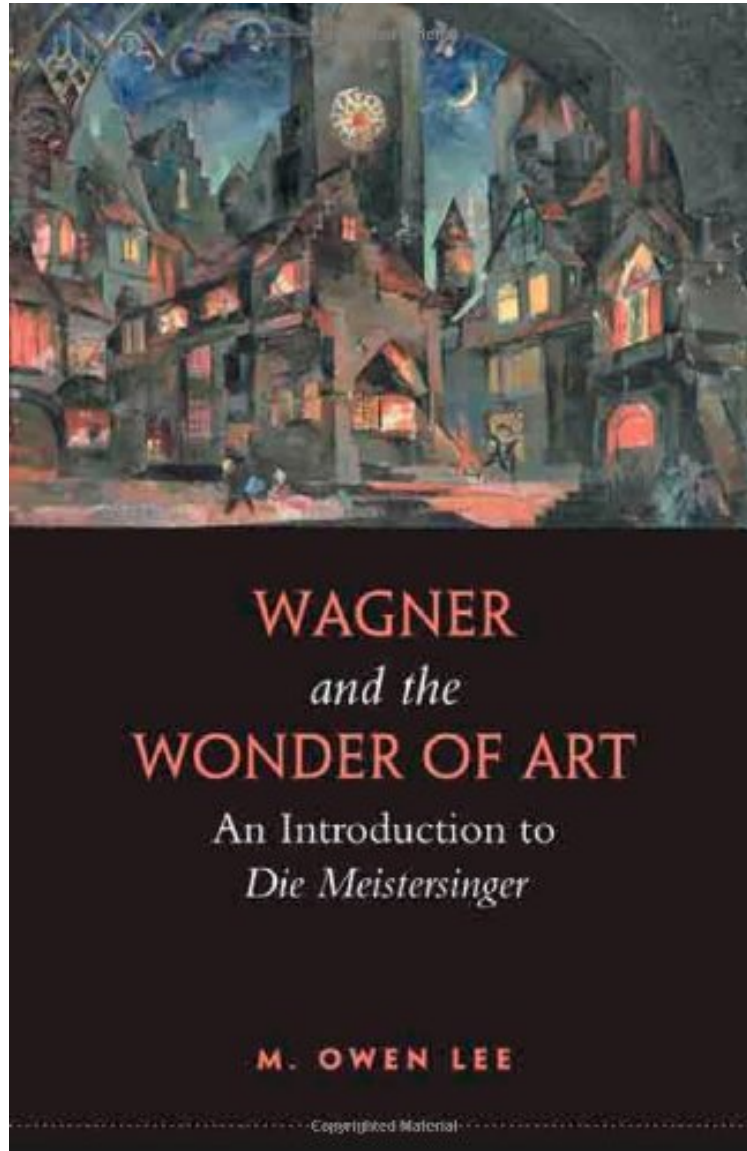


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Wagner and the Wonder of Art: An Introduction to Die Meistersinger

M. Owen Lee

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M. Owen Lee : Wagner and the Wonder of Art: An Introduction to Die Meistersinger before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wagner and the Wonder of Art: An Introduction to Die Meistersinger:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Will make a Meistersinger lover out of you!By Ron MeyersI've been slow getting into Meistersinger. It's probably my second to least favorite of the Master's works. But I've been collecting some classic recordings and researching the opera to see what the fuss is about. Father Lee's short book was terrific! Insightful in the way it explains the structure and importance in this long work, he also tackles a number of the controversies surrounding Meistersinger (e.g., German nationalism, anti-semitism). I listened to the opera fresh after reading the book, and I must say I was hooked. A must read for anyone who considers Wagner great....or who doubts it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Owen Lee has a great love of music and of operaBy Frank MM. Owen Lee has a great love of music and of opera, as well as a tremendous gift for communicating his passion in print. His book, "Wagner and the Wonder of Art" is for anyone. Anyone who loves opera will find this book a delight. Anyone who has no concept of opera will find reasons to fall in love with the genre. Anyone who hates opera will find ample reasons to change their mind. Anyone who has no concept or opinion of opera will find reasons to fall in love with the genre. Those who dismiss Wagner as an obviously deeply flawed individual will gain useful new insights and perspective, especially with respect to how the composer's expresses his own realization of his faults through this opera . The book is compelling and comparatively short, concise enough to be read in one sitting (as if you could put it down even if you wanted to). A masterwork.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Scholar's View of WagnerBy Stephen W. FisherWritten by a renowned Wagner scholar, who happens also to be a Jesuit priest, this slim volume of essays on the composer and "Die Meistersinger" offers remarkable insight into the structure of Wagner's only comic opera and enlightens readers as to why it is a masterpiece. M. Owen Lee convincingly responds to well-known challenges of certain post World War II critics who believe to have discovered antisemitism in the opera itself.

Richard Wagner's Die Meistersinger has always called forth superlatives from those who have fallen under its spell. Toscanini wanted to lay his baton down for the last time only after he had conducted a performance of it. Paderewski called it 'the greatest work of genius ever achieved by any artist in any field of human endeavour.' H.L. Mencken declared, 'It took more skill to plan and write it than it took to plan and write the whole canon of Shakespeare.' And yet Wagner's many-splendoured comedy has come under severe criticism in recent years for what has been called its 'dark underside,' its 'fascist brutality,' and its 'ugly anti-Semitism.' In Wagner and the Wonder of Art, renowned opera expert M. Owen Lee addresses that criticism. He also provides an introduction to the opera and an analysis that will surprise even those veteran operagoers who may not have explored the work's intricate structure and the emotional drama at its centre. The book includes the on-air commentary that Father Lee gave during the first radio broadcast from the Metropolitan Opera after the events of 9/11. He thought it necessary, after attempting to refute the charges leveled against Wagner's opera, to say something about its truthfulness, its life-affirming music, its insight into the madness that can destroy human lives, and its witness to the importance of art for the survival of our civilizations.

From the Back Cover'Reading Wagner and the Wonder in Art is the next best thing to attending a performance of Die Meistersinger with Father Lee himself. This book amply demonstrates the author's passion for Wagner's great comedy and how it speaks (sings) to humanity today. Only a formidable mind could have written such an insightful and thoroughly enjoyable book.'-Christopher Purdy, Executive Director, WOSU Public MediaAbout the AuthorM. Owen Lee, CSB, is a Catholic priest and Professor Emeritus of Classics at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. He is a commentator for the Texaco Metropolitan Opera radio broadcasts and the author of a number of books on opera, including A Season of Opera: From Orpheus to Ariadne (UTP 1998) and Wagner: The Terrible Man and His Truthful Art (UTP 199).