SONG OF NORWAY

Velkommen to our 25th Season

COLORFUL, FAMILY MUSICAL

A MT. HOREB PRODUCTION
About the "Song of Norway"

Song of Norway is a fictionalized account of the life of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. His music is renowned for its eloquent use of folk themes and songs, unique harmonizations, and for embodying the Norwegian national spirit of independence. Nina Hagerup, a cousin of Grieg was not only his childhood sweetheart, but also a noted singer and musician, and his wife.

The independent spirit and uniqueness of Norwegian music animates Song of Norway. In the first scene, the poet Rikard Nordraak extols Norway’s ancient sagas and scenic marvels. He is busy working on what he intends to be the great national Norwegian epic poem, which Grieg has promised to set to music.

These plans are thwarted by a globe-trotting opera diva known as Louisa Giovanni and the Countess Le Loup. The Countess is looking for a colorful ethnic experience in Bergen during the Midsummer Festival, but finds instead Grieg, a musical genius, whom she hopes to promote musically and to woo from the land of his birth and his bride-to-be. She attempts ploy after ploy—finally dashing off to Copenhagen unexpectedly, with Grieg in tow.

In Act 2, Grieg finds himself caught up in the world of the celebrity. His mother perceives that he is a Norwegian at heart, and that only a marriage to Nina will resolve his unhappiness. She persuades Nina to take matters in her own hands and announce the wedding day.

At the same time, the Countess arranges for Grieg to write incidental music of Henrik Ibsen’s famous play Peer Gynt. The Countess makes her dramatic statement; then Nina boldly confronts the situation with announces the impending marriage. A series of dramatic musical numbers results and Rikard, who is near death, proclaims his despair about ever hearing music written by Grieg for his epic poem, and all the principals vocally express their different emotions in a stunningly beautiful finaletto at the end of the first scene of Act 2.

Not to be outdone, the Countess hatches yet another plot, hoping to get Grieg to finish Peer Gynt and to send Nina packing back to Norway. This takes place in a Rome chocolate shop, and nearly drives her impresario mad.

The Peer Gynt ballet is finally staged at a gala in the Countess’ Roman villa, but without Grieg, who has become too morose to confront the two dilemmas: Nina versus the Countess; Grieg a Norwegian composer working outside his element. In the end, love, Norway, and Nina conquer all. Grieg returns to Norway and becomes a national institution.
Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1:
Trolldhaugen (Hill of Trolls), outside Bergen, Norway, Midsummer’s Eve in the 1860s.
"The Legend" ................................................................. Rikard
"Hill of Dreams" ...................................................... Nina, Edvard, Rikard

Scene 2:
A square on the outskirts of Bergen.
Maypole and Spring dances
"Freddy and His Fiddle" .................. Einar, Sigrid, Freddy, Chorus
"Now" ............................................................. Louisa, Chorus
"Strange Music" ...................................................... Edvard, Nina
"Midsummer's Eve" ........................................... Rikard, Louisa
"March of the Trolgers" ................................. Chorus
"Hymn of Betrothal" ................................. Mother Grieg, Chorus
Finale ................................................................. Company

Intermission, 15 minutes

ACT II

Scene 1
Copenhagen, a reception room of the Royal Conservatory, one year later
"Bon Vivant" ................................................. Edvard, Peppi, 4 Women, Chorus
"Three Loves" ............................................... Louisa, Edvard
"Rikard’s Farewell" ........................................ Rikard
"Finaletto" ......................................................... Company

Scene 2
Rome, Tito’s Chocolate Shop, one year later

Scene 3
Rome, Ballroom of Villa Pincio
"Anitra’s Dance" (Peer Gynt Ballet) ...................... Adelina
"I Love You" ...................................................... Nina

Scene 4
Edvard Grieg’s Home, Trolldhaugen, Sometime later
"At Christmastime" ...................... Father and Mother Grieg, Nina, Children

Scene 5
"Spirit of Norway"
"North Wind"
Finale ................................................................. Company
CAST

Rikard Nordraak - Rik Rickerson
Sigrid - Kristin Haglund
Einar - Dan Brice
Gunnar - Matt Hall
Christa - Shereen Esser
Grima - Nicole McLoughlin
Hedda - Sarah Haebig
Nina Hagerup - Ami Bouterse
Edvard Grieg - Thomas Black
Father Grieg - Richard Ostern
Father Nordraak - Greg Dennis
Mother Grieg - Shirley Archer
Freddy the Fiddler - Patty Schlafer
Count Peppi Le Loup - Don Parrell
Louisa Giovanni - Susan Boerth
Professor - Dwayne Garfoot
Miss Norden - Sherri Hefty
Elvera - Sarah Haebig
Hedwig - Nicole McLoughlin
Greta - Kaia Bakken
Margareta - Bethany Homrig
Miss Anders - Shereen Esser
Henrik Ibsen - Michael Mudrey
Tito - Mickey Lipska
Pisoni - Matthew Horn
Adelina - Julia Barker
Butler - Dwayne Garfoot
Spirit of Norway - Julia Barker
North Wind - Todd Haglund

