

Edvard Grieg - Cello Sonata Op.36 – Lyric Suite Op.54

Written by bluesever

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Cello Sonata In A Minor, Op. 36 1. *Allegro Agitato* 2. *Andante Molto Tranquillo* 3. *Allegro Molto E Marcato*
Havard Gimse – Piano Oystein Birkeland -
Cello, 1993 Lyric Suite Op.54 4.
Shepherds_Boy 5. *Bell-Ringing* 6. *Norwegian March* 7. *Notturmo* 8. *March of the Trolls*
Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra Paavo Jarvi – conductor, 1986

For some, it comes as a great surprise that Edvard Grieg's catalog contains five sonatas: one for piano solo, three for violin and piano, and one for cello and piano. All of these but two -- the third and last violin sonata (Op. 45) and the Cello Sonata -- are very early works, composed by Grieg in the mid-1860s. The Sonata for cello and piano in A minor, Op. 36 (1883), on the other hand, is the work of a composer almost 20 years older; while Grieg's frustrations and difficulties with traditional genres (sonata, string quartet, symphony, and the like) are well-documented in his personal letters, the Cello Sonata's urgent and energetic dramatic thrust, as well as voluptuous, satiny songfulness, have ensured its position as one of the three or four best-loved late nineteenth century cello sonatas.

Edvard Grieg composed and published about 60 so-called "Lyric Pieces" for piano over a period of almost 40 years, from the time of his first real creative outpouring to just a few years before his death in 1907. The six Lyric Pieces contained in Opus 54 are considered to be some of his finest products, and it is not surprising that he selected four of them for the charming orchestral Lyric Suite. --- Blair Johnston, Rovi

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