



Brühl in Leipzig, watercolour by Wilhelm Stockmann, 1825

**1**  
**Haus zum Roten und Weißen Löwen:**  
**Birthplace of Richard Wagner, Brühl 3 /**  
**today part of**  
**the Höfe am Brühl complex, Brühl 3**

Richard Wagner is born in the year of the Leipzig Battle of Nations on 22 May 1813 “on the Brühl, in the house of the red and white lion, two flights up”, the ninth child of the police actuary Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Wagner (1770–1813) and his wife Johanne Rosine, née Pätz (1774–1848). Friedrich Wagner succumbs to a typhus epidemic on 23 November. Ludwig Geyer (1779–1821), a longstanding friend of the family, actor, painter and poet, marries Richard’s mother on 28 August 1814, with the family subsequently moving to Dresden.

Following the demolition of the building in 1886 the site was built upon, initially with a modern office building, the so-called Wagnerhaus, then with an extension to the Kaufhaus Brühl department store (later known as the “Blehbüchse”), opened in 1908, which received a memorial plaque created by the Leipzig sculptor Fritz Zalisz (1937/1968). Completed in the autumn of 2012, the new building incorporates the reconstructed façade of the “Blehbüchse” and the memorial plaque. To the right of the building a glass façade featuring a photograph of the house of Wagner’s birth commemorates the original building.



Wilhelmine Schröder-Devrient,  
lithophane, porcelain,  
circa 1840



The Ranstädter Gate and the Theatre in Leipzig, coloured etching, circa 1820

Leipzig’s first dedicated theatre structure of 1766 was converted into the Stadttheater in 1817. Richard’s sisters Louise and Rosalie are star performers here. He is able to attend all performances free of charge. Richard decides to become a musician (composer) at an early age. He greatly admires the famous singer Wilhelmine Schröder-Devrient as Fidelio in 1832 and Romeo in 1834. His B flat Major Overture (drumbeat overture) provides light entertainment for the audience on Christmas Day 1830. However, on 16 March 1832 overture and closing music for the 5<sup>th</sup> act of Ernst Raupach’s “King Enzo” are received with applause. Criticism from Rosalie leads him to destroy his first opera, “The Wedding” with the exception of the introduction, which had already been composed. His opera “The Fairies” of 1833/34 is turned down by the theatre. The first Wagner operas to be performed in Leipzig are “Tannhäuser”, on 31 January 1853, and “Lohengrin”, on 7 January 1854.



The Pichhof, diagonally opposite the Hallesches Tor, detail from a coloured etching by Johann Jakob Wagner, circa 1830

**3**  
**Pichhof, Bahnhofstraße 18 /**  
**approximate present-day location**  
**Willy-Brandt-Platz tram stop,**  
**West Hall of Central Station**

Ludwig Geyer dies in 1821. At the end of 1827 the fatherless family returns to Leipzig. From Christmas of that year Richard also lives “in the Pichhof, at the Hallesches Tor, 1<sup>st</sup> flight”, which becomes a meeting point for men of letters (Heinrich Laube 4) and composers (Heinrich Marschner). His enthusiasm for Beethoven results here in a piano transcription of the 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, which he offers – unsuccessfully – to the publisher Schott in Mainz.



**4**  
*Hôtel de Pologne before the fire,  
coloured lithograph, 1846*

**Hôtel de Pologne, Hainstraße 8–10 /**  
**today Salles de Pologne,**  
**Hainstraße 16/18**

Heinrich Laube (1806–1884), steel engraving

It is here, in November 1832, that Richard meets Heinrich Laube, from 1833 editor of the “Zeitung für die elegante Welt”, a journal of elegant living, developing the publication into a leading journal of the “Junges Deutschland” literary movement. Laube enthuses him with his ideas on free divine love, Richard reads his novel “Das junge Europa”, Heine’s “Ardinghello” and Heine’s “Romantische Schule”. Laube publishes early writings of Richard, such as the essay “Die deutsche Oper”, published on 10 June 1834. Martin Luther and Philipp Melancthon lived in the building during the Leipzig Disputation of 1519. The hotel took its name from a stay of the Polish King Stanislaus Leszczyński in 1706. The building later served as a trade fair building for some time.



