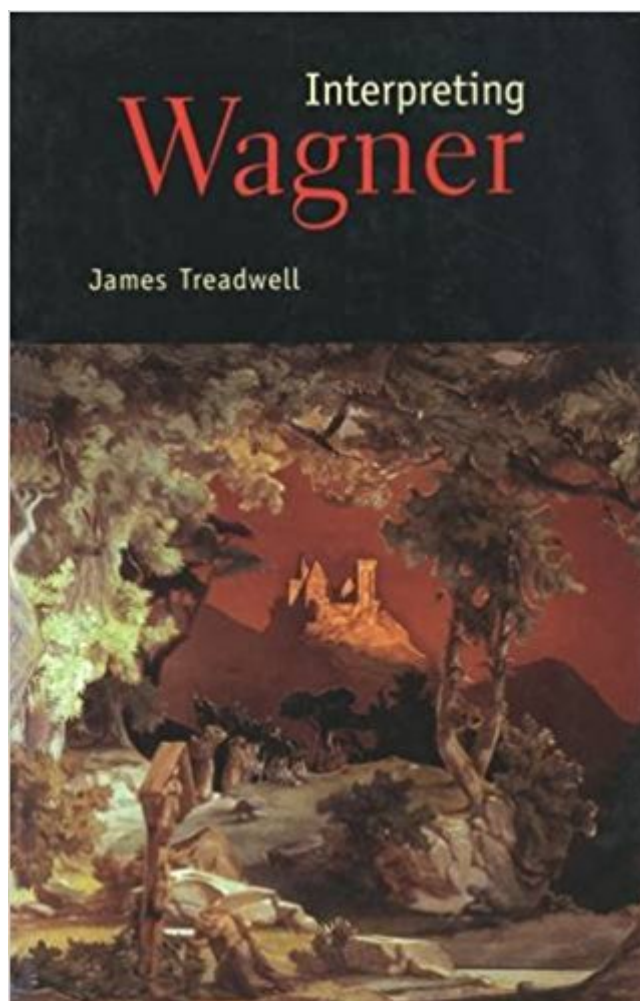


The book was found

Interpreting Wagner



Synopsis

In this fresh and inventive book, James Treadwell lays open the rich possibilities for interpretation offered across the full range of Wagner's art. Focusing on Wagner's music, dramas, and prose writings, rather than on questions of biography or influence, the book carefully traces the tensions and uncertainties embedded within the composer's central themes. Treadwell identifies and pursues the habitual concerns of Wagner's operas and writings: enchantment, seduction, heroism, victory, transcendence, and sacredness. While Wagner's work repeatedly and urgently sets itself to deny various or ambiguous interpretations, the operas themselves are nevertheless far more intricate and conflicted than this denial allows for. In this altered light, the dimensions of Wagner's art are unexpectedly extended, and its enduring vitality is refreshingly reasserted.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James Treadwell was lecturer and junior research fellow at the University of Oxford, and assistant professor of English at McGill University.

First off, Treadwell is sole author, not editor of this readable and fascinating study of what's happening within Wagner's operas and his writings about them. As one of the many thousands of persons hooked on "The Ring" operas and puzzled by their peculiar power, I wanted to find a study of this which did not require specialized musical training, and was written without jargon. Treadwell does a fine job of discerning themes he calls: romance, revolution, exile and religion. I recommend

the book for its thoughtful examination of this topic, at a very different level than a book written for musicologists and also very different than internet chat discussions of "Why does Kundry die at the end?"

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