

2013-2014
UIL Music Memory

PASSPORT



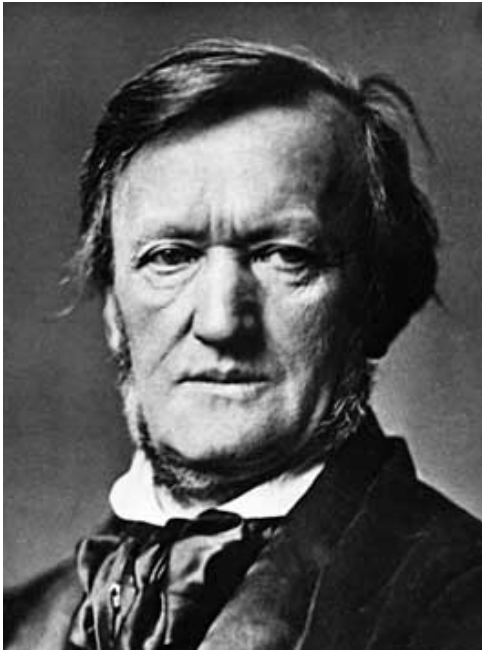
UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Making a World of Difference

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Official UIL Music Memory List – 2013-14

<u>Composer</u>	<u>Major Work</u>	<u>Selection</u>
Bach	Brandenburg Concerto No. 2	Movement 3
Beethoven	Ruins of Athens	Turkish March
Bizet	Carmen	Toreador Song
Brahms		Hungarian Dance No. 5
Handel	Messiah	Hallelujah Chorus
Haydn	Trumpet Concerto in Eb Major	Movement 3
Holst	The Planets	Mars
F. Mendelssohn	Das Jahr (The Year)	February, Scherzo
Mozart	Symphony No. 40	Movement 1
Orff	Carmina Burana	O Fortuna
Ponce	Mazurcas	No. 23 in a minor
Prokofiev	Symphony No. 1	Finale
Puccini	Turandot	Nessun Dorma
Sousa		Washington Post March
Tchaikovsky	The Nutcracker Suite	March
Wagner	Die Walküre	Ride of the Valkyries



Wagner Fast Five

- Richard Wagner \ 'væg-nær\ (1813-1883), German Romantic composer
- Played the piano, also known as a conductor and theater director
- Famous for his operas, which he called "music dramas"
- Wrote the libretto as well as the music for all of his operas
- Died of a heart attack



Die Walküre Ride of the *Valkyries*

Passenger Manifest

- Large orchestra and female voices

Points of Interest

- Opera: a story told completely through music. The characters sing with an orchestra accompanying them, and act out the story on a stage with costumes, scenery, props, and choreography.
- *Libretto*: contains all the words and stage directions for an opera
- *Leitmotif*: a short musical phrase associated with a character, place, idea, or feeling
- *Valkyries*: nine mythical warrior maidens, daughters of the god *Wotan*

Travel Log

- The **Ride of the *Valkyries*** is based on one main theme (*Leitmotif*) which is used throughout.
- The main theme is played only by brass instruments. The rest of the orchestra plays a fast, complicated accompaniment.
- The piece is written in 9/8 time, with 3 beats to a measure (beats are subdivided into 3 parts).
- The **Ride of the *Valkyries*** occurs at the beginning of Act III in ***Die Walküre***.
- ***Die Walküre*** is the second of 4 operas in Wagner's epic *Ring Cycle*, which took him 26 years to write. A complete performance of the cycle lasts about 15 hours, but Wagner intended for the operas to be performed on 4 consecutive nights.



Flight Plan



Take Off

- Name a movie based on a myth or mythical character. (**Thor, Epic, Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters, Clash of the Titans, Wrath of the Titans**)
- How are myths different from other stories? (A myth is a larger-than-life story about gods and heroes. The characters are often supernatural and too fantastic to be believable.)
- What story, possibly more familiar to you as a movie, or series of movies, involves the return of a ring? (**The Lord of the Rings** by J.R.R. Tolkien)

