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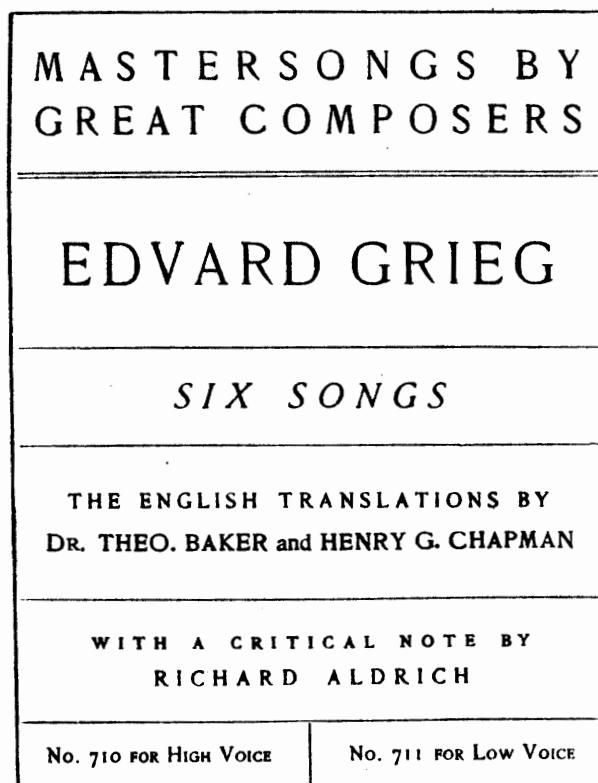
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Schirmer's Library of Musical Classics

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EDVARD HAGERUP GRIEG

A CRITICAL NOTE BY

RICHARD ALDRICH

One of the characteristic achievements of the nineteenth century in music was its exploitation of the folksong element in artistic production. It cannot be called a discovery of the nineteenth century, for the influence of this element had previously made itself felt—in the work of Haydn, for instance, it has been conclusively shown that Croatian folk-tunes appear as a heritage from his Croatian ancestry. But the nationalizing tendency is most conspicuously represented to our minds by the names of Chopin, Liszt, Smetana, Dvorák, Grieg. With them there was a deliberate purpose to look for inspiration in the traditional lore of the common people, to return to the soil and to native simplicity and freshness. These men used these sources in various ways and in various measure. But none have been so zealous or so thorough-going in their cultivation of the dialect of the common people, as Grieg; none have transferred the spirit of popular music so undiluted into the sophisticated forms of art, as he. Grieg has deliberately surrendered the larger outlook, to make himself the representative and exponent of the Scandinavian in music. There are moments in some of his earliest works when we can see a power and a poetic imagination that remind us of Schubert, and that tempt us to regret that he has not developed his gifts in a broader way, within a less limited horizon. But be that as it may, within his chosen sphere he has reached an artistic stature that has made him one of the most striking figures in the world of music to-day. He has found a new note, struck a new accent, that have exerted a spell wherever music is cultivated. He had predecessors, but none who in anything like the same measure identified themselves with the Scandinavian feeling or succeeded in stamping their productions so clearly with the Norse hall-mark. Grieg's music came upon the world with the force of absolute novelty, and its freshness of form and its originality of content seemed irresistible.

It proclaimed an individuality which was almost arrogantly assertive, yet full of insinuating grace and haunting charm, and of the poetic beauty of the romantic composers. Its appeal was instant, and its appreciation immediately assured.

