Preface 6

- 1 Father of the Man: Paternity and Childhood 8
- 2 Learning the Craft: Youthful Apprenticeship 15
- 3 Earning his Keep: First Professional Appointments 22
- 4 Under the Yoke: Kapellmeister in Dresden 33
- 5 The Eternal Wanderer: Der fliegende Holländer 41
- 6 Desperately Seeking Venus: Tannhäuser 50
- 7 Swansong to Traditional Opera: Lohengrin 60
- 8 Revolutionary Road: Uprising in Dresden 70
- 9 The Zurich Years: Wagner's Exile in Switzerland 78
- 10 The Rise and Fall of Valhalla: Der Ring des Nibelungen 87
- 11 'Most Excellent Friend': Franz Liszt 116
- 12 Muses, Mistresses and Mother-Figures: Wagner's Women 124
- 13 The Behemoth of Bayreuth: Wagner's Personality 133
- 14 Always Short: Wagner and Money 141
- 15 In the Pink: The Role of Silks and Satins in Wagner's Life 148
- 16 'My Adored and Angelic Friend': Ludwig II 159
- 17 Fatal Attraction: Tristan und Isolde 166
- 18 'Art is What Matters Here': Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg 175
- 19 Grit in the Oyster: The Role of Anti-Semitism in Wagner's Life and Work 183
- 20 Creative Spark: Sources of Inspiration in Wagner's Work 192
- 21 The Silent Sufferer: Cosima Wagner 202
- 22 Tribschen Idyll: The Lucerne Years 214
- 23 A Home for the Gods: The Bayreuth Project 221
- 24 Wagner's Last Card: Parsifal 233
- 25 Death in Venice: The Events of Wagner's Last Days 242
- 26 Perfect and Imperfect Wagnerites: The Spread of the Wagner Cult 249
- 27 Panning for Gold: Wagner and Cinema 258
- 28 Swastikas Over Bayreuth: Wagner and the Third Reich 271
- 29 Regime Change: The Grandsons Usher In the Era of New Bayreuth 285
- 30 Renewing the Legacy: Bayreuth Today and in the Future 296

Chronology of Wagner's Life and Works 304 Notes 307 Select Bibliography 312 Select Discography 314 Picture Credits 316 Index 317