**5**  
**Haus Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum,**  
**Kleine Fleischergasse 4**

The Coffe Baum is the second oldest coffee salon in Europe and the oldest coffee house in Germany. Erected in 1556 at the same time as the Old Town Hall, regular guests included Robert Schumann and Richard Wagner, in addition to personalities such as Johann Christoph Gottsched, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing and Max Klinger. Wagner’s visits to the establishment are not documented. However, it may be assumed that, as a passionate drinker of coffee, he was also a visitor.



**6**  
**St Thomas’ Church,**  
**Thomaskirchhof 18**

On 16 August 1813 the boy is christened by Deacon Eulenstein with the name Wilhelm Richard Wagner. In addition to the parents, the records of St Thomas’ Church also note as godparents the councillor Dr Wilhelm Wiesand, Miss Juliane Schöffelin, deputising for her Miss Louise Mohl (both merchant’s daughters), and the merchant Adolf Träger.

The original structure from the 12<sup>th</sup> century was augmented with a nave in 1482–96, the building was extensively renovated from 1991 to 2000.



**7**  
**St Thomas School /**  
**today Thomashauss,**  
**Thomaskirchhof 18**

Christian Theodor Weinlig  
(1780–1842),  
reproduction of a painting

At Easter 1830 Richard enrolls at the St Thomas School. Here too, he has little interest in lessons. He composes and indulges his enthusiasm for the French Revolution and the Polish uprising against Czarist rule. Departing the school without a leaving certificate, on 23 February 1831 he enrolls as a music student at the University of Leipzig. With the cantor of St Thomas’ Church, Christian Theodor Weinlig (cantor 1823–42), he completes his studies in composition within six months. His “dissertation”, completed in six weeks, is the Symphony in four movements in C Major. First mentioned in 1254, the St Thomas School is the oldest school in Leipzig. The superintendent’s offices were located here from 1904 to the year 2010.

#### Tour bookings

Richard-Wagner-Verband Leipzig e. V., tel. 0049 (0)341 30868933  
Leipzig Erleben GmbH, tel. 0049 (0)341 7104230

#### Excursion recommendations

Herrrensitz und Kultur-Gut Ermlitz (manor house), Ermlitz, Schkopau (Saalekreis), summer residence of the Apel family, frequently visited by Wagner.  
Church and birthplace of Richard Wagner’s grandfather in Müglitz, Hohburg (District of Leipzig). The Bayreuth Festival 2001 provided significant funding for the restoration of the church windows and organ.  
Wagner Haus and theatre in Bad Lauchstädt (Saalekreis). Witnessed, in 1834, the beginning of the conducting career of Richard Wagner, as the Magdeburg theatre performed here in summer.  
Meeting with his first wife, Minna Planer (1809–1866).



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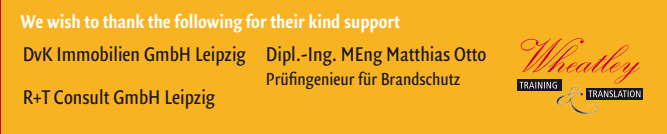
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Christian Gottlieb Müller  
(1800–1863),  
lithograph

**8**  
**Schneiderherberge,**  
**concert hall of the Euterpe Music Society,**  
**Thomaskirchhof 1 /**  
**present-day Bach-Archive and Bach-Museum**  
**Leipzig, Thomaskirchhof 16**

The Euterpe Music Society had a decisive influence on musical life in Leipzig for a period of 62 years. From 1822 to 1835 “musical entertainments” were staged in the hall of the Schneiderherberge in Thomaskirchhof 7. The Gewandhaus musicians Christian Gottlieb Müller (conductor 1831–38) and Friedrich Robert Sipp were also involved here. Richard secretly receives lessons in harmony from Müller, followed by violin lessons from Sipp – his “worst pupil”. At Christmas 1831 the Euterpe rooms first experience Richard’s Concert overture in D Minor, followed by the Concert overture in C Major and the Symphony in C Major in 1832.

