



KITCHENER WATERLOO
**CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA**

The Expanding Canon

Music Director: Matthew Jones

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022

3:00 PM

Knox Waterloo (50 ERB ST. WEST)



Featuring music from
Boyd McDonald,
Richard Wagner and
Louise Farrenc, and a
special guest
appearance by
trumpet virtuoso **Guy
Few!**

Tickets are available at [Ticketscene.ca](https://www.ticketscene.ca) or at the door (\$20/\$15/\$5)

MASKS REQUIRED!



Siegfried Idyll - Richard Wagner

Born:

22 May 1813
Leipzig, Germany

Died:

13 February 1883 (age 63),
Venice, Italy

Notable works:

Siegfried Idyll
Die Walkure
The Flying Dutchman
Tristan and Isolde
The Ring of Nibelung
Tannhauser
Lohengrin
Parsifal



Richard and Cosima Wagner

Richard Wagner married Cosima von Bülow (the daughter of renowned composer Franz Liszt) in August 1870, after what can only be described as a “rocky start”. The couple’s relationship began in the midst of marriages to other people – Wagner to the actress, Minna Planer, and Cosima to pianist and conductor, Hans von Bülow, a great champion of Wagner’s work. The scandalous affair, which started in 1863, was a poorly-kept secret which spanned seven years and produced three children: daughters, Isolde (b. 1865) and Eva (b. 1867), and son Siegfried (b. 1868), all of whom were named after leading characters in the operas that Wagner was working on at the time. The birth of Wagner and Cosima’s third child together was the final straw for her husband, the long-suffering von Bülow, who finally agreed to grant his wife a divorce. After these tumultuous beginnings, it was with a sense of relief and great happiness that the Wagners tied the knot, one month after Cosima’s divorce was finalized in 1870.

As a birthday gift to his new wife and partner of seven years, Wagner secretly composed *Siegfried Idyll*, arguably the composer's best-loved orchestral work. To perform the piece, he enlisted the help of 15 musicians from the prestigious Tonhalle Orchester Zürich (Zurich Theatre Orchestra), including the famous conductor, Hans Richter, on trumpet, and rehearsed with the group in secret. On Christmas Day, 1870, Cosima awoke to the opening melody of *Siegfried Idyll*, which was being played by the small ensemble on the stairs of the Wagner home. In her diary entry for the day, Cosima wrote:

"When I woke up I heard a sound, it grew ever louder, I could no longer imagine myself in a dream, music was sounding, and what music! After it had died away, R. [Richard] came in to me with the five children and put into my hands the score of his "Symphonic Birthday Greeting." I was in tears, but so, too, was the whole household."

Siegfried Idyll is a symphonic poem for chamber orchestra, reflecting a gentle, tender side of the composer. It runs for approximately twenty minutes and is composed in sonata form, drawing in references from Wagner's opera *Siegfried*, as well as personal references like the German lullaby, *Sleep, baby, sleep*. However, at its core, perhaps this piece is best described by Donato Carbrera as "a musical expression of a very joyous and idyllic time between two people who were happy and in love".



First performance of Siegfried Idyll on the steps of the Wagner home

Bibliography

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