CHORUS

Soprano/Alto
Dianne Cerling, Carol Dann,
Donna Disney, Joanne Hall,
Jeanne Hefty, Grace Lashly, Terry
Leigh, Tee Parrell, Tami Phillips,
Stacey Rosenbaum, Marilyn
Roum, Rachel Soltis

Tenor/Bass
Russ Davis, Dave Dybdahl,
Gerald Haglund, Dean Hefty,
Chuck Roum

MAYPOLE DANCERS
Erica Bakken, Chelsea Black, Lee
Black, Sarah Brue, Dan Cerling,
Kristin Cerling, Emily Davis, Sheila
Davis, Marit Hall, Alyssa Haebig,
Mitchell Hall, Amber Janssen, Elise
Janssen, Tanya Pladziewicz, Sara
Pladziewicz, Jenny Walker

SPRING DANCERS
Kaia Bakken, Dan Brice, Shereen
Esser, Sarah Haebig, Kristin
Haglund, Matt Hall, Bethany
Homrig, Caroline Horn, Matt Horn,
Erik Knudtson, Mickey Lipska,
Nicole McLoughlin, Scott Phillips

ACCOMPANIST - Barbara Brekke

STAGE & MUSIC DIRECTOR - William Janssen
CHOREOGRAPHER - Julia Barker
STAGE MANAGER - Gregory Dennis
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR - Trygve Haglund
BACKSTAGE CREW
Steve Hall, Brian McLoughlin, Ken Cerling

PROPS
DeAnne Horn

COSTUMES
Pat Phillips (Head), Paula Craft, Sue Brice, Mary Carol Esser, Shereen Esser, Pat Harper, DeAnne Horn, Lynn Mudrey, Vicky Rosenbaum, Sheila Williams

MAKE-UP
Simone McLoughlin (Head), Sue Walker, Diane Pladziewicz, Gina Sluiter

TECHNICAL CREW
Trygve Heglund (Head), Joan Heglund, Ben Johnson, Brett Phillips

USHERS
Dean Hefty (Head), Gert Brager, Marcia Brue, Marlyn Grinde, Milo & Gladys Grundahl, Sherri Hefty, Jerry & Julie Landmark, Ken & Edna Helgeson, Melba Huset, Russell & Delores Jelle, Alvin Jones, Emma Lund, Chuck & Bark Morkri, Les & Hilda Oimoen, Chuck & Marilyn Roum

ADMISSIONS

SONG OF NORWAY DANCERS
Jeanne & Dean Hefty (Directors), Gert Brager, Dan & Marcia Brue, Carol Dann, Dwayne Garfoot, Jerry Heglund, Sherri Hefty, Joe Ignatious, Jerry & Julie Landmark, Mike Mudrey, Don & Marguerite Parrell, Charles & Marilyn Roum

SPECIAL THANKS TO...
Dean Hefty, Hefty Builders - for stage construction
Ervin Howery Mickey Lipska, Tom Disney, Brett Phillips,
Scott Phillips, Tami Phillips, Russ Davis - for site preparation and repairs
Mt. Horeb Middle School - for rain location
Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce - for advertising
Anchor Saving & Loan - for underwriting choreography
Symdion Motors - for truck in parade
Phil Martin and Mike Mudrey - for coordinating Fiddle Fest
State Bank of Mt. Horeb - for TV ads
Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce - for advertising
John Ellestad - for use of chairs
Mt. Horeb High School - for rehearsal space
Cave of the Mounds - for general support and assistance
Sons of Norway Venneleg 513 - for general assistance
Wisconsin Power and Light - for light pole replacement
Musical adaptation and lyrics by Robert Wright & George Forrest
Book by Milton Lazarus from a play by Homer Curran
Choral and orchestra arrangements by Arthur Kay
Music by Edvard Grieg

In arrangement with music and dialogue material furnished by
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1991 Performances (25th season)
July 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27
8:00 pm

On the Grounds of Cave of the Mounds, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin
In case of rain, performances are at the Mt. Horeb Middle School,
207 Academy Str., Mt. Horeb.

Rain Date:
If rain forces cancellation of the show before intermission, refunds will be
made. Mail ticket stub to: SONG OF NORWAY FESTIVAL, LTD.

PRODUCED BY
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