Cruising Altitude

- Richard Wagner created his grandest set of operas based on a similar story from Scandinavia. Read the first paragraph of the “Wagner’s Opera, **Die Walküre**, and the “Ride of the **Valkyries**” handout.
- Listen to the **Ride of the Valkyries**. Imagine the *valkyries* flying around the stage and soldiers being swept up to *Valhalla*.
- How does the music create the images you imagined? (uneven rhythm of the melody, like horses galloping, swirling and upward movement of the music, the brass sounds war-like, etc.)
- What is the meter of the **Ride of the Valkyries**? (It is in 9/8, with 3 beats in each measure, and each beat may be subdivided into 3 parts.)
- Practice a simple 3-beat conducting pattern of pat-snap-clap. Listen again and perform the body-percussion pattern.
- What instrument families did you hear? (woodwinds, strings, brass)
- Which family of instruments plays the main melody? (the brass family)
- Discuss the singers. The first two voices are sopranos, and toward the end of the selection, a trio of soprano, mezzo-soprano, and contralto (high, medium, and low female voices) can be heard.
- View the map. Point out the picture of Wagner, the conducting pattern at the top of the ring, the boxes across the bottom, which represent the sections of music for woodwinds and strings, for the brass melody (the horns), and the singers (the *Valkyrie* on horseback). Listen and follow the map.

Landing

- Imagine setting your favorite story to music, and then having a movie made, using your story and music. *What story would you choose?*
- *What kinds of music would you compose? What instruments would you use? Would your movie be live action or animated?*

Teacher Notes

Texas Textbook Series Cross-Reference Information, Correlation to TEKS, and Video links for this selection may be found in the **Appendix**.



What is an Opera?

Definition – An opera is like a play in which the story is told completely through music, and the characters sing their words with an orchestra accompanying them. The characters usually dress in costumes and act out a dramatic story on a stage with elaborate scenery, unique props, and even choreography. The music of the singers and the orchestra adds emotion and meaning to the words and to the story.

Voices – Opera singers are trained to perform without a microphone on a stage in a big room, with an orchestra playing. Singers are grouped into different voice types depending on their range (how high or low they sing) and the composer matches the sound of their voice to their character. Voices listed from high to low:

- **Soprano** – highest woman’s voice, usually sings the part of the heroine, a young woman, or a princess
- **Mezzo-soprano** – medium woman’s voice, usually a friend or servant of the heroine, or a boy ("pants" role)
- **Alto** – lowest woman’s voice, usually an older woman or the mother of the hero or heroine, or a witch
- **Tenor** – highest man’s voice, usually the hero
- **Baritone** – medium man’s voice, usually a friend of the hero
- **Bass** – lowest man’s voice, usually the father or the villain



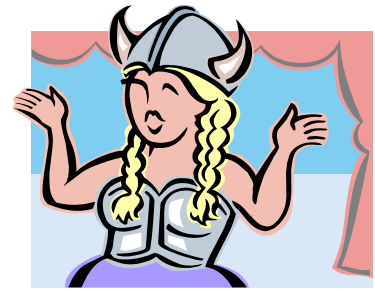
Chorus – Many operas include a group of singers called a chorus, which sings the parts of the townspeople or other special groups of characters in the opera. The chorus is made up of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses, and those parts are often divided. Sometimes the opera chorus contains just men or just women.

Instruments – Opera orchestras can be different sizes, and include instruments in the string, woodwind, brass, and percussion families. The orchestra sometimes plays alone, at the beginning of the opera (the overture), and during interludes between the acts. The rest of the time the singers and orchestra make music together, led by a conductor, who sets the tempo and keeps everyone together.

Movies and Television – Listen for operatic music when you’re at the movies and watching television (especially commercials and cartoons). It is often used because it adds extra meaning and emotion. (Imagine watching a movie without any music in the background!) Famous opera music you might hear:

- Flower Duet from *Lakmé* by Delibes. (British Airways commercial, Meet the Parents)
- “*Nessun Dorma*” from *Turandot* by Puccini (Chasing Liberty)
- “Ride of the Valkyries” from *Die Walküre* by Wagner (cartoons, The Blues Brothers)
- “*Habanera*” from *Carmen* (Doritos Super Bowl 2007 commercial)

Wagner's Ring Cycle, *Die Walküre*, and the “Ride of the *Valkyries*”



Richard Wagner created his grandest set of operas, the Ring Cycle, based on the story of the mythic hero, *Siegfried* (pronounced SEEG-freed). *Siegfried* must return the cursed treasure of the *Nibelung* (NIH-buh-loong) dwarfs—a ring of gold, which gives its owner the power to rule the world. Along the way, he falls in love and has many adventures.

Wagner believed that the elements of music, lyrics, story, orchestra, voices, acting, and scenery should be fused together into one artistic expression. He called his large-scale operas “music dramas.” Among his many operatic innovations, Wagner enlarged the orchestra, making it as important as the voice and expanding the expressiveness of all the orchestral instruments.

