

Avner Dorman writes music of intricate craftsmanship and rigorous technique, expressed with a soulful and singular voice. A native of Israel now living in the United States, Dorman draws on a variety of cultural and historical influences in composing, resulting in music that affects an emotional impact while exploring new territories. His works utilize an exciting and complex rhythmic vocabulary, as well as unique timbres and colors in orchestral, chamber, and solo settings. The world's finest orchestras, conductors, and soloists have performed Dorman's music, and many of his compositions have become contemporary staples in the repertoire.



Learn more about *Wahnfried* at www.musicsalesclassical.com.
Photos from *Wahnfried* © Faulk von Trautenberg.

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Avner Dorman

Wahnfried

A new opera in two acts (2017)



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A new opera in two acts (2017)



Score by Avner Dorman

Libretto (English and German) by Lutz Hübner and Sarah Nemitz

Duration: 1 hr 40 min

Premiere: January 2017, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Germany

cast list

Houston Chamberlain: *Tenor (character tenor)*

Cosima Wagner: *Alto (dramatic mezzo-soprano/ alto)*

Anna Chamberlain: *Lyric dramatic soprano (youthful dramatic soprano)*

Siegfried (Fidi): *Countertenor*

Winifred: *Lyric coloratura soprano*

Eva Chamberlain: *Lyric soprano*

Wagner-Demon: *Lyric Baritone*

The Master Disciple (Hitler): *Lyric tenor*

Hermann Levi: *Dramatic bass (dramatic bass-baritone)*

The Kaiser: *Low alto*

Bakunin: *Bass (lyrical serious bass)*

Isolde: *Soprano/mezzo-soprano*

The Daughters

Blandine, Daniela

Female voices

Servants, Passers-by, Actors, Festive company, Procession from Hell

Chorus SATB

orchestra

2.2.2.2/4.3.3.1/timp.3perc/str

"*Wahnfried* brims over with word-wit, allusions and whimsical figures." - DPA

"...the librettists bring the political dimension of opera brilliantly to the point." - OPUS

"...within the framework of this satirical concept, the whole thing works perfectly."

- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

synopsis

Houston Stewart Chamberlain is a failed entomologist, looking for a calling that would give meaning to his life. He finds it in the music of Richard Wagner, and in German nationalism. Wagner's widow, Cosima, enlists Chamberlain to lead the effort to immortalize Wagner's music and link it forever with German nationalism. He writes *The Foundations of the Nineteenth Century*, which is the first major work that advocates Aryan supremacy and promotes fighting Jewish influence. *Wahnfried* tells the story of how Wagner's music became associated with Nazism and how Cosima, Chamberlain, and members of the Wagner circle, became central to nationalism in Germany. With an element of black humor coloring the narrative, *Wahnfried* emphasizes the grotesque nature of the pseudo-science and hatred underlying Chamberlain's theories and the horrific consequences.