

# The Brass Ring

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Ian Bousfield **Conductor** *International Fellow of Brass*

David Hamilton **Organ**

Royal Conservatoire Brass

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) arr. TIM HIGGINS

**Der Ring ohne Worte**

Thursday 6 March  
Stevenson Hall  
7.30pm

Of the many highlights of my professional playing career, one that I will never forget was playing guest principal horn in Scottish Opera's production of *The Ring* by Wagner.

To be involved in such a fantastic musical journey is something that many top professional players don't get the chance to experience in a lifetime of music making.

It therefore pleases me greatly that our students here at the RCS will have the opportunity to be stimulated by Wagner's emotions and magical sound world.

*John Logan, Head of Brass*

RICHARD WAGNER (1813-1883) arr. TIM HIGGINS

### **Der Ring ohne Worte**

Arranged in 2011, *The Ring* is scored for four trumpets, eight French horns, four trombones, two tubas, euphonium, bass trumpet, timpani, three percussion, and organ. It covers, roughly, one hour worth of music from the original operas, and there is no music composed to assist transitions. All music is arranged from the scores.

The piece is constructed as a four movement symphony, with each of the operas of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* getting its own movement. The arrangement begins with the very opening of *Das Rheingold* and flows chronologically through to the Immolation Scene in *Götterdämmerung*. Along the way, some of the other memorable moments from the operas are heard: Wotan's Farewell, the Forging of the Sword, the Slaying of the Dragon, the Rhine Journey, as well as Siegfried's Funeral March.

As a symphonic musician, there are very few opportunities for symphony orchestras to perform Wagner's music from the cycle. Hopefully this arrangement will give more students and professionals the ability to perform and explore this music.

*Timothy Higgins*

# Royal Conservatoire Brass

## **Trumpets**

Ben Hirons, Gregor Beattie  
Holly Boddice  
Stephanie Mitchell  
Calum Tonner

## **Bass trumpet**

Daniel Eddison

## **French horn**

Eneko O Carroll, Andrew McLean  
Robert Newth  
Begum Atilgan  
Mark Harding  
Chris Gough  
Jenna Sloane  
James Watson  
Anastas Moskov

## **Wagner tuba**

Chris Gough  
Jenna Sloane  
James Watson  
Anastas Moskov

## **Euphonium**

Scott Findlater

## **Tuba**

Rachel Brown  
Alex Gregory

## **Trombone**

Chris Mansfield  
Richard Leonard  
Ismael

## **Bass trombone**

Emily Hanley  
Joe Walters

## **Organ**

David Hamilton

## **Percussion**

Thomas Lowe  
Colin Hyson  
Jonathan Chapman

**Ian Bousfield** has been at the top of the profession for over one quarter of a century, excelling in perhaps more facets of the music business than any other trombonist to date. His career has included playing in two of the acknowledged top-four orchestras in the world, one of which is recognized as perhaps the greatest opera orchestra; performing as a soloist to the highest possible level with orchestras, brass bands and on period instruments; recording as a soloist on top labels; playing theme tracks to Hollywood blockbusters; and teaching at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Born in York in 1964, Ian is a product of the famous brass band tradition in the north of England. His earliest teaching came from his father and from Dudley Bright, who in a strange twist, was later to replace Ian in the London Symphony Orchestra. The main spell that Ian enjoyed in the brass band movement was with the Yorkshire Imperial Band between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, during which time he was fortunate to win the National Championships (1978), British Open (1981) and the Yorkshire Championships on two occasions (1980, 1981) with the band.

