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It's all Grieg to me

program

(sequence to be announced)

Grieg Complete Violin Sonatas

Sonata No.1 in F major for Violin and Piano, op.8

I. Allegro con brio

II. Allegretto quasi andantino

III. Allegro molto vivace

Sonata No.2 in G major for Violin and Piano, op.13

I. Lento doloroso – Allegro vivace

II. Allegretto tranquillo

III. Allegro animato

Sonata No.3 in C minor for Violin and Piano, op.45

I. Allegro molto ed appassionato

II. Allegretto espressivo alla Romanza

III. Allegro animato— Prestissimo

program notes

The works on this evening's program will be recorded for Centaur Records between May 7th and May 12th and will be formally released during a September tour in Norway. Concerts are scheduled in Grieg's own home in Bergen, and in the cities of Alesund, Oslo, Grimstad, and others.

[Violin Sonata No. 1 in F major, Op. 8](#)

Grieg composed this sonata in the summer of 1865 while on holiday with Benjamin Feddersen in Rungsted, Denmark, near Copenhagen. The piece was composed shortly after his only piano sonata was completed that same summer.

Concerning the piece, Norwegian composer Gerhard Schjelderup commented: it is "the work of a youth who has seen only the sunny side of life." Despite this, many sections of the work are quite dark and turbulent.

[Violin Sonata No. 2 in G major, Op. 13](#)

This sonata was dedicated to Norwegian composer and violinist Johan Svendsen.

On the second sonata, Schjelderup remarked: it is "the gift to the world of a man who has also shivered in the cold mists of night." Also, due to the sonata's tragic qualities, he considered the piece more Norwegian than the first sonata and "a Norway without tragedy is not a complete Norway."

When Grieg presented the sonata to his teacher Niels Gade, he proclaimed the work "too Norwegian" and professed that his next sonata should be less Norwegian. Grieg, reportedly, in defiance claimed that his next sonata would be even more Norwegian.

[Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45](#)

Grieg began composing his third and final violin sonata in the autumn of 1886. Whereas the first two sonatas were written in a matter of weeks, this sonata took him several months to complete.

The sonata remains the most popular of the three works, and has established itself in the standard repertoire. The work was also a personal favorite of Grieg's. The sonata premiered with Grieg himself at the piano with well-known violinist Adolph Brodsky in Leipzig. To a certain extent, Grieg built on Norwegian folk melodies and rhythms in this three-movement sonata. However, Grieg considered the second sonata as the "Norwegian" sonata, while the third sonata was "the one with the broader horizon." [6]

This was the last piece Grieg composed using sonata form. (*above from Wikipedia*)

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