

NAXOS

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Playing Time  
68:04

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Following Norway's independence from Denmark, granted in 1814, many Norwegian composers, schooled in the German romantic tradition, began to look for a specifically Norwegian idiom inspired by folk-song, dance and poetry. This collection of Norwegian classical favourites ranges from pieces by Grieg, Sinding and Svendsen to works by their lesser-known contemporaries, many of which, including Hanssen's *Valdres-March* (one of 'The Ten Best Marches in the World'), Halvorsen's march the *Entry of the Boyars* (for many years the signature tune for a radio classical request programme, and his most performed work) and the *Funeral March* of Ole Olsen, the 'world's most northern composer', are deserving of wider recognition.

## NORWEGIAN CLASSICAL FAVOURITES

Edvard GRIEG (1843-1907): Peer Gynt Suite, Op. 46

1 Morning mood 4:02

2 In the Hall of the Mountain King 2:39

Christian SINDING (1856-1941): Six Pieces for Pianoforte, Op. 32

3 Rustle of Spring, Op. 32 2:40

Agathe BACKER GRØNDAHL (1847-1907): Fantasy Pieces, Op. 45

4 Summer Song 2:25

Johan SVENDSEN (1840-1911):

5 The Wedding at Dovre 5:36

6 Norwegian Artist's Carnival, Op. 14 6:47

7 Johannes HANSEN (1874-1967): Valdres-Marsch 3:45

8 Johan HALVORSEN (1864-1935): Entry of the Boyars 4:34

9 Ole OLSEN (1850-1927): Funeral March, Op. 41 4:12

Rikard NORDRAAK (1842-1866): Maria Stuart (Arr. Halvorsen)

10 Purpose 3:46

11 Valse Caprice 2:29

12 Sigurd ISLANDSMOEN (1881-1964): Forest Clearing, Op. 15 4:31

Arne EGGEN (1881-1955): Liti Kersti Suite

13 Bjørgulv the Fiddler 4:37

14 SVENDSEN: Festive Polonaise, Op. 12 8:04

15 GRIEG: Norwegian Dance No. 2, Op. 35 2:28

16 GRIEG: Two Elegiac Melodies, Op. 34: No. 2: Last Spring 5:30

Iceland Symphony Orchestra • Bjarte Engeset

Recorded at the Concert Hall of the ISO, Reykjavik, 18th - 21st June and 24th - 28th June 2002

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(Bonhams, London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library)