

The Ring Cycle Brisbane 2023

Facts & Figures Summary

All figures correct at time of print, subject to change.

ABOUT THE RING CYCLE

Wagner's Ring Cycle

Wagner's [Ring Cycle](#), or *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, is widely recognised as the pinnacle of the operatic repertoire: an epic tale of gods, dwarves, dragons, heroes and a magic ring, all set to incredibly powerful music.

- The Ring Cycle comprises four operas; [Das Rheingold](#), [Die Walküre](#), [Siegfried](#) and [Götterdämmerung](#), performed over the space of a week and totalling 15 hours of performance.
- Premiering in 1876, Wagner took approximately 26 years from 1848 to 1874 to compose the Ring Cycle, which includes over 2,000 pages of music.

This World First Digital Ring Cycle

- In a world first, this cutting-edge production uses digital scenery and costume elements to present a once-in-a-lifetime spectacular, immersive Ring Cycle like none ever seen before!
- The latest in video content creation techniques, audio-visual and lighting equipment is being used to create an awe-inspiring world. crew.

PERFORMING COMPANY & CREATIVES

- 33 principals, including internationally acclaimed Wagner specialists
- 41 Opera Australia Chorus
- 124 musicians, including Queensland Symphony Orchestra and additional international Ring Cycle specialists
- 21 dancers including 7 Dancenorth dancers
- 350 total cast and crew – this includes singers, dancers, designers, technicians, costume-makers and backstage staff

First Chinese Director

- Chen Shi-Zheng is the first Chinese director of a large scale, national opera company's production of the Ring
- The Ring Cycle was originally based on Norse mythology. Now, for the first time, Chinese mythology, design and technology will be woven into the production

DIGITAL RING CYCLE: TECHNICAL & STAGING FACTS

- **27 semi-trailer loads of sets, staging, costumes and technical equipment has been shipped to Brisbane from Sydney**

Video Content

- 1.4TB of video content has been produced for this Ring Cycle
- Video and graphic design content is displayed on LED screens on stage, as well as projected onto set pieces and performers
- Some of the video display is interactive: triggered by performers movement via sensors on their costumes
- The set requires an intricate integration of different systems that run different elements that includes moving the screens around the stage, flying performers and

automated lighting and projection programs (this includes Notch, Raynok, Keneyxis and Blacktrax)

- Content design is by 'Leigh Sachwitz and flora&faunavisions' (please include full credit where possible)

Screens

- 15 LED screens, 10m high x 1m wide make up a curved digital cyclorama at the back of the stage
- 8 LED screens glide around the stage into different configurations as dynamic set components
 - 6 of these screens are 8m high x 2.5m wide
 - 2 of these screens are 8m high x 2m wide
 - These screens can move up to 200mm per second.
- The 23 LED screens are made up of 834 individual LED panels that collectively weigh almost 14 tonnes

Major Set Pieces

- **Phoenix:** Made from aluminium, the giant phoenix will fly 8 Valkyries, delivering them to the stage
- **Dragon:** with a spine of flames, the dragon is manoeuvred around the stage by performers and crew and is made up of 12m x 2.1m long pieces

Flying performers

- 2 performer flying trusses can fly 3 performers each at any one time
- 3 Rhinemaidens are flown in hip harnesses, completing choreography in the air crew.

WARDROBE & WIGS

- 207 costumes
- 10,000+ UV printed dots on the god's and dancer's costumes - every element of these costumes, including linings, buttons and threads, had to be tested for UV sensitivity
- Approximately 250 hours of costume fittings
- 115 wigs hand-made by OA's wig-makers
- 700m of wool and over 1000m of printed trim on the chorus and dancers' costumes
- Over 1000 hand-punched holes in the chorus' leather belts and holsters
- 2000m of natural hemp rope was used to create the 3 Norn costumes
- 120m of dreadlocks make up the Erda costume. She is decorated with UV paint and the design is based on Oracle Bone Script, an ancient form of Chinese characters
- The Tarnhelm (helmet) is a replica of a NASA system that is used to deploy giant solar panels in space
- The Nibelungen head torches are genuine Swiss Army issue that have been painted and adapted for the dancers

HEAR FROM THE CREATIVES

Director Chen Shi-Zheng <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICji1aTp0jo>

Digital Content Designer Leigh Sachwitz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUJ7D7JJB14>

Costume Designer Anita Yavich <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI6OIuhNi4>

LOCATION & VENUE

- The Ring Cycle will be performed at the Lyric Theatre (audience capacity is 2000) at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)

- This is the first large-scale production of the Ring Cycle to be staged in Brisbane and QLD
- Opera Australia has moved the entire performing company to Brisbane, booking more than 7800 room nights to house performers, creatives and crew

TICKET INFORMATION

Cycle 1		Cycle 2		Cycle 3	
<i>Das Rheingold</i>	1 Dec	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	08 Dec	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	15 Dec
<i>Die Walküre</i>	3 Dec	<i>Die Walküre</i>	10 Dec	<i>Die Walküre</i>	17 Dec
<i>Siegfried</i>	5 Dec	<i>Siegfried</i>	12 Dec	<i>Siegfried</i>	19 Dec
<i>Götterdämmerung</i>	7 Dec	<i>Götterdämmerung</i>	14 Dec	<i>Götterdämmerung</i>	21 Dec

Pricing:

- **Single tickets:** available from \$165 for individual productions, discounts apply for bookings of 2 or more performances
- **Four-opera series package:** from \$520
- Booking fees apply

Language: sung in German with English surtitles

Duration

1. *Das Rheingold:* 2.5hrs, no interval
2. *Die Walküre:* 5hrs 45mins, 2 intervals – 75 + 40mins
3. *Siegfried:* 6hrs, 2 intervals – 75 + 35mins
4. *Götterdämmerung:* 6hrs 40mins – 2 intervals, 90 + 35mins

Bookings: opera.org.au/ring-cycle or www.qpac.com.au/event/oa_ring_cycle_23

MEDIA CENTRE

Imagery + video content: <https://opera.org.au/about/media-centre/the-ring-cycle/>

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