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# TOBY WONG on THE SHAUMET MUSIC DAS RHEINGOLD

A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

2.00pm Sunday 29 March 2026  
Willoughby Uniting Church  
10-12 Clanwilliam Street  
North Willoughby NSW

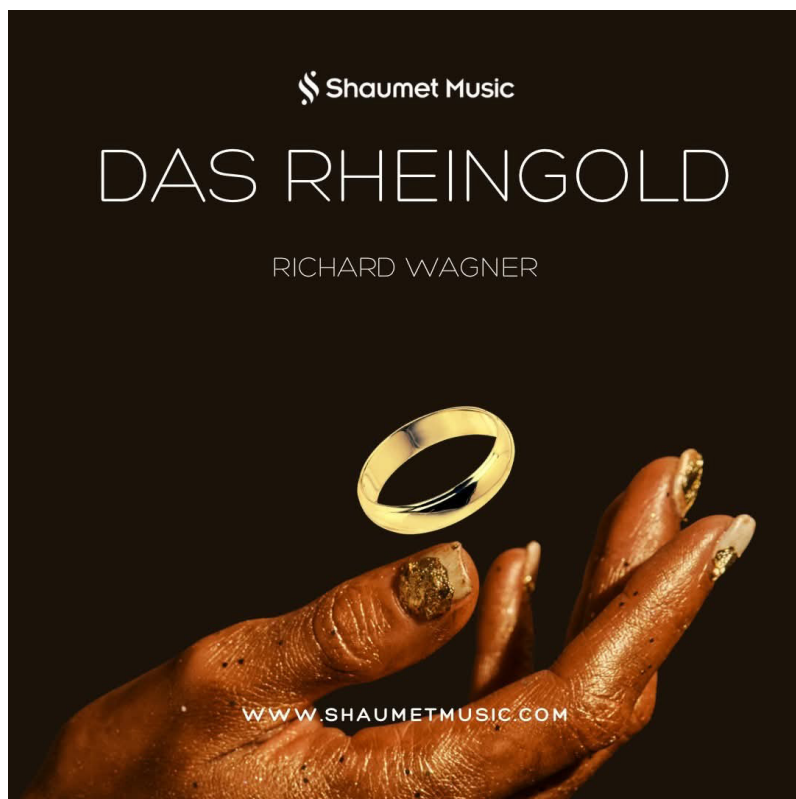
Opening of *Das Rheingold* from the 2026 La Scala *Ring* directed by David McVicar  
& designed by Hannah Postlethwaite with costumes by Emma Kingsbury

## PROGRAMME

2.00pm

### TOBY WONG

on The Shaumet Music *Das Rheingold*  
with excerpts sung by **JILL SULLIVAN**, mezzo-soprano,  
accompanied on the piano by **JAMIE-LEE XU**



3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

The WSNSW is proud to assist Shaumet Music with the hiring and licencing costs of the score for their production of *Das Rheingold*.

### JILL SULLIVAN mezzo-soprano

Jill has performed throughout Australia in opera and concert. She has most recently performed the role of Ježibaba in a chamber production of Dvorak's *Rusalka* for The Opera and Song Collective. In 2025 she performed the role of Erste Magd and covered Klytaemnestra in *Elektra* (Strauss) in Berlin for the Dramatic Voices Programme 2024. In 2023 she covered the role of Roßweiße in *Die Walküre* for Opera Australia, while singing chorus in *Götterdämmerung* (Wagner), *Aida* (Verdi) and earlier that year toured to Melbourne with that company to sing in *Tannhäuser* (Wagner) and *Satyagraha* (Glass). In 2022 sang as a Page in *Lohengrin* (Wagner), for Opera Australia, headlined by Jonas Kaufmann. Recent concert performances include *The Time of Roses* for Art Song Canberra with pianist, Donna Balson and for her own ensemble, The Opera and Art Song Collective in Scandinavian and Russian Repertoire. She has performed for Opera Queensland, West Australian Opera, recorded for Victoria State Opera and now sings on a casual basis in the chorus of Opera Australia. Jill has performed as alto soloist for major choral societies in WA and QLD and frequently returns to her home state Tasmania, to perform in her own shows at Epsom House most often with pianist, Simon Kenway.



