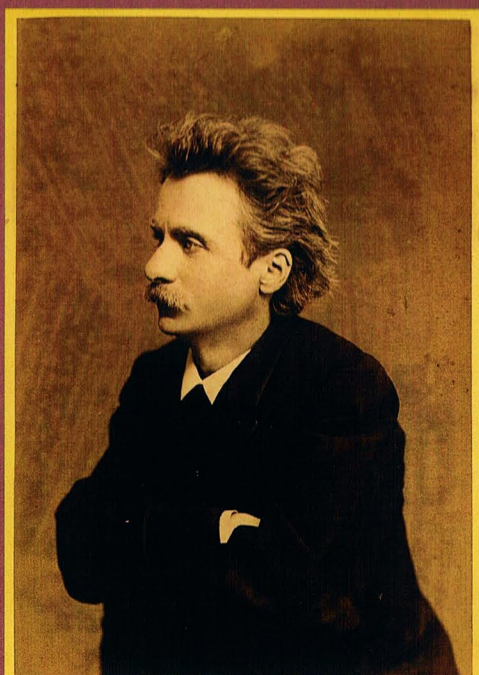


The Grieg Journal

Volume 8 : 2015



H.A. EYDE'S KUNSTHANDEL, BERGEN

Published by The Grieg Society of Great Britain (founded in 1992)
Royal Norwegian Embassy, 25 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QD

THE GRIEG JOURNAL | VOLUME 8 : 2015



The Grieg Journal

Studies and Commentaries on the life & work of
Edvard Hagerup Grieg (1843-1907)

Volume 8 : 2015



Motoki Hirai

A Note on my 'Hommage à Grieg'

The distinguished pianist and composer writes on his commemorative solo piano piece, originally written to mark the centenary of Edvard Grieg's death.

Whilst receiving its world première in London's Wigmore Hall in 2007 commemorating the centenary of Edvard Grieg's death, 'Hommage à Grieg' was originally conceived in 1987.

From early childhood I have been familiar with and greatly admired the work of Grieg and have always enjoyed listening to the composer playing his own compositions on old gramophone records that he made in 1903. Amazing as it may sound, the composer appeared one night in my dream, seated at his old upright piano with candlesticks smiling and improvising especially for me in his studio in Troidhaugen. On waking I

immediately jotted down what I had heard and that formed the basis of the piece.

In this piece I have tried to capture through a tone picture the unique stillness of Nordic nature and atmosphere which Grieg himself would have experienced especially in the winter. In the middle section I have included what I imagine to be the sounds of reindeer sleighrides gradually approaching from afar, whilst the distinctive and increasing sounds of numerous church bells being rung in harmony by campanologists throughout old Bergen where the composer grew up.

You can listen to the piece in the following YouTube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0KP7y8TcQQ>