Die Walküre is the second of the four opera in Wagner’s Ring Cycle. It was written between 1851 and 1856, and was first performed in Munich in 1870. *Die Walküre* details the events that lead to the birth of *Siegfried*, who is the grandson of the god *Wotan* (VOH-than). *Wotan*’s nine daughters are the *Valkyries* (VAL-kih-reez), mythical women who fly down to the battlefield and pick up the souls of brave men killed in battle, to take them to *Valhalla* (vahl-HAH-luh), the resting place of the gods.

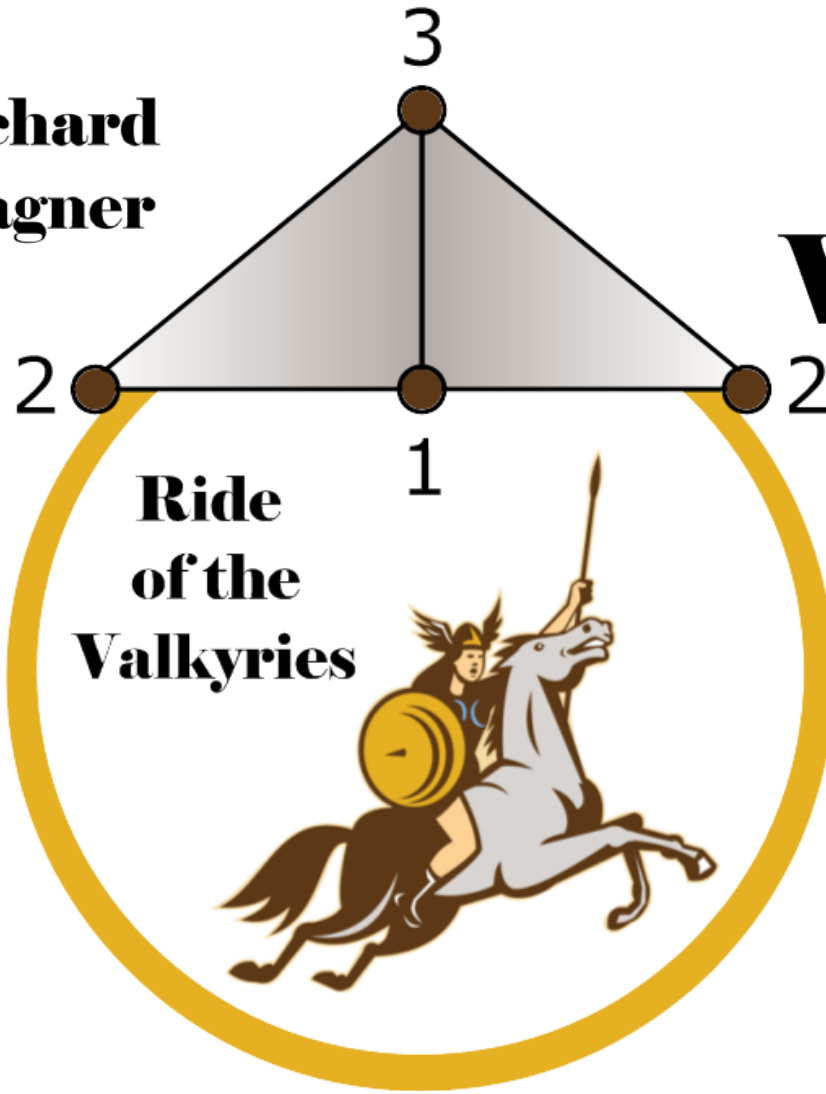
The **Ride of the *Valkyries***, is the best-known music of Wagner’s Ring cycle. It occurs at the opening of Act III, and is based on one main idea known as a *leitmotif*. A *leitmotif* is a short musical idea, sometimes only a few notes long, which is directly associated with a person, a place, an object, or perhaps a feeling. Wagner developed the technique of composing using a *leitmotif* throughout the Ring Cycle, with the same *leitmotif* often appearing in more than one of the operas as a way of unifying his giant work. Using a *leitmotif* has become popular with some film composers. For example, the repeated rising half-step figure used in the *Jaws* films is a classic example of how a *leitmotif* causes a particular reaction in the audience—every time it is heard, there is a fear that the shark is present, whether or not it is shown on screen.

