

Norge mit Norge

Selmer, Grieg, Svendsen, Evensen, Gomnaes

Norwegian Air Force Band, Christiana Male

Choir/ Leif Arne Pedersen

LAWO 1121—72 minutes

Stirring Norwegian music for men's chorus and wind band. Three of the works are by Norway's

most famous composer, Edvard Grieg. His

'Funeral March' (1866), possibly the bestknown

work on this album, was composed the

day after he learned that his "only friend"

Richard Nordraak had died. The work is set

squarely in B-flat minor and sounds quite tragic.

'Landfall' (1872), most often performed by

men's choir and full orchestra, is given a stentorian

reading here by the forces specified in his

original score: men's chorus, organ, three trombones

and tuba. Also included is Cantata at the

Unveiling of Christie's Monument (1868), presented

here in what might be its first recording.

Three works are by Johan Svendsen (1840-

1911). This reading of 'Coronation March'

(1873) is doubtless better than the first performance,

where four military bands, positioned

at points along the parade route, played

simultaneously (hard to synchronize). An

observer described the sound as "terrible wailing".

The other Svendsen pieces are Wergeland

Cantata (1881) and 'The Singers' Morning

Greeting' (1892).

The program also includes Johan Selmer's

Greeting to Nidaros (1883), Alfred Evensen's

'Arne's Song' (1934), and a cantata by Fredrik

Wilhelm Gomnaes (1868-1925).

Excellent singing and playing. Sometimes

the chorus is overpowered by the band. Norwegian

texts, no translations.

KILPATRICK

*American Record Guide*