In 1979, at the age of fifteen, Ian won the Shell London Symphony Orchestra scholarship, at which point his career began to move undeniably in the direction of orchestras. He joined the European Youth Orchestra aged sixteen under Claudio Abbado and made a brief stop at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London before becoming Principal Trombone in the Hallé Orchestra in 1983. During his time in Manchester he performed the UK premiere of *Eine Kleine Posaunenmusik* by Gunther Schuller, with the composer conducting. After five years with the Hallé, Ian replaced one of his life-long mentors, Denis Wick, as Principal Trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra in 1988, where he enjoyed a twelve year career, was featured as a soloist with the orchestra on several occasions and recorded the soundtracks to many films, including *Star Wars: Episode I* and *Braveheart*. In 2000, following a successful audition in Vienna, Ian became Principal Trombone of the Vienna Philharmonic/Vienna State Opera - the first, and to date, only British member in the orchestra's history. This appointment was followed shortly afterwards by his membership of the Vienna Hofkapelle Orchestra.

As a soloist, Ian has, amongst others, performed with the Vienna Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Hallé Orchestra, Sapporo Symphony and Austin Symphony orchestras. He has worked with the conductors including Riccardo Muti, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir

Neville Marriner, Kent Nagano, Ion Marin and Matthias Bamert, and EMI, Camerata, Chandos and Doyen are amongst the labels for whom Ian has made several solo recordings over the years. Probably the two highlights of Ian's solo career to date have been performing the Nina Rota Concerto with the Vienna Philharmonic and Riccardo Muti (2008) in Vienna, as well as the Lucerne Festival and in Tokyo; and giving the world premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Stargazer*, written for and dedicated to Ian, with the London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas (2007). He has performed with all of the world's major brass bands, recording with many of them. He has appeared as a soloist pretty much everywhere in the world, and as a clinician, it's probably easier to mention the conservatories and festivals at which he has not appeared!

Ian is currently Professor of Trombone at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern, Switzerland, a position he has held since September 2011. Having had a relationship with the Royal Academy of Music in London since 1992, where he has been awarded an Honorary Membership. He returned as a member of staff as of September 2012. He is also currently International Fellow of Brass at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. His list of former students includes some of the most successful current players in orchestras around the world.

**David Hamilton** is University Organist at Strathclyde University, home of the new Bach-style organ built by Orgelbau Kögler. He studied with Stuart Campbell at Glasgow University, Harald Vogel at the North-German Organ Academy and Jos van der Kooy at Zwolle Conservatory in the Netherlands. He was a prize winner at Royal College of Organists' exams and at the European Organ Improvisation competition. David is Director of Music at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Hamilton, and teaches at the Music School of Douglas Academy and at the RCS. He has performed throughout Europe, North America, Russia and China, and is a Guest Professor at Shanghai Conservatory. On the Divine Art label, he has recorded a Buxtehude CD at Aberdeen University, and a Bach disc at Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh. In 2013, he appeared for the first time with the RSNO and accompanied both NYCOS and the City of Glasgow Chorus on their European tours.

**Timothy Higgins** was appointed to the position of Principal Trombone of the San Francisco Symphony by Michael Tilson Thomas in 2008. He was previously the acting Second Trombonist with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC. Mr Higgins, a Houston native, has a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance from Northwestern University and has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Music of the Baroque, Grand Teton Music Festival, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, Washington National Opera and Baltimore Symphony. His principal teachers have been Michael Mulcahy (Chicago Symphony) and Michael Warny (Houston Grand Opera). He has participated in music festivals with the Roundtop Music Festival, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Tanglewood Music Center.

Along with a busy orchestra career, Timothy Higgins is an active arranger of music. He has arranged music for CT3 Trombone Quartet, the National Brass Quintet, Bay Brass and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Brass Ensemble. His arrangements have been performed by the Washington Symphony Brass, Chicago Symphony Brass Section and the Northwestern University Brass Ensemble. As a teacher, Timothy has led masterclasses in Japan, China, Canada and the USA, including classes at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto and the Juilliard School of Music. He is currently on faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Northwestern University.

In 2005, Timothy won the Robert Marsteller Solo trombone competition, as well as the ITA Trombone Quartet competition with CT3. While attending the Tanglewood Music Center, Mr Higgins was awarded the Grace B Upton Award for Outstanding Fellow. In 2013, Timothy released his solo CD, *Stage Left*, which can be found on [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).