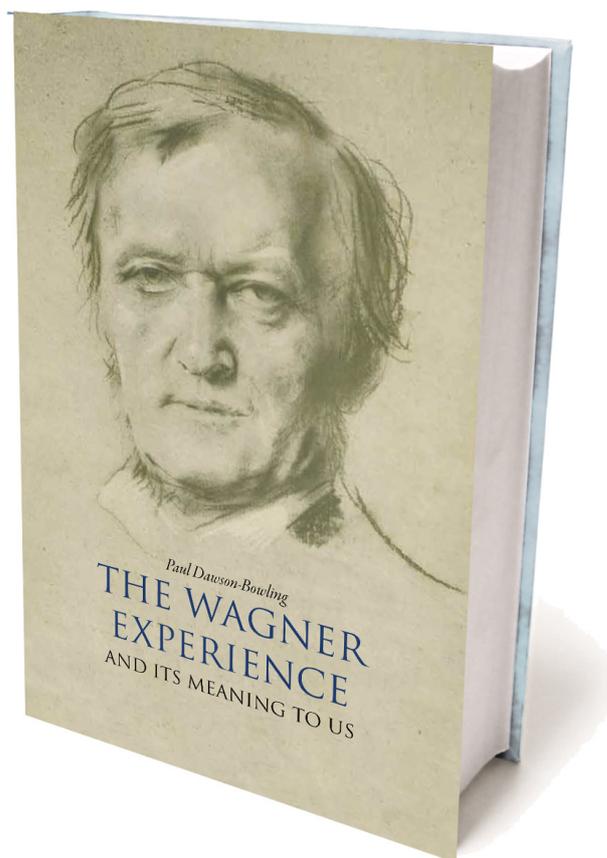


PRESS RELEASE

THE WAGNER EXPERIENCE • PAUL DAWSON-BOWLING • 7 MAY 2013
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IN WAGNER'S BICENTENARY YEAR, A MAJOR AND ORIGINAL NEW STUDY OF THE COMPOSER AND HIS ENDURING RELEVANCE

WITH A PREFACE BY SIR DONALD MCINTYRE

In this bicentenary celebration of Wagner and his music, Paul Dawson-Bowling introduces, deepens and enriches the Wagner Experience for the newcomer and the seasoned Wagnerian alike. Expounding in colourful style the stories, the sources and the lessons of Wagner's great dramas, he offers unusual insights into the man, his works and their meaning, while grappling with the music's almost occult power.

Before taking us through the ten great dramas themselves, he discusses Wagner's formative experiences, his aspirations and his mentality; also his first wife Minna and her immense but unrecognised impact. This sets up better lenses through which to view not only Wagner the man and his less appealing aspects, but more importantly his stage works, since, as Dawson-Bowling insists, the best encounter with Wagner's dramas is the direct one.

Uniquely drawing on a lifetime's experience in General Medical Practice, the author brings a wisdom, humanity and psychological understanding to his study of the life and work of Wagner, with especial reference to the thought of Carl Jung. This invests the book with a special sympathy for its subject.

Above all, this book draws out the vital lessons which Wagner's extraordinary, didactic dramas can offer us. It reveals their lessons as life-enhancing, capable of transforming our society, our lives and ourselves. There is no other book about Wagner quite like it.

Paul Dawson-Bowling studied classics at school and philosophy at Oxford, and joined the Civil Service before beginning, at 29, to train as a Doctor of Medicine. For thirty years he was a family doctor in Kent. In retirement, he remains a trustee of the Sick Doctors Trust.

In 1958, when still a schoolboy, he bicycled across Europe for the Bayreuth Festival. For twenty-five years he has been a principal reviewer for *Wagner News*. He has published articles in the UK and America; he is also well known as a lecturer. He is married to the harpsichordist, Elizabeth de la Porte, whose great love of Bach and Couperin he shares.

- May 2013 is the 200-yr anniversary of Wagner's birth
- The first large-scale stand-alone account for many years to expound the stories and the context of Wagner's great dramas
- The author is a respected Wagnerian: for 25 years a principal reviewer for *Wagner News*
- Makes a special point of explaining the music with simply-notated examples
- Uniquely, it expounds the vital lessons which Wagner's extraordinary, didactic dramas can offer us
- High production values, with 104pp of colour plates

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