
September 1856	Begins composition of <i>Siegfried</i>
9 August 1857	Interrupts composition of <i>Siegfried</i> for work on <i>Tristan und Isolde</i> (completed 6 August 1859)
28 March 1862	Is granted full amnesty for his participation in the Dresden uprising
1863	<i>Ring</i> poem is commercially published
10 March 1864	Ludwig becomes king of Bavaria
4 May 1864	Meets his patron, King Ludwig II of Bavaria, for the first time
10 December 1865	Leaves Munich by order of the king
21 June 1868	<i>Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg</i> premieres in Munich
1 March 1869	Resumes work on <i>Siegfried</i> (completed 5 February 1871)
22 September 1869	<i>Das Rheingold</i> premieres in Munich
26 June 1870	<i>Die Walküre</i> premieres in Munich
12 May 1871	Announces plans for an opera house in Bayreuth
April 1872	Moves to Bayreuth
22 May 1872	Foundation stone is laid for Festival Theater
1872	Takes on Anton Seidl as an assistant
3 May 1873	Begins work on full score of <i>Götterdämmerung</i>
21 November 1874	Finishes music for the <i>Ring</i>

Summer 1875	Rehearsals for the <i>Ring</i> begin
13-17 August 1876	Bayreuth premiere of the <i>Ring</i> cycle
2 April 1877	<i>Die Walküre</i> has New York premiere at the Academy of Music
9 November 1887	<i>Siegfried</i> has New York premiere at the Metropolitan Opera
25 January 1888	<i>Götterdämmerung</i> has New York premiere at the Metropolitan Opera
4 January 1889	<i>Das Rheingold</i> has New York premiere at the Metropolitan Opera
14-11 March 1889	The <i>Ring</i> cycle has New York premiere at the Metropolitan Opera