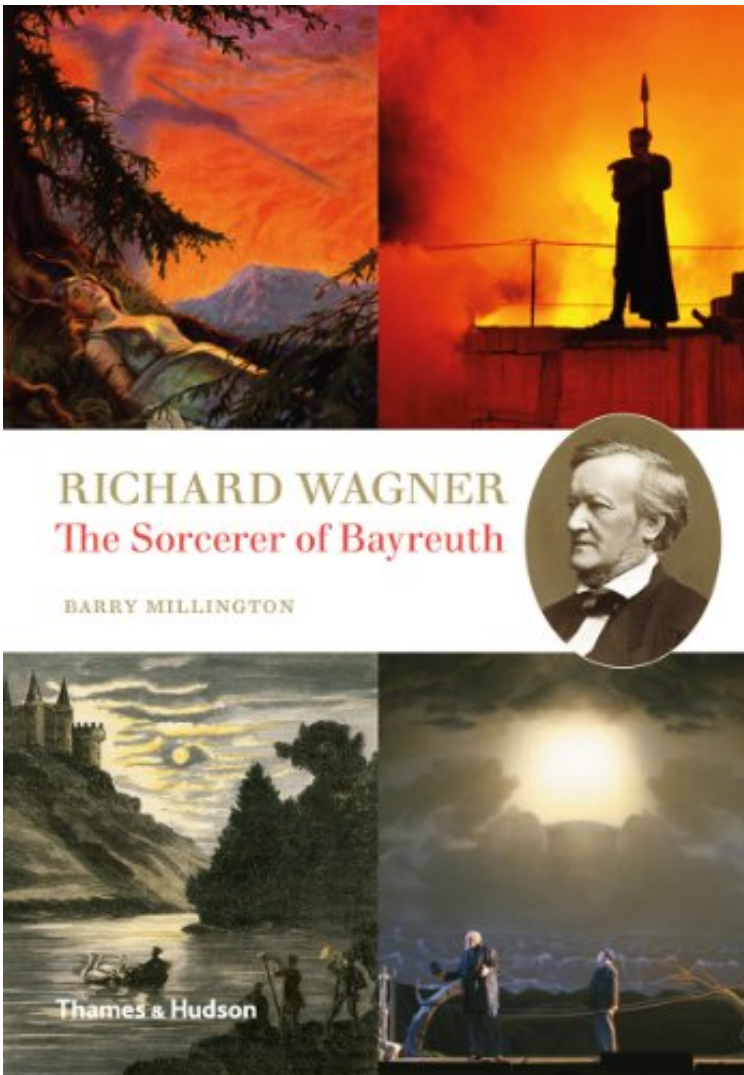


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Richard Wagner: The Sorcerer of Bayreuth



Par Barry Millington
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurPublished for the 200th anniversary of Richard Wagners birth, and written by one of the most distinguished Wagner scholars in the world, this in-depth and highly readable account of Wagners life, work and times will be the book of the bicentenary. Richard Wagner (18131883) is one of the most influential and also one of the most polarizing composers in the history of music. Over the course of his long career, he produced a stream of spellbinding operas that challenged musical convention through their richness and tonal experimentation, paving the way for modernism. This richly illustrated overview of Wagners life, work and times makes use of the very latest scholarship much of it undertaken by the author in connection with his editorship of The Wagner Journal. The book reassesses received notions, demolishing ill-informed opinion in favour of proper critical understanding. It is a radical and occasionally controversial reappraisal of this most perplexing of composers. A wide range of themes include the composers original

sources of inspiration; his fetish for exotic silks; his relationship with his wife, Cosima, and with his mistress; his anti-semitism; and the turbulent legacy both of the Bayreuth Festival and of Wagnerism itself.

The book's arrangement, unique among books on the composer, combines an accessible text, intriguing images and original documents in carefully co-ordinated sections, ensuring a consistently fresh approach. *Revue de presse* [Barry Millington] depicts Wagner's warmth, charm and frequent generosity of spirit, and the admiration his intellect and energy commanded even from skeptics. --BBC Music Millington's unquestioning adoration of his subject is moving --Classical Music [The] structure both makes the book accessible for reference and opens it up to readership of different levels of Wagnerian scholarship or interest --The Wagner Journal Millington has an easy pen, writing with exemplary lucidity whether outlining an opera plot or musical structure, unravelling a complex philosophical argument or adjudicating a contentious socio-political issue ... Millington's variegated skills come together impressively in his latest book ... As Millington steers us through his vivid voyage of rediscovery, he navigates his way skilfully around a succession of rocks ... a good book --Opera The plain man's Wagner a balanced and beautifully illustrated compendium of life works, written in Millington's easy-to-read style --Best Books of 2012, The Financial Times This is ... the most readable of books, engagingly presented and beautifully produced - with striking illustrations on good paper that make it a pleasure to turn the pages. --Ham High An excellent book ... lavishly illustrated, with photographs and portraits of the leading participants in Wagner's astounding life ... the liveliness and dry humour of [Millington's] style add to the attractiveness ... this book should be on every budding Wagnerian's shelves. --Opera Now Masterful ... it's hard to imagine that anyone will put the case pro and contra Wagner with as much lucidity, humour and intelligence as Barry Millington --Country Life The Wagner book of the bicentenary ... sumptuous ... If you only read one book about Wagner, make it this one ... Puts the great man into context and perspective, and this is a wonderfully readable book about a musical genius. Simply fantastic. --Books Monthly Superbly illustrated ... an ideal starting point for understanding the importance of the bicentennial of the composer's birth --Camden New Journal Handsome, highly illustrated ... a highly desirable addition to any serious classical buff's bookshelf. --Good Book Guide Draws on recent scholarship to paint a fresh picture of its subject ... Engagingly written, comprehensively illustrated and leaving the reader wanting more ... the perfect short introduction to the man who, so the legend goes, has had more books written about him than anyone except Jesus or Napoleon. --Fortean Times Superbly illustrated ... an ideal starting point for understanding the importance of the bicentennial of the composer's birth --Camden New Journal Draws on recent scholarship to paint a fresh picture of its subject ... Engagingly written, comprehensively illustrated and leaving the reader wanting more ... the perfect short introduction to the man who, so the legend goes, has had more books written about him than anyone except Jesus or Napoleon --Fortean Times Presentation de l'diteur Published for the 200th anniversary of Richard Wagner's birth, and written by one of the most distinguished Wagner scholars in the world, this in-depth and highly readable account of Wagner's life, work and times will be the book of the bicentenary. Richard Wagner (1813-1883) is one of the most influential and also one of the most polarizing composers in the history of music. Over the course of his long career, he produced a stream of spellbinding operas that challenged musical convention through their richness and tonal experimentation, paving the way for modernism. This richly illustrated overview of Wagner's life, work and times makes use of the very latest scholarship, much of it undertaken by the author in connection with his editorship of *The Wagner Journal*. The book reassesses received notions, demolishing ill-informed opinion in favour of proper critical understanding. It is a radical and occasionally controversial reappraisal of this most perplexing of composers. A wide range of themes include the composer's original sources of inspiration; his fetish for exotic silks; his relationship with his wife, Cosima, and with his mistress; his anti-semitism; and the turbulent legacy both of the Bayreuth Festival and of Wagnerism itself. The book's arrangement, unique among books on the composer, combines an accessible text, intriguing images and original documents in carefully co-ordinated sections, ensuring a consistently fresh approach.