One of the *Wotan*’s daughters is the *Valkyrie Brunnhilde* (broon-HILL-duh). Her aria at the end of the last opera of the Ring Cycle lasts 20 minutes. The expression, “It ain’t over ‘til the fat lady sings,” refers to this aria, as well as the stereotype of overweight female opera singers (see the graphic at the top of this page).



**Richard
Wagner**

Die Walküre



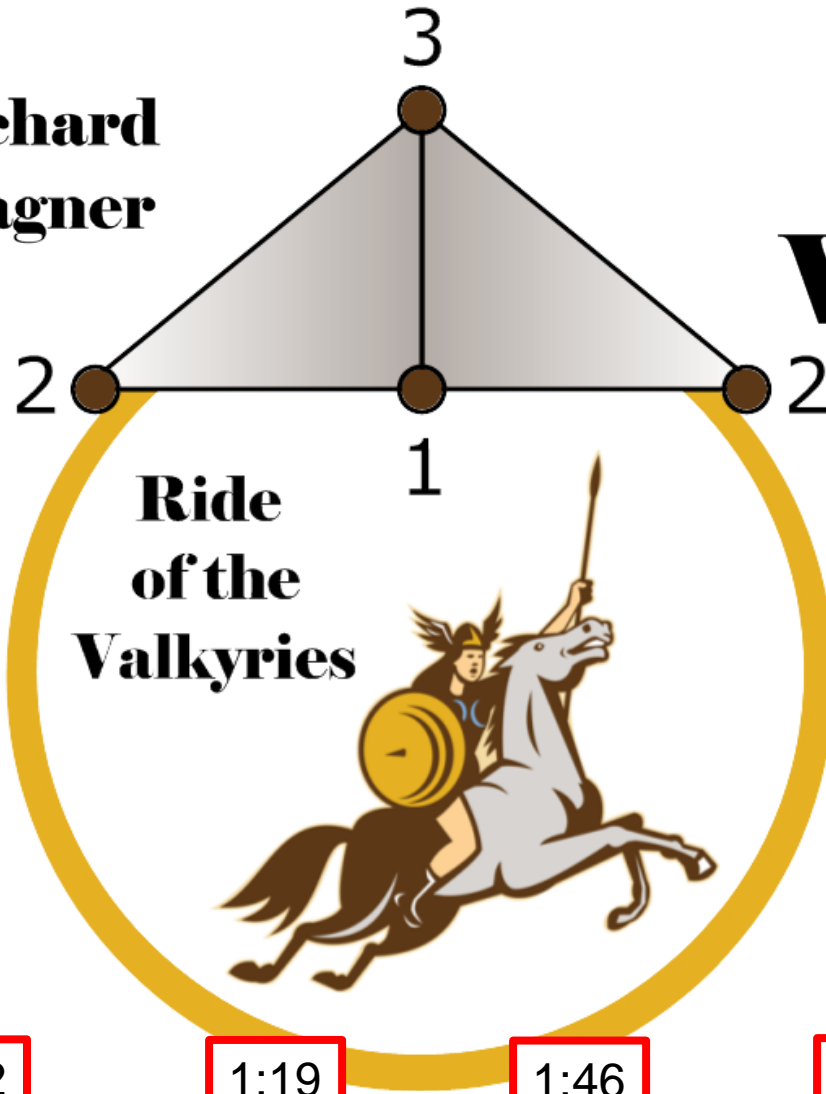
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**Richard
Wagner**

Die Walküre



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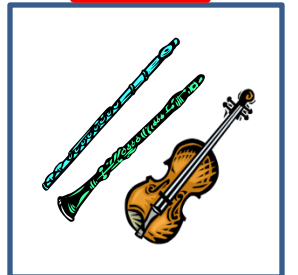
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Student Name

2013-2014
UIL Music Memory

School



Listening Destinations

Student

PASSPORT

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|---|--------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Beethoven | <input type="checkbox"/> Orff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bizet | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brahms | <input type="checkbox"/> Prokofiev |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handel | <input type="checkbox"/> Puccini |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haydn | <input type="checkbox"/> Sousa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holst | <input type="checkbox"/> Tchaikovsky |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Mendelssohn | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagner |



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Die Walküre

Ride of the Valkyries

Instrument / Voice

large orchestra
female voices

Musical Minute

The Ride of the *Valkyries* occurs at the beginning of Act III of **Die Walküre**, the second of four operas of Wagner's Ring Cycle.

