

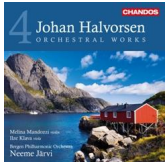
## Halvorsen - Orchestral Works Vol 4 ( Jarvi) [2012]

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 19 February 2015 17:03 -

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- 1 Rhapsodie norvegienne No. 1 10:41 *Allegro giocoso - Piu mosso - Andante - Ein wenig belebter - Allegro moderato* 2 Rhapsodie norvegienne No. 2 11:49 *Allegretto con spirito - Poco meno - A tempo, ma un poco più mosso - Meno mosso -*
- 3 Brudefølget drager forbi (Norwegian Bridal Procession) 3:29 *Alla marcia*
- 4 Passacaglia, Op. 20 No. 2 (Duo for violin and viola) 7:10 *Largamente - Con agilito - Andante - Molto energico - Allegro con fuoco*  
Melina Mandozzi- violin Ilze Klava - viola 5 Dance Scene from 'Queen Tamara' 4:21 *Allegretto - Allegro - Piu allegro - Presto - Furioso e prestissimo*
- 6 Symphonic Intermezzo from 'The King' 8:27 *Moderato assai - Moderato - Piu lento - Piu lento - Piu mosso - Moderato assai - Andante*
- 7 Norsk Festouverture, Op. 16 7:59 *Moderato molto - Allegro moderato - Piu mosso - Un poco piu lento - Piu mosso - Pomposo*
- Suite from the Play Peik og Stortroldet (Peik and the Giant Troll) by Adam Hiorth (1879-1961)
- 8 I Peik, Prinsessen og Stortroldet. *Allegro, non troppo, Tranquillo - Tempo I - Con brio - 5:53*
- 9 Trolldmoernes Dans. *Allegretto - Tempo di Valse moderato - Coda. Piu mosso - 4:32*
- 10 II Prinsessen kommer ridende pa Bjornen. *Moderato molto 3:12*
- 11 III Troldenes Indtog I Berget det bla. *Molto moderato (a la burla) - 1:28*
- 12 IV Dans av Smatroid. *Allegro molto - Furioso - Molto meno mosso - Allegro molto - Furioso - Presto - Pesante 3:03*
- 72:53 Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra Neeme Jarvi – conductor

This is the fourth and final volume of colourful and highly appealing orchestral works by the Norwegian composer Johan Halvorsen.

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Based on the Passacaille (Chaconne) from the Harpsichord Suite No. 7 in G minor by Handel, Halvorsen's Passacaglia is a virtuosic duo for solo violin and viola, later made world famous by artists such as Leopold Auer and Jascha Heifetz. It starts as a simple arrangement of Handel's original score, but after the presentation of the theme and the first three variations it gradually differs more and more, until it finally frees itself entirely from the original and becomes pure 'Halvorsen'.

Halvorsen wrote extensively for the stage, and his lifelong fascination with 'exotic' elements in music is evident in the 'Dance Scene' from the incidental music to Knut Hamsun's Queen Tamara, a historical play set in the Caucasus. In contrast, the Symphonic Intermezzo from the music to Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's The King is presented in the form of a tone poem, its language strongly influenced by the musical universe of Liszt and Wagner.

Also on this disc is Halvorsen's orchestration of Grieg's piano piece Norwegian Bridal Procession. Other orchestral versions exist, among others by Frederick Delius, but in Grieg's eyes only a native Norwegian could portray rural Norway in music without becoming too romantic or picturesque. Halvorsen's lush, but non-idealising orchestration proved an immediate success, and at concerts and in the theatre over the next twenty-six years Halvorsen conducted the work at least 140 times.

He considered his Norwegian Fairy Tale Pictures to be one of his best works. The suite is vividly programmatic, drawn from music that he had written for a children's comedy: violins portray the fairy tale hero, the flute plays the part of the abducted princess, while the villainous troll is represented by a motif in the bass. --- chandos.net

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