**9**  
**Apelsches, later Thomäisches Haus,**  
**Königshaus /**  
**present-day commercial building,**  
**Markt 17**

As a nine year-old, Richard first spends a few days of his Easter holiday with his uncle Adolph Wagner (1774–1835). Familiar with Goethe and Schiller, the philologist, translator and private scholar has a great influence upon him. Richard is impressed by the ornate chambers dating back to the time of the Saxon Elector and Polish King Augustus the Strong, as well as the extensive library. The relationship remains intact even after the uncle marries and moves away. Constructed around 1560 and converted in 1706/07 for the merchant Andreas Dietrich Apel, visitors here included Czar Peter the Great, Frederick II and Napoleon I.

# WAGNER WAYS in Leipzig



Leipzig is a city with a great musical tradition. Music can be heard and experienced throughout the city, aided by the Leipzig Music Trail. Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy or Robert and Clara Schumann all have museums dedicated to them. To date, the poet-composer Richard Wagner has proved considerably more difficult to find. The Leipzig Richard Wagner Society offers this tour to help follow in his footsteps.

Richard is a Leipziger ... is the motto of the society. Because Wagner is the only one of these great composers to actually be born in Leipzig. It was here that he went to school, here that the idea of becoming a musician was formed. In Leipzig he found the material that he required, absorbed lasting impressions in the theatre and concert hall as well as experiencing the staging of his own early compositions. The relationship to his city of birth was a turbulent one, but at the end of his life the two were reconciled. It is now up to Leipzig to pay tribute to him. Follow in the footsteps of Wagner either on foot through the city centre or by car in the surrounding area. In the process you can accompany him through stages in his life.



Rosalie Wagner (1803–1837),  
oil painting by Gustav Kühme,  
1826

**10**  
**Auerbachs Keller,**  
**Mädler-Passage,**  
**Grimmaische Straße 2–4**

There is no evidence of Richard Wagner’s visits to this restaurant, made world famous by Goethe’s “Faust”. The sole link: in the Goethezimmer hangs a portrait of Rosalie, who also played Gretchen. It is nonetheless likely that uncle Adolph, who lived next door in the Königshaus, would have acquainted him with Auerbachs Hof (built 1530–38). The two paintings by Andreas Bretschneider from 1625, depicting the legendary barrel ride and Faust with the carousing students, are certain to have enthused him just as they did the young Goethe. In 1832 Richard writes seven compositions on the subject of his “Faust”. A major Faust symphony is planned, but only the overture is actually completed, in 1839/40.

The conversion of the Mädler-Passage 1912–14 resulted in the loss of the approximately 70 merchant’s vaults. Only the historic wine cellar remained.



Carl Benjamin Schwarz,  
The Market Place in Leipzig,  
watercolour, 1799

Adolph Wagner,  
lithograph, 1832





Ernst Wilhelm Straßberger|Johann Jakob Wagner, Town Hall and Market Place, coloured etching, circa 1825

#### Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig, Altes Rathaus, Markt 1

Erected in 1556, the Old Town Hall was converted into the Stadtgeschichtliches Museum between 1906–09. Wagner enthusiasts can make some interesting discoveries in the permanent exhibition entitled “Leipzig original”, such as “The Prodigal Son”, a dedicated exhibition opened in April 2018. The model of the city in 1822 located in the Festsaal (Festival Hall) depicts Leipzig after the Battle of Nations, as Richard Wagner knew it. The model of the Gewandhaussaal (Gewandhaus orchestra hall) of 1894/95 on the upper floor of the museum (“Modern Times” exhibition, City of Music) shows the concert hall prior to its demolition 14. The metal plates belonging to the conductor’s podium (circa 1780) from the concert hall commemorate, alongside Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Carl Maria von Weber, Robert Schumann, Hector Berlioz, Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms, also “Rich. Wagner 1.XI.1862”. Before an almost empty hall, he conducted the prelude to the “Mastersingers” and the “Tannhäuser” overture.



