

# WAGNER/STRAUSS ORCHESTRAL COMPARISON

## ***Der Ring des Nibelungen***

### Woodwind

1 Piccolo  
3 Flutes (3<sup>rd</sup> Flute doubling on 2<sup>nd</sup> Piccolo)  
3 Oboes  
1 English Horn (also playing 4<sup>th</sup> Oboe)  
  
3 Clarinets  
  
1 Bass Clarinet  
3 Bassoons  
(some passages requiring Contrabassoon)

### Brass

8 Horns  
(4 of which double on Wagner Tubas, below)  
2 Tenor Tubas (*Tuben*) in B-flat  
2 Bass Tubas in F  
3 Trumpets  
1 Bass Trumpet  
3 Tenor-Bass Trombones  
1 Contrabass Trombone  
(which alternates with Tenor-Bass Trombone)  
1 Contrabass Tuba

### Percussion

2 pairs of Timpani  
1 Triangle  
1 pair of Cymbals  
1 Tenor Drum  
1 Bass Drum  
  
1 Glockenspiel  
1 Tamtam  
18 Anvils of different pitches (in *Das Rheingold*)  
(Not all percussion is required throughout *Ring*)

### Bowed Strings

16 First Violins  
16 Second Violins  
  
12 Violas  
  
12 Cellos  
  
8 Double Basses

### Plucked Strings

6 Harps  
(with a 7<sup>th</sup> behind the scene in *Das Rheingold*)

## ***Elektra***

1 Piccolo  
3 Flutes (3<sup>rd</sup> doubling on 2<sup>nd</sup> Piccolo)  
2 Oboes  
English Horn (doubling on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oboe)  
1 Heckelphone  
1 E-flat Clarinet  
4 Clarinets  
2 Bassett Horns  
1 Bass Clarinet  
3 Bassoons  
1 Contrabassoon

8 Horns  
(4 doubling on Wagner Tubas)  
2 Tenor Tubas in B-flat  
2 Bass Tubas in F  
6 Trumpets  
1 Bass trumpet  
3 Tenor Trombones  
1 Contrabass Trombone  
  
1 Contrabass Tuba

6-8 Timpani (2 Players)  
1 Triangle  
Cymbals  
1 Side Drum  
1 Bass Drum  
Rute (Birch Brush)  
1 Glockenspiel  
1 Tamtam  
Tambourine  
2 Pairs Castanets  
Celesta *ad libitum*

8 First Violins  
8 Second Violins  
8 Third Violins  
6 First Violas (doubling on 4th Violin)  
6 Second Violas  
6 Third Violas  
6 First Cellos  
6 Second Cellos  
8 Double Basses

2 Harps (if possible, 4)

(There are also steer horns played on and offstage.)