

*Something Blue: Norwegian Choral*

Christiana Men's Choir/ Marius Skjolaas

LAWO 1107—66 minutes

Nationalism and romanticism—the twin forces that united the countries of Central and Southern Europe into their modern form—also worked their magic on Scandinavia. It just took them a little longer to get there. But when they arrived, they pushed Norway toward nationhood as they had Italy, Germany, and the others a generation or two before.

This is a look at some of the music that did it. Most of it is 19th Century fare by composers we don't know well—except for Grieg, of course. Songs by Johan Halvorsen, Alfred Paulsen, and a few others cross into the 20th Century. But whichever side of the timeline you're on, musical nationalism is the order of the day.

Foaming oceans, violet-blue fjords, North Sea sails, spring weddings, somber shorelines, great warrior kings, majestic spruces amid heavy snow, and crimson summer nights are just some of the nation's gifts extolled in the songs. Taken individually, the selections are not really memorable. But as a collage of Norwegian images in sound, they could be of interest. The men sing with commendable feeling, though things can get strident in the tenor department. English notes and translations are included.

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*American Record Guide*