Theodor Apel, lithograph by August Hunger, circa 1850



#### Alte Nikolaischule, Nikolaikirchhof 2

Nikolaikirchhof, photograph, circa 1890

Famous pupils of the Nikolaischule include Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, Christian Thomasius and Johann Gottfried Seume, as well as Richard Wagner. Enrolling on 21 January 1828, he is displeased at being moved back a grade. To make a name for himself and be able to leave the school he finishes the tragic drama “Leubald”, which he had begun in Dresden. His friendship with Guido Theodor Apel (1811–1867) preserves Richard in the face of several financial disasters, as well as allowing him to enjoy frequent stays at the Rittergut Ermlitz, a manor house that is the summer residence of the family. Erected in 1512, the building was restored from 1991–94 by the Kulturstiftung Leipzig foundation, which opened the “Young Wagner 1813 to 1834” exhibition in the anniversary year 2013.

#### Friedrich Wieck’s piano shop and lending service for musical items, Reichsstraße 1, Grimmaische Straße 5 (Sellers Hof) / today Handelshof retail and hotel complex, corner of Grimmaische Straße and Reichsstraße

With the intention of composing music for his 1828 tragedy “Leubald”, which involved setting music in the style of Beethoven to Goethe’s “Egmont”, Richard approaches Friedrich Wieck, father of the talented young pianist Clara Wieck (1819–1896) 21, in order to borrow the book “A system of the science of music and practical composition” by Johann Bernhard Logier. He fails to return the book on time, resulting in a considerable debt. The former fair building Handelshof was built 1908/09, it was restored in accordance with heritage conservation guidelines in 2007–11.



Friedrich Georg Wieck (1800–1860), glyphotograph, circa 1850

#### Gewandhaussaal, Alter Neumarkt, since 1839 Universitätsstraße / now Städtisches Kaufhaus, Universitätsstraße wing

Music director August Pohlentz conducts Richard’s first compositions. The performance of his D Minor Overture on 23 February 1832 is received by the “Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung” with “great pleasure”. The overture to his opera “The Fairies”, announced in the Gewandhaus concert programme of 10 April 1834, fails to take place due to “the occurrence of hindrances”. Both the “Rienzi” extra concert that he conducted on 26 November 1842 and the “Tannhäuser” overture conducted by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy on 12 February 1846 are unsuccessful. Famed for its acoustics, the music hall 11 of 1781 in the Zeughaus wing of the Gewandhaus, the first dedicated concert building of the present-day Gewandhaus Orchestra, was demolished in 1894 to make way for the new fair building Städtisches Kaufhaus. A plaque in the stairway of the 2nd floor commemorates the concert room.



Neues Theater (precursor to the Opera House), oil painting by Alexander Schlick, 1871

From 1693 to 1720 the first opera house was situated on the Brühl. The Neues Theater erected 1864–68 on Augustusplatz offered a new home to the opera. The first complete performance of the tetralogy “The Ring of the Nibelung” outside of Bayreuth in 1878 by opera director Angelo Neumann (1838–1910) led to the final reconciliation between the master and the Leipzig theatre. From 1882 all Wagnerian music dramas were on the programme, with the exception of “Parsifal”. On the 125th birthday of the master in 1938 his complete works were performed, including the early operas “The Fairies” and “The Ban on Love”.

The building destroyed in the Second World War was replaced between 1956 and 1960 by the first new theatre to be built in the GDR, opened on 9 October 1960 with Wagner’s “The Mastersingers of Nuremberg”, directed by opera director Joachim Herz (1924–2010). Herz also staged the “Ring” in the years 1973–76, to international acclaim. As of 2022, Leipzig Opera House 16 has all 13 operas by Richard Wagner in its repertoire.



## Richard is a Leipziger ...



#### Richard Wagner Memorial in the Schwanenteichanlage behind the Opera House, Georgiring

In the scope of the GDR Richard Wagner Festival 1983 the City of Leipzig arranged the unveiling of a bronze bust of the composer, created by Max Klinger (designed in 1904). A memorial event is staged here by the Leipzig Richard Wagner Society each year on 13 February, the day of Richard Wagner’s death.

