Wagner's *Lohengrin* with David Nice

In association with the Wagner Society of Scotland

8 Wednesdays 2.30-4.30pm starting 5 August

With this opera, we come to the end of the Wagner survey on Zoom. I started back in 2020 with *Siegfried*, went on to the end and then back to the three early operas – a class on each – followed by *Der fliegende Holländer* and *Tannhäuser* as well as the first two Ring instalments (videos of *Götterdämmerung* will be available at a reduced rate for those who missed the course at the time).

There's no need to have attended any previous Wagner classes to be absorbed by this compelling drama. Part fairy-tale, part myth, it tells the story of Parsifal's knight-of-the-grail son Lohengrin and his clash with the secular world. Elsa, the damsel-in-distress he's come to save, must follow his command before their wedding not to ask him where he comes from. Evil surfaces in the pagan shapes of Ortrud and Telarmund, and of course Elsa does ask the forbidden question, with predictable results.

In one way, *Lohengrin* is a less fluent piece of music-theatre than *Tannhäuser;* the pageantry is more drawn out, the attempt at heavenly length only partially successful. But there are so many steps forward, beginning with the celestial Prelude, and the payoff is immense.

Beginning with an introductory session for context, we will be following the course of the drama with excerpts from a wide range of recorded performances on CD, DVD and YouTube.

We welcomed outstanding singers to recent Wagner courses: sopranos Jennifer Davis, Anne Evans, Linda Esther Gray and Natalya Romaniw, tenor Jay Hunter Morris and bass John Tomlinson. Visitors to other classes have included Edward Gardner, Ben Heppner, Jakub Hrůša, Ermonela Jaho, Richard Jones, Vladimir Jurowski, Felicity Lott, Ann Murray, Antonio Pappano, Golda Schultz, Robin Ticciati and Mark Wigglesworth. Guests for *Lohengrin* to be confirmed.

I cannot recommend these classes highly enough. If you are an opera buff or if you are just curious to know a little more about opera, then this is the course for you. The classes, all expertly guided by the expert hand of David Nice, comprise discussion, listening to recordings and watching scenes on DVD as well as interviews with internationally renowned singers who have a particular association with the opera being studied. **Susan Bullock CBE**, soprano and visitor to many of David's classes.

It's always a stimulating experience to join David Nice and friends when they focus in on an opera for a few weeks. He's a great host, looking at the piece from all angles, well organised yet good 'on the hoof' as well, and bringing in guests who have long and intimate knowledge of the opera involved. Heartily recommended! **Sir John Tomlinson**, bass and regular visitor

Fee: £120 for the whole term of eight two-hour classes on Zoom
Email: david.nice@usa.net ASAP to confirm a place