Edvard Hagerup Grieg was born at Bergen, in Norway, on June 15, 1843, and gained his first training from his mother, who was an excellent pianist. On Ole Bull's advice, he was sent to the Leipzig Conservatory, in 1858, where he remained four years. In that austere school of musical propriety the spirit of Schumann and Mendelssohn had not yet disappeared beneath the pedantic dust that has since settled there, and there was at work among the students a spirit of progress such that when Grieg left the Conservatory, only nineteen years old, he had kept the ardor of his youth undimmed. He himself has told the story of his discovery of the field for artistic exploitation that lay in the music of his native land, through the influence of Rikard Nordraak, a young Norwegian musician whose early death has been unceasingly deplored by his compatriots. It was nothing less than a new movement in music that these young revolutionaries planned. Grieg resolved to work in this field; to make music in the artistic forms that should be aggressively and uncompromisingly Scandinavian in color and feeling. There was to be a crusade against the "effeminate Mendelssohnian-Gade Scandinavianism;" and though he studied under Gade himself in Copenhagen after his course at Leipzig, this was not destined to prevent his self-dedication to Norse ideals.

There is internal evidence in his works that these ideals did not come to him at the very outset of his career as a composer. What we know as distinctively and significantly Grieg's manner is not revealed in his first publications. His Opus 1 is a modest little set of four pieces for piano-forte, in which the paramount spirit is that of Schumann. His first songs come next in order—a set of four for alto voice, to words by Chamisso and Heine. Op. 4 is another set of six verses of the same poets, with one poem by Hans Christian Andersen. His next publication was entirely devoted to the poetry of Andersen; and thenceforth he is to be found engaged more generally with the lyrics of the Scandinavians—Ibsen, Björnson, Andersen, Munch, Richardt, Moe, Paulsen, Vinje and others. This is coincident with

the appearance of the first evidences of the young Norwegian's deliberate change of style, manifested perhaps more aggressively in his piano pieces, through the Scandanavian spirit also breathes through many of his songs from this period.

Grieg's life has been uneventful, spent largely in Bergen, his birthplace, and Christiania, where he conducted a musical organization, founded by himself, from 1867 to 1880. Previous to this, in 1865, he had visited Italy, and did so again in 1870, associating much with Liszt in Rome. We can find in some of his songs reminiscences of these visits—such as that entitled "Vom Monte Pincio"; but he has seldom strayed far from his chosen path among the Norwegian fjords and mountains and cliffs and upland meadows, intimately communing with the peasants and their life, which he has interpreted in his music. He has made artistic journeys to Germany and to England, where he has appeared not seldom as a performer and conductor of his own compositions, and has received much honor.

Grieg is essentially a worker in miniature. His genius is lyric, and finds its aptest expression in the smaller forms—in the songs, and the little piano pieces for two and four hands, which have all won a permanent place, it would seem in the hearts of music lovers. The finest flowers of his creations are perhaps the songs; upon them the touch of genius has been laid, and it may be that in them will lie the surest foundation of a lasting fame for Greig's musicianship. We find in them the idiom, the phraseology that we have learned to be characteristic of Scandanavian music, but with less of the mannerism to which Greig's nationalism has sometimes impelled him in the pianoforte pieces. The character of the melody, its fall and cadence, and the harmonic color, are unmistakable. In many of them there is an indescribable charm, a haunting sadness and tenderness; in others a rugged vigor and energy or a humorous gayety. They are always at once individual and full of the racial strain. But this strain is less insisted upon, less exclusively to the fore, in them than in the piano works. They give the impression, on the whole, of greater spontaneity, and they speak a more universal language. They are precious additions to the modern literature of song, and will not soon lose their hold upon the hearts of the lovers of lyric melody.

RICHARD ALDRICH.

EDVARD GRIEG
SIX SONGS

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Die Rosenknospe.

The Rosebud.

German words after the Danish of
H. C. Andersen.

Original key A^b major.

Allegretto e leggiero.

Gesang. *con mezza voce*

1. Ro - sen - knos - pe, zart und rund,
2. Ich will beichten, wie man muss:

Voice. *con mezza voce*

1. Rosebud rare with ros - y tip,
2. I'll con - fess me, as one ought,

Piano. { *p* *Rit.* *

lieb - lich wie_ ein_ Mädchen - mund! Küss' ich dich als mei - ne Braut,
Nie noch gab_ ich_ ei - nen Kuss! Kei - ne Maid er - war - tet mich,

Thou art sweet as maid-en - lip, Kiss I thee as bride of mine,
Ne'er be - fore a__ kiss I sought, There's no maid that waits for me,

{ *Rit.* *

wirst du schö - ner_ stets ge - schaut.
Ro - se, ich_ muss küs - sen dich!

