



# The Faber Pocket Guide to Wagner

*Michael Tanner*

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Richard Wagner remains, almost 130 years after his death, the most controversial composer in the history of music. Creator of huge and hugely ambitious operas, which have an immense immediate impact, as well as providing food for endless thought and discussion, Wagner has had an influence on many fields outside music. In this lively pocket guide, Michael Tanner gives concise accounts of all his operas - the likes of *Parsifal*, *Lohengrin* and *Tristan und Isolde* - showing how important it is to grasp the dramatic situations at every point, and indicating some of the key musical features. He also provides an outline of Wagner's astonishing life, and shows that he has often been unfairly criticised and made a scapegoat, especially for political events which took place long after his death.

Key features include:

- Wagner: his life year by year
- Wagner: his music work by work
- Things people said about Wagner
- Essential Wagner: ten great moments
- Wagner on CD and DVD
- Wagner bibliography

This indispensable *Faber Pocket Guide* provides a wealth of insights into Wagner and is essential reading for anyone with an interest in both the man and his music.

'[P]robably the best introduction ever written to this most complex of composers.' Simon Heffer, *Telegraph*

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