

For Immediate Release

## **Wagner's Complete Ring Cycle Comes to NET Television**

LINCOLN, Neb. (Aug. 29, 2012) -- Robert Lepage's acclaimed new production of Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" will air over four nights in September on "Great Performances at the Met" on NET1 and NET-HD. As an introduction, award-winning filmmaker Susan Froemke's documentary "Wagner's Dream," will precede the operas on Monday, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD

The operas -- "Das Rheingold," "Die Walküre," "Siegfried" and "Götterdämmerung" -- will air Tuesday, Sept. 11, through Friday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD.

The stakes could not be higher as Lepage, some of the world's greatest operatic artists and the Metropolitan Opera tackle Wagner's Ring cycle. "Wagner's Dream" is an intimate look at the enormous theatrical and musical challenges of staging opera's most monumental work, the film chronicles the quest to fulfill Wagner's dream of a perfect Ring.

In "Das Rheingold (The Rhine Gold)" on Tuesday, Sept. 11, the gods of Valhalla clash with underworld dwarves and brawny giants, with disastrous consequences. The evil Alberich steals gold from the Rhine and uses it to forge a ring of unimaginable power. Wotan, the king of the gods, uses magic to steal the ring, but Alberich places a curse that guarantees misery for whoever wears it.

The mysterious hero Siegmund finds shelter in the strangely familiar arms of a lonely woman named Sieglinde in "Die Walküre (The Valkyrie)" on Wednesday, Sept. 12. Their forbidden love leads Wotan's daughter, the warrior maiden Brünnhilde, to defy morality and intervene on behalf of the hero. Brünnhilde's transgression forces her father to choose between his love for his favorite daughter and his duty to his wife, the formidable goddess Fricka.

In "Siegfried," airing Thursday, Sept. 13, the young hero Siegfried grows up in the wilderness, raised by Alberich's conniving brother Mime. He puts together the broken pieces of the sword Nothung, uses it to slay the fearsome dragon Fafner and takes the ring for himself. To fulfill his destiny, he must overcome one more opponent -- Wotan, now disguised as the Wanderer, who knows the world of the gods is coming to an end -- and cross through the magic fire to awaken his true love, Brünnhilde.

The cycle concludes in "Götterdämmerung (Twilight of the Gods)" on Friday, Sept. 14, as Siegfried and Brünnhilde's love is torn apart by the curse of the ring. A trio of scheming humans separates the two heroes in a desperate attempt to steal the ring for themselves. Their villainous plan fails, but they succeed in murdering Siegfried. Heartbroken, Brünnhilde takes the ring and leaps into the hero's funeral pyre, causing a global cataclysm and the twilight of the gods.

NET1 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For a complete program schedule, visit NET's website ([netNebraska.org/television](http://netNebraska.org/television)).

-0-

RELEASE WRITTEN BY: Larry L. Kubert, 402-472-9333, ext. 389, or e-mail at [lkubert@netNebraska.org](mailto:lkubert@netNebraska.org)

**NET Television:**

**NET1** is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2 World** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3 Create** features the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.