Fair - er yet_ thy_ grac - es shine.
Rose-bud, there - fore I kiss thee!

Lass_ noch_
Du_ nur_

One_ more_
All_ my_

rit. *a tempo*

ei - nen Kuss dir_ ge - - - ben, fühl' mein
bist mein Glück, mein Le - - - ben, fühl' mein

pp

kiss ere I de - part, sweet! Feel my
joy, my life_ thou art, sweet! Feel my

rit. *a tempo*

pp

Be - - ben!
Be - - ben!

heart beat!
heart beat!

p

con mezza voce

3. Geb' ein Lied dir, wenn du küssst, und wenn einst ich Staub dann bin,
 4. Dänmarks Mädchen, wenn ich schied, sa - gen wohl bei je - dem Lied:

con mezza voce

3. For thy kiss a song I'll give, And when I shall cease to live,
 4. Denmark's maidens, when I die, At my ev - 'ry song shall cry:

Piano accompaniment consisting of two staves. The top staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. The bottom staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. Measures are separated by vertical bar lines. The first and third measures have repeat dots at the end. The second and fourth measures have asterisks at the end.

ruft mein Lied dir laut noch zu: Kei - ne küss - te mich. Nur du
 „Küs - sen möcht' ich ihn da - für!“ Schön ge - sagt, was nützt es mir?

Piano accompaniment consisting of two staves. The top staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. The bottom staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. Measures are separated by vertical bar lines. The first and third measures have repeat dots at the end. The second and fourth measures have asterisks at the end.

Piano accompaniment consisting of two staves. The top staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. The bottom staff shows eighth-note chords in the right hand and sixteenth-note patterns in the left hand. Measures are separated by vertical bar lines. The first and third measures have repeat dots at the end. The second and fourth measures have asterisks at the end.

rit. a tempo

hast mir Küs - se je ge - ge - - - ben,
Müsst mir d'rum bei mei - nem Le - - - ben
rit. *a tempo*

Didst for_ me with kiss e'er part, sweet?
Now, ere_ all your kind - ness miss me,

pp *a tempo*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

fühl mein Be - - - ben!
Küs - - - se ge - - - ben!

Feel my heart beat!
Come and kiss me!

p *pp*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

„Ich liebe dich“

“I love thee”

German words translated from the Danish by

F. von Holstein

English version by
Henry G. Chapman

Edvard Grieg

Andante

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is for the Voice, starting with a dotted quarter note followed by a rest. The second staff is for the Piano, starting with a forte dynamic (f) and a series of eighth-note chords. The third staff continues the piano part. The vocal line begins with "Du mein Ge - Thou art my". The piano accompaniment features a sustained bass line and harmonic chords. The vocal line continues with "dan - ke, du mein Sein und Wer - den! thoughts, my pres - ent and my fu - ture," followed by a piano dynamic change to pp. The vocal line concludes with "Her - zens er - ste Se - lig - keit! heart's su - preme, its on - ly joy;". The piano part ends with a final dynamic marking of pp.

Ich lie - be dich wie nichts auf die - ser Er - den, ich lie - be dich, ich
I love thee more than an - y earth-ly crea-ture, I love thee, dear, I

Red.

cresc. sempre

lie - be dich, ich lie - be dich in Zeit und E - wig - keit! Ich
love thee, dear, I love thee now and for e - ter - ni - ty! I

cresc. sempre

ritard.

Red.

Red.

lie - be dich in Zeit und E - wig - keit!
love thee now and for e - ter - ni - ty!

*ff ritard.**mp**dim.*

Red.