Early education was in Tasmania studying piano with Graeme Buchanan. She later studied voice with Barbara Sambell in Melbourne and Molly McGurk in Perth obtaining a Licentiate in Singing (AMEB). She later completed an Honours Degree in Opera Studies awarded through The University of Manchester and Rose Bruford College London. While resident in Perth she co-founded the Lieder Society of WA, jointly ran a production company, Opera in Company that promoted young artists, directed choirs and was a pre-show presenter for WASO. In her commitment to the development of young performers, Jill led a group of 13 of her own students on a tour of European cities visiting Opera Houses, attending operas and concerts and while in Vienna, Geneva and Paris the students also undertook masterclasses with noted teachers Dr Annabella Redman and Professor Gilles Denizot. Jill thrives on curating programmes and collaborating with other artists to perform new and lesser known works alongside standard repertoire favourites.

Jill also holds a degree in Medicine from the University of Tasmania and is a qualified practising specialist GP and works mostly in rural Indigenous and remote communities between her musical contracts.

### JAMIE-LEE XU piano

Jamie-Lee Xu is a pianist and has recently completed her Master of Music Studies (Performance) degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, after completing her Bachelor of Music (Performance). She was awarded the Keith and Eileen Ong Prize for Piano on entry to her Master's degree. Additionally, she has received the John and Dorothy Vimpani Pianoforte Fund scholarship on entry to the Conservatorium in 2018, as well as the Molly Neale Memorial Award in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, Jamie-Lee was awarded the George and Margaret Henderson Scholarship, allowing her to attend a summer school program at the Collaborative Piano Institute in the US. Jamie-Lee has had successes in 2022, winning both the David Miller Award and the Sydney International Song Prize. She has studied with Dr Jeanell Carrigan during her post-graduate studies, specialising in a collaborative piano major. Formerly, she has studied with David Miller AM, Natalia Ricci and has had masterclass experience with Graham Johnson OBE, Christian Müller, Warren Jones, Rita Sloan, Arno Bornkamp and Amir Farid.



Jamie-Lee has also worked and performed with Rockdale Opera Company in their *Der Fledermaus Gala Concert* in 2022, *L'Elisir d'Amore* and *La Bohème* in 2023, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2024. She has also worked as a vocal coach for the Cuskelly School of Music in Brisbane. Currently, she also works as a rehearsal pianist for Sydney Children's Choir, and as a casual academic at the Sydney Conservatorium. Currently, Jamie-Lee continues to work alongside singers and fellow musicians, rehearsing and performing frequently with the Concordia Ensemble. She has participated in many productions with Concordia Ensemble, including Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, Mascagni's *Zanetto*, Holst's *The Wandering Scholar*, and Viardot's *Cendrillon*, with more performances anticipated.

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2026?

**Sunday 19 April, Goethe Institut**

1.00pm: **AGM**

2.00pm: Talk by **ANTONY ERNST** on *Meistersinger*

**Wednesday 22 April, via zoom**

12.00 noon: Talk by **F. PETER PHILLIPS**, President of the Wagner Society of New York

**Friday April 24 at 730pm**

**The Shaumet Music**

**DAS RHEINGOLD**

**City Recital Hall Angel Place**

**Wednesday 6 May, via zoom**

12.00 noon: Talk by Belgian Bass **TIJL FAVEYTS**

**Sunday 17 May, Mosman Art Gallery**

2.00pm: **Wagner's Birthday concert**, with heldenbaritone

**WARWICK FYFE** & soprano **LEE ABRAHMSEN**

with **GLENN AMER** at the piano

**Sunday 21 June, Goethe Institut**

12.00p noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 2**

2.00pm: Talk by **CHRIS SORRELL** about early Wagner recordings

**Sunday 19 July, Goethe Institut**

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 3**

2.00pm: **PROF PETER ROENNFELDT** on Wagner & Schumann

**Sunday 16 August, Goethe Institut**

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 4**

2.00pm: Talk by conductor **SARAH PENICKA-SMITH** on **The Future of Opera & what Wagner has to do with it**

