



The Ring at La Scala – Bronze

Wagner at the world's most famous opera house

9–16 March 2026 (MM 895)

£6,150 • 8 days

Speaker: Barry Millington

The first Ring at La Scala in over a decade, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Cycle's premiere in 1876.

Directed by David McVicar, conducted by Simone Young, and with internationally renowned soloists such as Michael Volle.

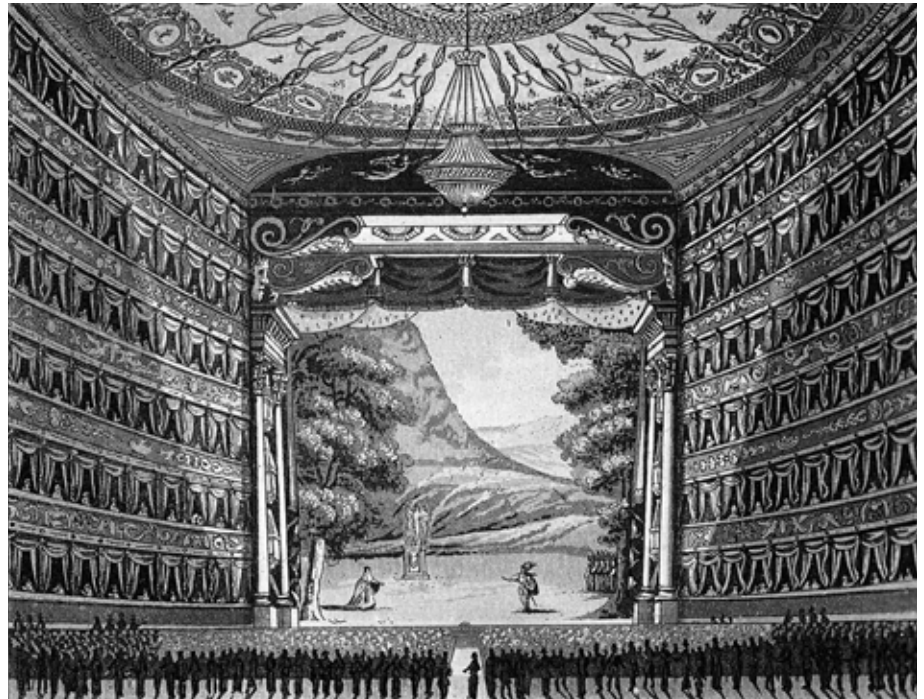
'Bronze Premium' tickets to the performances.

Visits to Milan's finest historical and artistic sites with a local art historian.

Notwithstanding Richard Wagner's problematic relationship with Italian opera, La Scala Milan, historically the major centre of operatic activity in that country, has over the last century or so established a notable reputation in Wagner repertoire. Following in the footsteps of giants such Arturo Toscanini and Wilhelm Furtwängler, Daniel Barenboim conducted the Ring there as music director of the company between 2011 and 2015. The new production, which will reach its culmination in 2026, is to be conducted by the Australian Simone Young, who will be the first female conductor of the cycle at La Scala, just as she was the first woman to conduct it at the Bayreuth Festival in 2024. The director is the highly experienced and popular David McVicar, known for his visceral, psychologically probing productions.

The stellar cast includes Michael Volle (Wotan), arguably the leading singer in the role today, Camilla Nylund (Brünnhilde), Klaus Florian Vogt (Siegmund/Siegfried), Okka von der Damerau (Fricka) and Johannes Martin Kränzle (Alberich). There will be lectures on each instalment of the Ring by Barry Millington, the Wagner specialist and editor of *The Wagner Journal*.

There will also be guided visits to Milan's historical and artistic treasures, most with a local art historian. These vary from Leonardo's *Last Supper* to the internationally-renowned Pinacoteca Brera, packed with big names from Italy's unrivalled artistic heritage, as well as excursions to Bergamo, an important site in the medieval Duchy of Milan. We have of course also allowed plenty of time to rest and to prepare for experiencing these operas, the greatest achievement of music drama.



Milan, La Scala, aquatint c. 1830.

Itinerary

Day 1. Fly at c. midday from London Heathrow to Milan Linate (British Airways).

Day 2: Milan. The Castello Sforzesco is a vast fortified palace, now with museums containing a variety of exhibits including room decorations by Leonardo and Michelangelo's *Rondanini Pietà*. There is a the small but remarkable art collection in the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana. An early dinner precedes the first performance at La Scala: *Das Rheingold*.

Day 3. Milan. Visit the Brera, one of Italy's finest art galleries with most of the greatest Italian artists represented. Evening performance at La Scala: *Die Walküre*.

Day 4: Milan. Spend the morning in Milan's spectacular marble cathedral, the greatest Gothic building in Italy, and the nearby headquarters of the powers whose rivalry ensured a continuously lively (and sometimes deadly) political scene: bishop, duke and commune. The afternoon is free.

Day 5: Milan. The graceful Renaissance church of Santa Maria delle Grazie alone justifies a visit, though it is the refectory that gives the monastery fame: it is adorned with the world's

most famous wall painting, Leonardo's *Last Supper*. The afternoon is free before the evening performance at La Scala: *Siegfried*.

Day 6: Bergamo. Only an hour away, the hilltop town of Bergamo is one of the loveliest in Italy. Girt by massive ramparts, architectural treasures include Santa Maria Maggiore, austere Romanesque outside and richly embellished within, and the Cappella Colleoni, a celebrated work of the Renaissance. There is a museum devoted to Donizetti, who was born here.

Day 7: Milan. In the morning, there is a guided tour of the La Scala museum, which documents the history of the opera house with portraits of composers, a wealth of historically significant instruments and much else. Evening performance at La Scala: *Götterdämmerung*.

Day 8. Fly in the afternoon from Milan Linate, arriving London Heathrow at c. 3.30pm.

The itinerary will be updated as we receive updates from the theatre regarding full cast lists.

The Ring at La Scala
continued

Lecturer

Barry Millington is Chief Music Critic for London's *Evening Standard* and founder/ editor of *The Wagner Journal*. He is the author/ editor of eight books on Wagner including *The Sorcerer of Bayreuth*. He also contributed the articles on Wagner and his operas to *The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians* and *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. He was the founder and artistic director of the Hampstead & Highgate Festival (1999–2003), has acted as dramaturgical adviser at international opera houses, and co-founded the ensemble Counterpoise.

Practicalities

Price. Two sharing: £6,150 or £5,890 without flights. **Single occupancy:** £6,950 or £6,690 without flights.

Included: Flights (Euro Traveller) with British Airways (Airbus 320); travel by private coach for transfers and excursions; accommodation as described below; breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 3 dinners with wine, water, coffee; admission tickets, tips, taxes; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

Music: Bronze Premium tickets to all 4 performances are included; seats are in the rear half of the stalls.

Accommodation. Rosa Grand Hotel, Milan (starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/rosa-grand-milan): a smart 4-star hotel excellently located directly behind the Duomo. Rooms are well appointed in a clean, modern style. *Single rooms are double for sole use.*

How strenuous? There is a fair amount of walking as much of the centre is closed to traffic; the theatre is a 10-15 minute walk from the hotel. The visits and excursions require a fair amount of standing around, and steps and stairs. The tour is not suitable for anyone who has difficulties with everyday walking and stair climbing.

Group size: between 10 and 22 participants.