



**THE
EDINBURGH OPERA COMPANY**

founded 1919

with the support of the Scottish Arts Council
and the City of Edinburgh District Council

PRESENTS


Richard Wagner

Somnhäuser

DRESDEN VERSION

libretto by Wagner
first produced in Dresden 1845

LEITH THEATRE

Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May 1981

7 p.m.

PROGRAMME 20p.

TANNHÄUSER

VENUS
TANNHÄUSER

A YOUNG SHEPHERD

HERMANN, Landgrave of Thuringia
WOLFRAM VON ESCHENBACH
WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE
BITEROLF
HEINRICH DER SCHREIBER
REINMAR VON ZWETER
ELISABETH, niece of the Landgrave
FOUR NOBLE PAGES

Inga Mantle
John Robertson (Thursday and Friday)
Tom Jamieson (Saturday)
Simon Short
Alan Lindsey
James McNeill
Ian McNab
Kenneth Atkinson
William McLean
Peter Lunt
Inga Mantle
Joanna Crawford
Gillian Mackie
Geraldine Jordan
Kathryn Wirz

DANCERS: Carolyn Fuller, Lesley Fuller, Kirsty Mathieson, Louise McArthur, Michael Scott.

SIRENS, PILGRIMS, KNIGHTS & LADIES: Adam Alexander, Margaret Anderson, Rosalind Ballantyne, Marjorie Begbie, Glenda Caldwell, Stan Chalmers, Evelyn Couper, Marjory Denness, Antonia Dodds, Margaret Dougal, Edith Dunnett, Mary Elliot, Frances Falconer, Arnaldo Faro, Averil Fifer, Norman Forsyth, Elizabeth Gardner, Mary Gibson, Anne Grant, Audrey Griffiths, Ron Griffiths, Etta Holmes, Marjorie Hope, Amy Jamieson, Adam Kinghorn, Sheila Law, George McArthur, William Mitchell, Eileen Nelson, William Paterson, Chris Paxton, Dick Paxton, Norma Paylor, Stuart Redden, Lottie Seggie, Derek Tarbit, Barbara Thomson, Anthony Watson, Pat White, John Wightman, Joyce Wightman, Carole Wilson, Eleanor Wilson, Anne Winchester.

CONDUCTOR	Neil Mantle	PRODUCER	Robert Jones
ASSISTANT CONDUCTORS	Malcolm Porteous David Wright	PRODUCER'S ASSISTANT	Marjorie Hope
	Janet Arthur	LIGHTING DIRECTOR	Andrew Grant
CHORUS MASTER	Janet Arthur	SETS	Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Edinburgh and the Gang Show
ACCOMPANISTS	Janet Arthur, Fiona Milne	WARDROBE MISTRESS	Lottie Seggie
TICKET SALES MANAGER	Joyce Wightman	COSTUMES	designed and made by Lottie Seggie and members of the Company
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Cyril Winchester	PROPS	Mariilyn Keir
POSTER DESIGN	Inga Mantle		

EDINBURGH OPERA COMPANY

Chairman: John Wightman

Honorary Treasurer: Anne Grant

Honorary Secretary: Lottie Seggie, 12 Lockerby Cottages, Lasswade Road, Edinburgh EH16 6QU

Business Manager: George McArthur

Council: Margaret Dougal, Amy Jamieson, Adam Kinghorn, Inga Mantle, Joyce Wightman

Associate Members:

Mr and Mrs A. Halford-McLeod (*Honorary Members*), Mr J. Small (*Honorary Member*); Mrs S. Adam, Mrs A. Alexander, Mrs N. Armstrong, Mr and Mrs J. Baines, Miss A. Barr, Miss E. Bell, Mr and Mrs W. Brownhill, Miss M. Cherrie, Mr B. Couper, Mrs L. Davidson, Mrs A. Dunnigan, Mr R. D. Elliot, Mrs I. Farquharson, Rev W. and Mrs Farquharson, Mrs J. Grieve, Mrs D. Hardine, Mr K. Hay, Mr and Mrs J. L. Hunt, Mrs J. James, Mrs A. Johnston, Mrs J. Kinghorn, Mrs J. Laing, Mrs H. Lawson, Miss C. Leash, Mrs J. Lindsay, Mrs Linton, Mrs G. McArthur, Mr C. McLaren, Mrs McNeill, Miss J. Main, Mrs R. Main, Mrs J. Mantle, Miss M. P. Mitchell, Mr and Mrs Morrison, Mr A. Murray, Mrs I. Paterson, Miss Paxton, Mr and Mrs J. L. Reid, Miss D. Robertson, Mrs A. Seaton, Miss A. Small, Miss E. Small, Mr F. Tinson, Miss G. Veitch, Mr and Mrs E. Warwick, Mr and Mrs Wellesley, Mr and Mrs Wilson, Mr C. Winchester, Miss J. Winchester, Mrs A. Wood Mr and Mrs P. Wood

TANNHÄUSER

The opera takes place in the early thirteenth century in and near the Wartburg in Thuringia (now in East Germany).

Synopsis

Tannhäuser, knight and minstrel, has in evil hour sought refuge from the griefs and constraints of earth in the Venusberg, where, surrounded by her pagan train, the goddess is supposed to hold her court amid everlasting revels, destroying the souls of men who fall into her toils.

