

Nils Henrik Asheim, organ **GRIEG:** Ballade; **TVEITT:** 100 Hardingtonar

LAWO 1151—72 minutes

This is an unusual program pairing the performer's transcriptions of the Grieg Ballade for piano with excerpts from orchestral settings of folk tunes from the Hardangerfjord area of Norway. The Ballade is not often heard and, according to the notes, has a bad reputation. Asheim's transcription is OK, but the piece tends to sound like a series of episodes strung together. Geirr Tveitt (1908-81) was a pianist and composer who wrote concertos, ballets, operas, choral music, and popular songs and ballades. He originally intended to set 100 folk tunes for orchestra; but, after a fire in 1970, only 60 pieces survived. He organized these into four suites of 15 movements each. The first was premiered in 1950 and was a great success with orchestras and audiences. Asheim has selected 18 movements from these suites; they are short (the longest is four minutes), unpretentious "sound paintings" of daily life, nature, the sound of folk instruments, "madness, moonshine, bravado, Handanger Ale as it ferments, and a bit of ribaldry". His transcription of these delightful pieces is very effective and allows him to exploit the wonderful resources of the 79-stop Ryde & Berg organ in the Stavanger Concert Hall. Notes on the music, composers, performer and specification.

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