Ich den - ke dein, kann stets nur dei - ner den - ken,
One thought of thee all oth - er thought drives from me,

nur deinem
Pledged to thy

*a tempo**pp**pp*

Glück ist die - ses Herz ge-weiht;
 good a - lone this heart shall be;

wie Gott auch
 For to what -

mag des Le-bens Schick - sal len - ken,
 ev - er fate God's will may doom me,

ich lie - be dich, ich
 I love thee, dear, I

cresc. sempre

lie - be dich, ich lie - be dich in Zeit und E - wig-keit! Ich
 love thee, dear, I love thee now and for e - ter - ni - ty, I

ritard.

lie - be dich in Zeit und E - wig-keit!
 love thee now and for e - ter - ni - ty!

ff

dim.

pp

Erstes Begegnen

The First Meeting

German words translated from the Norwegian by

F. von Holstein

English version by

Dr. Theo. Baker

Edvard Grieg

Molto andante.

Des er - sten Se - hens Won - ne ist
The thrill when first fond eyes meet Is -

wie der Duft im Wal - de, wie, ü - ber's Was - ser schal - lend, Ge -
like the balm in for - ests, Like song that on the wa - ters Re -

sang im A - bend - schei - ne, wie Hör - ner - klang ver - hal - lend, wo
sounds in gleam-ing twi - light, Like horns that, faint ly sound - ed, Thrill

più mosso
cresc.

tö - - - nен-de Se - kun - den uns_ den Na - tur - ge - wal - ten so_
on in si - lent hours, When we by Na-ture's pow - ers So_

ppp *rall.* *cresc.*

Red. * *Red.* * *mf*

wun - der - gleich ver - bun - den, wo tö - nen - de Se - kun - - den uns den Na - tur - ge -
strangely nigh_ are bounded, Thrill on in si - lent hours, When we by Na-ture's

più sosten. al Fine

wal - - - ten wun - der - - gleich - ver - - bun - -
pow - - - ers Strange - ly - nigh - are bound - -

più sosten. *f* *dim.*

1. 2.
den. den.
ed. ed.

p *p* *rit.*

Red. * *Red. sempre* *

Solvejg's Lied.

Poem by W. Henzen,
after the Norwegian of H. Ibsen.
English version by Dr.Th.Baker.

Solvejg's Song.

Original key A minor.
Composed 1874.

Un poco andante.

The musical score consists of eight staves of music. The top two staves are for the piano, with the right hand playing melody and the left hand providing harmonic support. The subsequent six staves alternate between piano accompaniment and vocal entries. The vocal parts are in German, with English translations provided below them. The music includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *f*, *dim.*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *cresc.*, and *ped.*. The vocal parts begin with "Der Win - ter mag schei-den, der Früh - ling vergehn, der_ The win - ter may go and the spring may— die, the—" followed by "Früh - ling ver - gehn, der Som - mer mag ver - wel - ken, das spring may— die, The sum - mer may fade and the" and "Jahr verwehn, das Jahr ver - wehn; du kehrest mir zu - rü - cke, ge - year may fly, the year may fly; But thou art sure - ly com - ing, I". The final vocal line is "wiss, du wirst mein, ge - wiss, du wirst mein, ich hab' es ver - spro - chen, ich know thou'l be mine, I know thou'l be mine! My troth I have plight - ed, I'm". The piano parts feature various chords, bass notes, and rhythmic patterns to support the vocal line.

Allegretto con moto.

pp dolce
 har-re treulich dein, ich har-re treu-lich dein. (vor sich hin summend) Ah!
 waiting, ev - er thine, I'm wait-ing, ev - er thine! (humming to herself) Ah!

f p pp una corda
 Ped.
 Ped. simile
 Tempo I. pp Gott
 God
 p tre corde
 hel - fe dir, wenn du die Son - ne noch siehst, die Son - ne noch siehst. Gott
 help thee, whil - ev - er His sun thou dost feel, His sun thou dost feel, God
 seg-ne dich, wenn du zu Fü - ssen ihm kniest, zu Fü - ssen ihm kniest.
 bless thee, when-e'er at His feet thou dost kneel, at His feet thou dost kneel.

