

### Timothy Fisher

#### **What is the Relationship between Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and Richard Wagner's *Ring Cycle*? Or: Wagner and Tolkien – Copy or Comment?**

I intend to indicate briefly some of the pitfalls of Tolkien and Wagner commentary. Then I will present first the circumstantial contextual evidence for their relationship to be followed by evidence internal to the works from *The Lord of the Rings* (and other Tolkien works) and *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (and other Wagner works).

*As a student of myth and literature and music I have been studying Wagner and Tolkien and been comparing and contrasting them since the mid-60s ever since I discovered them for myself by chance (if chance you call it!). Among other Wagnerian things, I am a 25 year member of the Wagner Society of New York which presents about a dozen papers and talks yearly on performances and aspects of Wagner including a day long annual symposium of scholars and singers, and I helped found and contribute to a Wagner Discussion Group as an offshoot of the Wagner Society of NY for over 10 years. I also have an extensive library on Tolkien of some several hundred books comprising both works and commentaries. I am a student of Tolkien at our Mythgard Institute thanks to Prof Corey Olsen and Verlyn Flieger and a member of the Mythopoeic Society.*