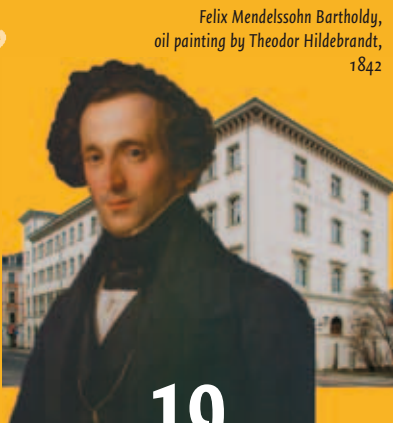
#### Hôtel de Prusse, Roßplatz 7 (destroyed in the Second World War) / now a green area, corner of Grünwaldstraße and Roßplatz

From 21 to 23 April 1871 Richard Wagner and his wife Cosima (1837–1930) travel through Germany to promote his planned festival house, stopping in Leipzig in the process. The homage to his host, Louis Kraft, proprietor of the Hôtel de Prusse (opened in 1720 as the Goldener Helm), for the pampering treatment that enables him to recuperate and regenerate is reflected spontaneously in the composition, on 22 April, of the three-verse “Kraftliedchen” (Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig).

#### Alter Johannisfriedhof, access via Täubchenweg and Prager Straße



The history of this burial site dates from 1278 to 1883. A former cemetery behind the Grassmuseum, today the Alte Johannisfriedhof is home to approximately 400 tombs of culturally-historic and often artistic significance, including that of Richard Wagner’s mother and his sister Rosalie in Section V. After Ursula Oehme rediscovered the grave occupied by Richard Wagner’s father in 1829 in Section IV, a memorial stone was erected to him by the Richard Wagner Society Leipzig on the 200th anniversary of his death in 2013.



Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, oil painting by Theodor Hildebrandt, 1842

#### Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig, Königstraße 3 / now Goldschmidtstraße 12

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Gewandhaus music director, founder of the first conservatory in Germany, composer and musical virtuoso, inhabited the bel-étage of this residential house, erected 1844/45, with his family. He lived there from 1845 until his death in 1847. The autobiography of Louis Spohr notes an encounter with Richard Wagner there on 24 June 1846. Mendelssohn played his “Variations sérieuses” with “utmost bravura, with these followed by two quartettes of Spohr, with Mendelssohn and Wagner following the score with rapture”. The Internationale Mendelssohn Stiftung foundation had the house renovated and the late Biedermeier apartment restored to its original condition.



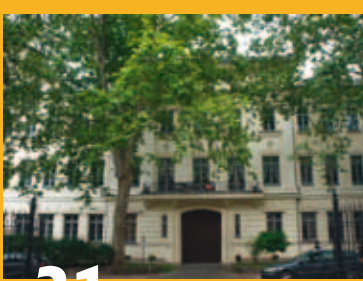
Friedrich Nietzsche, photograph, 1867

#### Residential house and company F. A. Brockhaus, Quergasse/Querstraße 8 resp. 16 (destroyed in the Second World War) / until 2010 F. A. Brockhaus at the Brockhaus Centre, Querstraße 18

Heinrich and Friedrich, sons of the founder, Friedrich Arnold Brockhaus, develop the publishers F. A. Brockhaus into an internationally-active major company. Richard Wagner is related by marriage to both publisher Friedrich – through marriage to his sister Louise (1828) – and orientalist Hermann, who marries Ottilie in 1836. In Louise’s salon Richard encounters the greats of the worlds of literature, music and the arts, and at Hermann and Ottilie’s he meets Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900) in 1868. During the September unrest of 1830 he joins university students in guarding the company premises, where the new rapid presses are the target of much public anger. Friedrich provides asylum and financial support to Polish émigrés, including Vincent Tyszkiewicz, much admired by Wagner (Polonia-Overture 1836).



The site of the F. A. Brockhaus company 1843, lithograph



#### 21

Robert und Clara Schumann, lithograph, 1846

#### Schumann-Haus Leipzig, Inselstraße 5 / today Inselstraße 18

This building, erected in 1838, was home to the artists Robert and Clara Schumann, née Wieck, from 1840–44, the first, happy years of their marriage. In addition to Franz Liszt, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Hector Berlioz, guests also included Richard Wagner, whom the couple had previously met in the house of Clara’s father. Clara was already an acclaimed pianist, with Robert Schumann (1810–1856) enjoying recognition for his “Spring Symphony”. His housekeeping book records four visits from Richard Wagner: on 18 April, 7 May, 11 November 1842 and on 28 November 1843.