ACT I The Opera opens when Tannhäuser, having dwelt with her a whole year, has become weary of monotonous joys and, in a momentary revulsion of his better nature, longs for earthly life with its mingled pains and pleasures. He implores the goddess to release him and after a protracted struggle regains his liberty. The scene now changes: he finds himself in a valley between the Venusberg and the Wartburg. While he is still in a state of shock, the minstrel knights led by the Landgrave enter, recognise him and persuade him to rejoin them.

INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES — Refreshments available in the foyer

ACT II the Tournament of Song. The theme of the contest is to be the nature and the praise of love, and the prize of the victor the hand of Elisabeth, whom Tannhäuser loves and by whom he is loved. During the contest Tannhäuser disputes all the other minstrels say and, having loved profanely, outrages the assembly by his revelations of what he conceives to be the nature of love. The minstrels challenge him and would destroy him but for the sudden interposition of Elisabeth. A train of pilgrims is taking its way to Rome. Tannhäuser, who sees too late that an illusion has blinded him, despairingly joins them, whilst Elisabeth, whose life and love are blighted by the discovery of his unworthiness, conjures him to repent.

INTERVAL OF 10 MINUTES

ACT III Wolfram, a man of noble and devoted nature, who vainly loves Elisabeth, awaits with her the return of the pilgrims. They come, but Tannhäuser is not among them: Elisabeth solemnly consecrates herself to the Virgin. When she has departed Tannhäuser enters in pitiable plight on his way to re-enter the Venusberg. He tells Wolfram of his pilgrimage, of his self-tormenting remorse, of his humble appeal to the Pope, who, learning the nature of his sin, declared it as impossible for him to be absolved as for the staff he held in his hand again to put forth flowers. Spurned and accursed by all, nothing is left for him but to return to the joys of Venus. Wolfram's appeals are vain to dissuade him. It is not until he invokes the name of Elisabeth that Tannhäuser is saved. A cortège approaches, and, as Tannhäuser recognises the form of Elisabeth on the bier, he sinks down upon it and dies. Just then the second band of pilgrims arrives bearing the Papal staff, which has put forth blossoms, thus showing that his sins have been forgiven by God.

SCOTTISH SINFONIA

Leader Philip Taylor

Conductor Neil Mantle

Violins I

Philip Taylor
Robert Fraser
Jan Kouwenhoven
Pamela Redman
Elizabeth Alexander
Philip Harrold
Anne Giles
Duncan Orr
Doreen Busbridge
Lorna Stevenson

Violins II

Lawrence Dunn
Jean Edwards
Andrew Nowak-Solinski
Murray Rumney
Elizabeth Clement
Wendy Richards
Bridget Blackmore
Richard Pinnegar
Angela Gilliat
Fiona Milne

Violas

Paula Snyder
Anne Parker
Ian Walker
Gary Clemson
Hilary Turbayne
Alan Mackay

Cellos

Astrid Gorrie
John Busbridge
Miles Morrison
Fiona Shearer
Louise Sellar
Alan Anderson
Helen Fraser
Dorothy McMillan

Basses

Gordon Murray
Fiona Donaldson
Colin Stephen
Eric Jeffrey
Jennifer Sharp

Flutes

Anne Evans
Jean Murray

Piccolo

Simon McCann

Oboes

Charles Dodds
Jane Jarvie

Clarinets

Lawrence Gill
Vaughan Townhill

Bass Clarinet

Hilary Saunders

Bassoons

Gregor Macfarlane
Graham Fraser

Horns

Dick Rimer
Louise Maclean
Douglas Wright
Sheena Graham

Trumpets

Graeme Williamson
Andrew Kinnear
David Wright

Trombones

Bill Giles
James Bertram
Bernard Doughty

Tuba

Iain Johnston

Harp

Winifred Freeman

Timpani

Euan Fairbairn

Percussion

Steve Callaghan
Wendy Michi

Orchestral Manager

David Wright

STAGE BAND

Flutes

Geoffrey Aitken
Peter Lunt
Gail Merrilees
Jill Stobie
Fiona Care
Catriona Crosbie

Piccolos

Geoffrey Aitken
Catriona Crosbie

Oboes

Paul Anthony
Angus Skinner
Iain Thompson

Cor Anglais

Paul Anthony

E♭ Clarinets

Bill Blackwood
Mark Casson

Clarinets

Pamela Turley
James Mackay
Hilary Saunders
James Follan
Susan Brocklebank

Bassoons

Ian Reilly

Horns

James Brock
Donald Ferguson
Averil Fernie
Christopher Maclean
Gill Sloggie
Nigel Ross
Robin Tait

Trumpets

Catriona Binnie
James Laing
Alistair Macintyre
Fiona Stewart
Pamela Walker

Assistant Conductors

Malcolm Porteous
David Wright

Next Concerts of the SCOTTISH SINFONIA

Saturday 14 June at 7.30 p.m.

Music Hall, George Street

TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 in B♭ Minor
DEBUSSY Three Nocturnes
RAVEL Daphnis and Chloë (Second Suite)

Bryn Turley piano **Edinburgh Bach Society Choir** **Neil Mantle** conductor

Saturday 30 August at 5 p.m.

Cathedral Church of St. Mary, Palmerston Place

WAGNER Prelude to 'Die Meistersinger'
Siegfried Idyll
Excerpts from 'Götterdämmerung'

Inga Mantle soprano **Tom Jamieson** tenor **Neil Mantle** conductor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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