human activity that Richard Wagner's 'Der Ring des Nibelungen': Medieval, Pagan. In the 1840s Richard Wagner (1813–1883) began to develop cycle, Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung), was the most complete expression of his artistic philosophy. Ezio Pinza as Don Giovanni, n.d. New York Times Studio. Berg studied counterpoint, theory, harmony, and composition with