Ped. *

Ped. *

poco animato

Ich will dei - ner har - ren bis du mir nah', bis du mir nah', und
 Here I shall a - wait thee till thou art near, till thou art near, And

*poco animato**cresc.**poco sosten.*

harrest du dort o - ben, so tref-fen wir uns da, so tref-fen wir uns da!
 if thou stay up yon-der, then I shall meet thee there, then I shall meet thee there!

*cresc.**f poco sosten.**p**Allegretto con moto.**pp**dolce*

Ah!

Ah!

*Rit.**pp una corda**Tempo I.**pp**tre corde**pp**dim.**pp*

German version by
W. Henzen,
after the Norwegian of
H. Ibsen.

Ein Schwan.

A Swan.

Original key F major.

Andante ben tenuto. *p*

Mein Schwan, mein stil - ler,
My swan, my white one,
mit What

p *più p*
Rwd. * *simile*

wei-ssem Ge-fie - der! dei - ne won - ni - gen Lie - der ver - rieth kein
mute-ness de-lay'd thee? Not a song e'er be - tray'd thee, Nor tone de -

pp *molto legato*

Tril - ler! Ängst - lich sor - gend des
light won. War - y glid - ing Where

dolce poco animato

pp
Rwd.
cresc.

El - fen im Grun - de, glitt's du hor - chend all -
dan - ger might low - er, Shy a - void - ing The

cresc.

Rwd.

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f agitato

zeit in die Run - de.
wa - ter-elf's pow - er,
Und doch bezwangst du zu -
Thou yet didst yield thee, My

più f *rit.*

letzt mich beim Schei - den mit trü - gen-den Ei - den, ja da, — da sangst du!
wait - ing re - ward - ed: What long thou hast guard-ed, Thy song, re - veal'd thee!

tranquillo *p*

Du schlossest sin - gend die ir - di - sche Bahn doch, du starbst ver -
In rap - ture sing - ing Thou heav-en-ward wendest; On song up -

pp tranquillo *p*

klin - gend: Du warst ein Schwan doch!
wing - ing A swan thou end - est! *Lento*
ein Schwan doch!
thou end - est!
(Dr. Th. Baker.)

Mit einer Primula veris
With a Primula Veris

German version by
W. Henzen,
after the Danish of
J. Paulsen

English version by
Dr. Theo. Baker

Edvard Grieg
Composed 1876

Allegretto dolcissimo

Mag dir, du zar - tes Früh - lingskind, dies er - ste Blüm - chen
O may, thou ten - der child of Spring, Her ear - liest bloom de -

from - men, Em - pfang es gern, ver - schmäh' es nicht, weil
light thee, Re - ceive my gift, nor deem it poor When

spä - ter Ro - sen kom - men. Wohl köst - lich ist die
ros - es shall in - vite thee. Tho' rare the sum - mer -

Som - mer - zeit, der time may be, And Herbst er - quickt das Au - tumn warms the Herz, _____ heart, _____ Yet

Lenz doch ist der Spring is rar - est Won-nig-ste mit of them all, When Lie - bes - lust und Love de - ploys his Scherz. _____ Für art. _____ For

a tempo
uns, o hol - de us, O fair - est Maid, er - glüht des maid, the sun Of Früh - lings Mor - gen - son - ne; so spring - tide morn is glowing, So

mf
nim' die Blum' und take the flow'r, and gieb da - für give there-for dein A Herz mit sei - ner Won - ne! a heart with joy_ o'er - flow-ing!

dim. e poco rit.

p

mf dim. e poco rit. p

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Abbreviations: e. for English; g. for German; i. for Italian; sop. for soprano; m.-sop. for mezzo-soprano; bar. for baritone; ten. for tenor

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