

The Works of Edvard Hagerup Grieg

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Seed
Learning





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Who was Edvard Hagerup Grieg?

Edvard Hagerup Grieg was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1843. He came from a very musical home. His mother, who was a concert pianist, was his first piano teacher.

During his childhood, Grieg went to several schools, where he was regularly bullied by his classmates. The piano became his escape from his bullies, so he spent a lot of time alone playing piano music.

↪ A Norwegian stamp with a portrait of Grieg



Bergen, Norway



He quickly became a highly talented pianist at a very early age and started composing when he was quite young as well. At the age of fifteen, Grieg entered the Leipzig Conservatory, a respected music school in Germany. Unsurprisingly, he concentrated on studying the piano. He really enjoyed all the concerts and recitals that he was able to attend in Leipzig. However, he did not enjoy being a student at the Conservatory. Despite his dislike of the school, he still did well there.



Leipzig, Germany, where
Grieg studied music



Grieg's home
in Bergen



Traveling opens up
the world to us all ...



... and music is an
international language!

Grieg had the opportunity to travel around Europe, which greatly helped him in his career. He was able to meet other musicians who influenced him, shaping who he would become and what he would write.

In 1863, Grieg went to Copenhagen and met the Norwegian composer Rikard Nordraak, who had composed Norway's national anthem. Nordraak showed him how wonderful Norwegian folk music was.

Grieg had not heard any Norwegian folk music until Nordraak introduced him to it. This was a turning point in his career. From then on, the music he wrote was often inspired by this music. When Nordraak died, Grieg composed a funeral march in his honor.

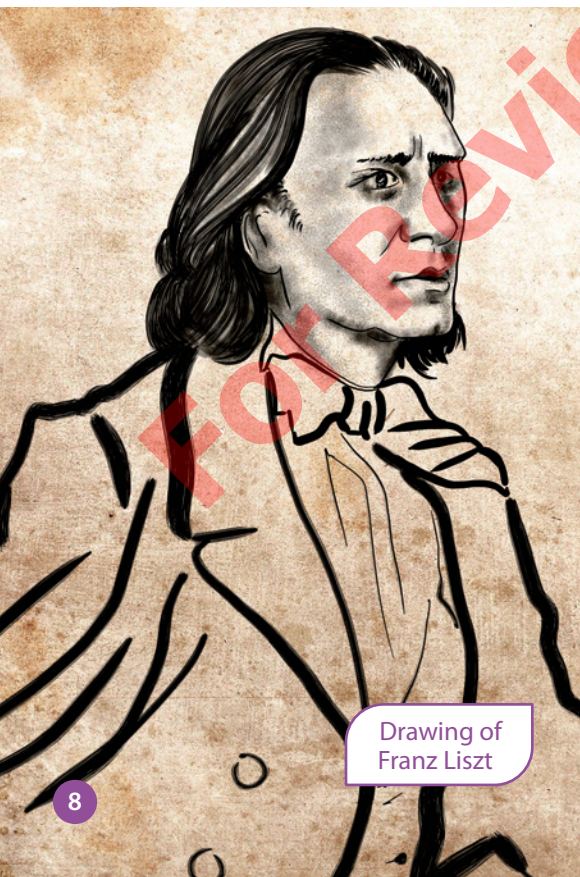
Rikard
Nordraak



A Norwegian
folk violinist



In 1870, Grieg met the great Hungarian pianist Franz Liszt in Rome. They played Grieg's *Violin Sonata No. 1* together, which Liszt was quite excited about.



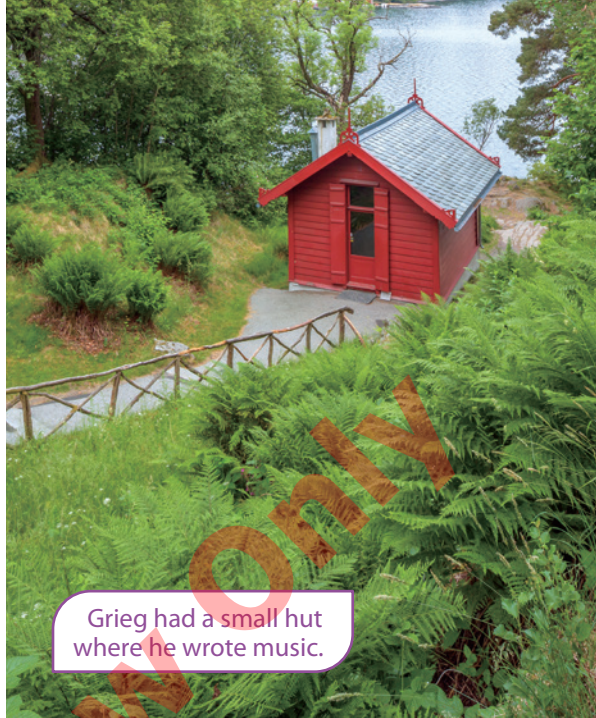
Drawing of
Franz Liszt



Playing
together!



Grieg wrote much of his music on this piano.



Grieg had a small hut where he wrote music.

Grieg spent most of his time conducting and playing the piano in concerts across Europe. At these concerts, he performed only his own works.

In 1903, Grieg also made some gramophone recordings of his piano pieces. These are some of the very first recordings that were ever made. The sound quality is not very good, but they show that Grieg was an excellent pianist.

A gramophone ➡





The strange and interesting grave of Edvard Grieg and his wife Nina, in Bergen

Grieg died in 1907 after suffering from breathing problems for most of his life. At his funeral, thousands and thousands of people went out on the streets of his hometown to honor him.



↑ Grieg and his wife in 1899

Following his wishes, his own funeral march for Rikard Nordraak was played, as well as the funeral march by Frédéric Chopin.