



Gade
&
Grieg
piano works

jouni
somero
piano



Niels Wilhelm Gade (1817–1890) was a prominent figure in the musical life of Denmark. He was a versatile musician – violinist, organist, conductor and composer – but not really a pianist, which seems strange in the light of his **Sonata in E Minor Op. 28**. For the sonata is technically challenging for the pianist and its themes inventive, natural and skilfully developed. The feverish finale rounds the work off in splendid style. At around the time it was written (1840), Chopin, Schumann and Liszt were composing their greatest works for solo piano. The sonata by the 23-year-old Gade deserves to be played alongside the masterpieces by these composers.

In 1842, Gade composed a symphony and sent it to Felix Mendelssohn for assessment. Mendelssohn was very taken with it and conducted it in March the following year. The reception was ecstatic. Inspired, maybe, by its success, Gade moved to Leipzig, became friends with Mendelssohn and conducted the premiere of Mendelssohn's since popular E minor Violin Concerto in 1845. Three years later, he returned to Copenhagen and took over at the helm of the Copenhagen Musical Society. He was also organist of Copenhagen Cathedral, director of the city's Academy of Music and its teacher of composition.

It was during Gade's term as director that **Edvard Grieg** (1843–1907) studied composition there from 1863 to 1866. Grieg would later become a major influence in Norwegian music, just as Gade was in Danish. He composed his **Sonata in E Minor Op. 7** in 1865, near the end of his studies with Gade. Dedicated to his teacher, it is in the same key as Gade's Op. 28 sonata. Both sonatas represent the *tour de force* of a young composer; Gade was 22 when he composed his, and Grieg 23. Grieg wrote prolifically for the piano, but only two large-scale keyboard works: the Sonata Op. 7 and the Piano Concerto Op. 16.

The two movements on this disc from the collection of *Lyric Pieces* are beautiful, flowing and, as their name suggests, lyrical. Grieg appears to have cherished fond memories of Gade, for the sunny A major miniature Op. 57/2 composed in the year of his teacher's death is titled **"Gade"**.

Jouni Somero Translation Susan Sinisalo

Jouni Somero (b. 1963) is one of the most active Finnish musicians on the scene today. So far he has given over 2,600 concerts all over the world, including Australia, Japan, Ukraine, Germany, Sweden, Estonia, Kosovo, Russia, Brazil, Canada and Finland. He began studying the organ when

he was eight years old but switched to the piano at the age of 12, studying the latter in Switzerland and at the Music Academy in Cologne under Professor Herbert Drechsel. Under the legendary Hungarian pianist Georges Cziffra he gained a deeper insight into the music of Liszt. Michael Ponti, the American virtuoso, has also acted as Somero's musical advisor. From 1981 to 1989 Somero lived in Germany, working as an assistant at the Music Academy of Düsseldorf and in other capacities. Since 1990 he has pursued his career solely as a concert pianist. He was awarded a diploma at the International Music Competition in Rio de Janeiro.

Jouni Somero's recording career began in 1989 (with Liszt's 12 Transcendental Etudes), since when he has made over 80 discs for different labels (Naxos, BMG, MILS, Jubal, FC-Records etc). These include Bach's Das Wohltemperierte Klavier and Die Kunst der Fuge, Liszt's Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses, Liszt's transcriptions of Beethoven's Symphonies 1 and 5, Rebikov's Piano Works, Henselt's Concert Etudes, Op. 2, Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Rachmaninov's Piano Works (Vol.1-4), An Anthology of Finnish Piano Music (Vol. 1-5) and the world premiere recording of several piano works by Felix Blumenfeld, Benjamin Godard and Hugo Reinhold. He also recorded the complete piano music of Sergei Bortkiewicz (Vol.1-9) and Pjotr Tchaikovsky (Vol.1-6)

Somero's wide repertoire includes almost all the solo piano works of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Bortkiewicz as well as seldom heard music by such composers as Alkan, Godard, Arensky, Godowsky, Henselt, Thalberg, Glinka, Blumenfeld, Rebikov, Reinhold, Rubinstein and Gottschalk. He has also made many piano arrangements of orchestral, operatic and pop music.

Recorded at Kuusaa Hall in Kuusankoski Finland on 27-28.2.2013

Recording engineer: Jouko Ahera.

Producer: Jouni Somero.

Grand Piano: Steinway&Sons D

Piano technician: Sauli Terävä

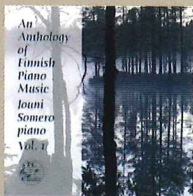
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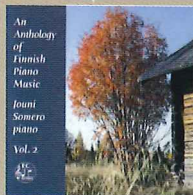
Special thanks: Anna-Claudia Somero

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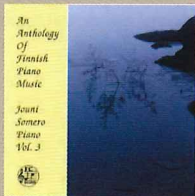
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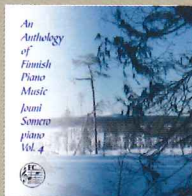
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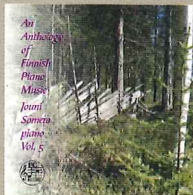
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Gade & Grieg piano worksjouni
somero
piano*Niels W. Gade (22.2.1817-21.12.1890)***Aquarellen op.19 (1850)**

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Barcarolle op.19/5 | 3,10' |
| 2. Elegie op.19/1 | 2,05' |

Sonate E minor op.28 (1840 rev.1854)

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 3. Allegro con fuoco | 8,53' |
| 4. Andante | 6,18' |
| 5. Allegretto-Molto Allegro e appassionato | 9,29' |

*Edvard Grieg (15.6.1843-4.9.1907)***Lyrische Stücke**

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 6. Gade op.57/2 (1890) | 4,34' |
| 7. Notturmo op.54/4 (1889-91) | 4,54' |

Sonate E minor op.7 (1865)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 8. Allegro moderato-Allegro molto | 4,17' |
| 9. Andante molto | 5,33' |
| 10. Alla Menuetto, ma poco piu lento | 3,03' |
| 11. Finale-Molto allegro | 6,09' |

Total time 58,28'



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