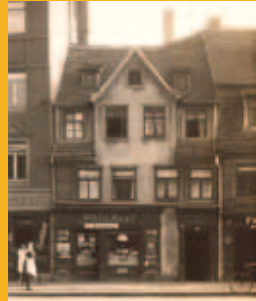
Restored in accordance with heritage conservation guidelines, today the building houses the museum of the Schumann Society, a concert room and the Freie Grundschule Clara Schumann.

#### Kintschys Schweizerhäuschen in the Rosental / today the restaurant Hacienda Las Casas in Leipzig Zoo, Pfaffendorfer Straße 29

“Kintschi’s garden café is undoubtedly the friendliest place in Leipzig ... Three times a week there is an average concert there. A good concert costs extra ...”, notes a chronicle of the famous coffee garden of Georg Kintschy in the Rosental park, opened as a Swiss cottage in 1824. A meeting place for poets, painters, musicians and publishers, its illustrious guests included Karl Herloßsohn, Ludwig Bechstein, Heinrich Marschner, Albert Lortzing and Friedrich Nietzsche. It is not known whether the early composition of Richard Wagner performed at Kintschy’s found favour with the audience or not. In 1927 the structure was incorporated into the Zoo and has now been reconstructed in accordance with heritage conservation guidelines.

#### Residence of the grandparents of Richard Wagner, Ranstädter Steinweg 39 (destroyed in the Second World War) / today the former site is traversed by a street, footpath and the Elstermühlgraben waterway

Until 1943 the site was home to the residential house of the grandparents and birthplace of Richard Wagner’s father. Born in Müglentz, the grandfather of Richard Wagner, Gottlob Friedrich Wagner (1736–1795), studied theology at the University of Leipzig and was an excise officer of the Saxon court in the Ranstädter Gate (illuminated plaque on local history on the new balustrade of the waterway).



#### Richard Wagner Memorial, Goerdelerweg park (between Runde Ecke and Richard-Wagner-Platz)

The design of Max Klinger (1857–1920) foresaw a three-piece ensemble comprising steps, plinth and sculpture. When the foundation stone was laid on 22 May 1913, on Matthäikirchhof, only the steps were completed (removed in the 1970s to make way for the new district administration building of the Ministry for State Security). In 1924, the plinth was positioned at a site in the Klingerhain. In November 2010, the steps and the plinth were inaugurated at their original site. The three naked female figures of the relief on the front side symbolise Wagner’s total work of art in the form of the Rhinemaidens – music, poetry and acting, the right side depicts Parsifal and Kundry, the left Siegfried with the dragon and Mime. Stephan Balkenhol (born 1957) completed the memorial for the 200th birthday of the composer in 2013 with the addition of the bronze statue of the young Wagner in front of his imposing shadow.

#### Memorial stone in the Palmgarten, access via Jahnallee

To commemorate the founding of the German Women’s Richard Wagner Society (a precursor of the International Association of Richard Wagner Societies) on 13 February 1909 in the Palmengarten, 20 May 2017 saw the inauguration of a memorial stone of the the Richard Wagner Stiftung Leipzig foundation and MIBRAG (Mitteldeutsche Braunkohlen AG).



#### Richard-Wagner-Hain at the Elsterflutbecken, entrance Jahnallee or Am Elsterwehr

A call for bids from the City of Leipzig in October 1932 for a Wagner memorial on a site at the Elsterflutbecken resulted in the successful design of the Stuttgart sculptor Emil Hippi (1893–1965). At the foundation stone ceremony on 6 March 1934 the memorial was declared to be the “Richard Wagner national memorial of the German people”, with the consequence that, following the end of the Second World War, the City of Leipzig refused to grant acceptance. The Leipzig Richard Wagner Society supports the City of Leipzig in the project to restore the landscaped grounds of Gustav Allinger (1891–1970) to their previous position of prominence and a place of veneration for Richard Wagner.



Figures on the Rheintöchter-Brunnen fountain by Emil Hipp