Notes



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Libretto: contains all the words and stage directions for an opera

Leitmotif: a short musical phrase associated with a character, place, idea, or feeling

Valkyries: nine mythical warrior maidens, daughters of the god *Wotan*

The **Ride of the Valkyries** is based on one main theme (*Leitmotif*) which is used throughout.

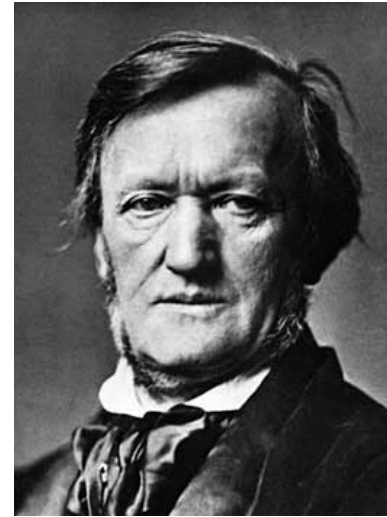
The main theme is played only by brass instruments. The rest of the orchestra plays a fast, complicated accompaniment.

The Ride of the *Valkyries* is conducted in 3 (9/8 time).

Wagner

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1813-1883



Fast Five



1. German Romantic composer
2. Played the piano; also known as a conductor and theater director
3. Famous for his operas, which he called "music dramas"
4. Wrote the libretto as well as the music for all of his operas
5. Died of a heart attack

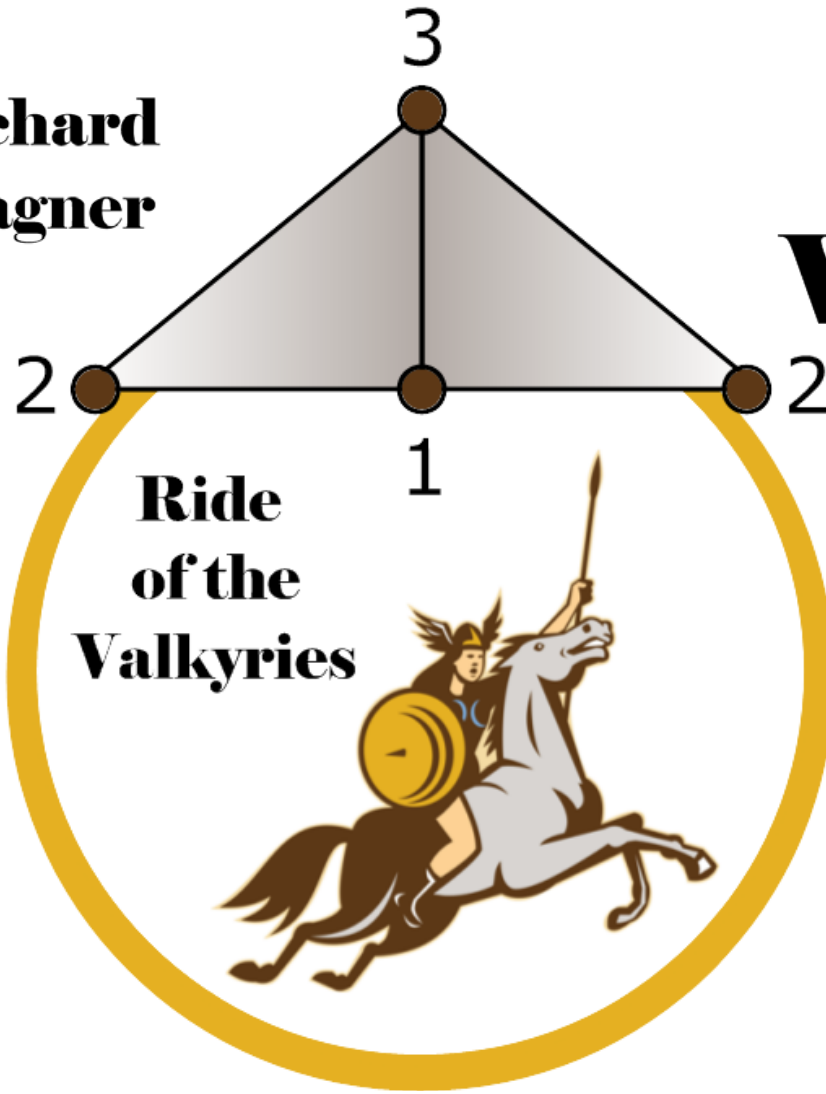
Notes





**Richard
Wagner**

Die Walküre



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