

## **ABSTRACT**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** Elsa's Dream: Inspiration and Musical Development in

Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*

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Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin* bridges the gap of musical style between his operas and music dramas. Characteristics of French Grand Opera, Italian bel canto, and German Romantic opera are all found in *Lohengrin*, as is the influence of Giuseppe Verdi and Carl Maria von Weber. Elements of both Christian and Greek mythology are central to the plot of *Lohengrin* and are seamlessly combined to form a story rich in fantasy. This creative project paper explores Elsa's Act I aria "Einsam in trüben Tagen" or "Elsa's Dream," as it chronicles the tale of Elsa and the Swan Knight, and acts as a catalyst for the rest of the action in the opera. Comparisons between *Lohengrin* and Wagner's later music dramas are examined, as well as the main motives in the opera.