**Sunday 13 September, Goethe Institut**

12.00 noon: DVD – **Tony Palmer's Wagner Part 5**

2.00pm: Talk by Associate Professor **ROSS ANDERSON** on his book about visionary designer Adolphe Appia, **The Appian Way**

**Sunday 11 October, St Columba Community Centre**

2.00pm: Concert with mezzo-soprano **DEBORAH HUMBLE** and **SHAROLYN KIMMORLEY** at the piano

**Saturday 21 November, Goethe Institut**

10.30 am – 4.00pm: **SYMPOSIUM** on **GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG**

**Sunday 13 December, St Columba Community Centre**

2.00pm: **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** and party

## TOBY WONG

Toby Wong is a Hong Kong-born, Sydney-based conductor whose work bridges choral, operatic, & orchestral repertoire. He is currently Assistant Music Director at Christ Church St Laurence, one of Australia's oldest professional choral institutions, where he works closely with Music Director Sam Allchurch to lead an ambitious program spanning Gregorian chant to contemporary works. He is also Music Director of the Cooperative Opera Company. In 2026, he will conduct the Sydney premiere of *Das Rheingold* in Jonathan Dove's chamber version, in collaboration with Birmingham Opera Company.



Toby's conducting career began remarkably early: at 12, he led his school orchestra in Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos*, & by 17 he was Music Director of St Michael's Choir, Hong Kong's Holy Cross Church — the youngest in its history. He later served as Assistant Conductor of Cantabile (Hong Kong) under Philip Chu (who gained his conducting degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music & conducted widely throughout Australia), directing a wide repertoire from Baroque oratorios to film scores. Since moving to Sydney, Toby has been singing with the award-winning Sydney Chamber Choir, where he also serves as Chorusmaster, preparing the choir for major projects, including their recent performances at the Gewandhaus Leipzig & Berliner Dom. He has participated in masterclasses with distinguished figures including James O'Donnell & Dr Sharon Paul.

Toby holds a Master of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where his research on conducting & performing Puccini operas earned multiple academic accolades. A versatile musician trained in piano, violin, & organ, he has performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Chorus under conductors such as Lorin Maazel, Jaap van Zweden, Carlo Rizzi, & Karina Canellakis.

### About the talk

Shaumet Music proudly presents a landmark event: the Australian premiere of Jonathan Dove & Graham Vick's celebrated chamber adaptation of Richard Wagner's *Das Rheingold* in concert. The opening chapter of Wagner's monumental *Ring Cycle* unfolds in a world where gods, giants, & the guardians of the Rhine battle over ultimate power: the Ring forged from the stolen Rheingold. This streamlined yet dramatically charged adaptation preserves all the intensity of Wagner's score while revealing the opera's gripping narrative with crystal clarity. Adaptation of *Das Rheingold* by Jonathan Dove & Graham Vick, orchestration by Jonathan Dove, by arrangement with Birmingham Opera Company.

**SCENE 1**  
Rheingold



Top left: Scene 1 at the bottom of the Rhine in Barry Kosky's ROH production designed by Rufus Didwizus. Top right: Scene 2 up in the realm of the gods with Valhalla in the background in Wieland Wagner's 1952 Bayreuth production. Bottom left: Scene 3 in Nibelheim in Patrice Chéreau's 1976 Bayreuth centenary production designed by Richard Peduzzi. Bottom right: the rainbow bridge in Harry Kupfer's 1988 Bayreuth production designed by Hans Schavernoeh.

**SCENE 2**  
Valhalla



**SCENE 3**  
Nibelheim



**SCENE 4**  
The Rainbow Bridge