

Arias, Art Songs, and Piano Music of Edvard Grieg

Mai Goto	Piano
David Hebert	Bass-baritone voice
Aleksandra Rykowska	Soprano voice

Thursday, 2 November (13:00-14:00), Conference of the Nordic Network for Music Education
Mimes Brønn Hall, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

-Welcome and Overview of Lunchtime Concert (David Hebert)

REPERTOIRE:

- Fredric Chopin: “The Maiden’s Wish” (1828/1837), Aleksandra Rykowska, soprano voice
- Richard Wagner: “O du mein holder Abendstern” (“To an Evening Star”) from the opera *Tannhäuser* (1845), David Hebert, bass baritone voice
- **Edvard Grieg: Sonate for Piano, mvt. 2 (1865)
- Georges Bizet: “Toreador Song” from the opera *Carmen* (1875), David Hebert, bass baritone voice
- Edvard Grieg: “En Svane” (The Swan), No.2 from *Six Poems: Ibsen Songs* (1876), David Hebert, bass baritone voice
- **Edvard Grieg: “Til Våren” (To Spring), op.43, no.6 (1884)
- **Edvard Grieg: “Scherzo” from *Lyric Pieces*, op. 54 (1891)
- Sergei Rachmaninov: “Thou art like a flower”, from *Six Romances*, op.8 no.2 (1893), David Hebert, bass baritone voice
- Sergei Rachmaninov: “I have grown fond of sorrow”, from *Six Romances*, op.8 no.4 (1893), Aleksandra Rykowska, soprano voice
- **Edvard Grieg: Homesickness and Gade (1893)
- Johannes Brahms: “Ecclesiasticus 41” (O Death, How Bitter) No.3 from *Vier ernste Gesänge* (Four Serious Songs), Op. 121 (1896), David Hebert, bass baritone voice
- Antonin Dvorak, “Song to the Moon” from the opera *Rusalka*, Op. 114 (1900), Aleksandra Rykowska, soprano voice
- **Edvard Grieg: Wedding Day at Trolldhaugen (1896)

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Biographies of Recitalists

Mai Goto, pianist, graduated from Osaka University of Music, Japan, where she studied with Atsuhiko Shimizu, and continued her studies with György Nádor at the Liszt Academy in Budapest. In 2012, she finished her Master's degree at the Grieg Academy, University of Bergen, with Signe Bakke and Torleif Torgersen as her teachers. In 2009, she was awarded the 1st prize in “The 24th International Music Competition Rovero d'Oro” in Italy. Mai Goto currently lives in Bergen, where she has an active performing career. She has recently performed at the concert series of the Siljustøl Museum. In 2013 she was the pianist in the production “Nina Grieg – a great little woman” at Grieg’s villa, Trolldhaugen. In the same year she was soloist in Mendelssohn’s Piano Concerto No.2 on a US tour conducted by Trond Sæverud, and in 2014 she was soloist in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto no.5 with the University of Bergen Symphony Orchestra. Since 2013 Ms. Goto has performed annually at the “Grieg in Bergen” series as a soloist and together with the violist Oliviero Hassan and the violinist Michael Süßmann. Since 2016 she has performed the Japanese story 'Issun Boshi' and children's performance 'Klovnen Klem' with actress Karin Stautland. In 2017 Mai Goto performed both a solo recital and several chamber music concerts for the “Grieg in Bergen” festival, and presented concerts on tours of Italy, Belgium, Cyprus and Spain.

David G. Hebert, bass-baritone singer, is a Professor of Music in the Faculty of Education at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. A widely published and cited scholar, he is currently completing his sixth book since accepting the professorship in Bergen. He has taught and researched music on each inhabited continent, and is especially interested in international comparative approaches to music. As a performer, he has worked in an array of genres – both as an instrumentalist and singer – including opera, choirs, jazz, Latin, and various popular music and non-western music genres. In Bergen, he has occasionally sung with the professional Edvard Grieg Kor, including in productions with Bergen National Opera, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, and Berlin Philharmonic, and he has sung for festival concerts and recording sessions with the Bergen Cathedral Choir. He is now singing with a newly established Bergen-based professional chorus Tabula Rasa, and frequently sings for Bergen National Opera’s “Opera pub” outreach events. As a solo singer, he has recently given performances in China, and is now planning a recording session and lecture-recital tour with Mai Goto.

Aleksandra Rykowska, soprano singer, holds a PhD in vocal arts from the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznan, and currently works as a lecturer for both that institution and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. While a student at the Paderewski Academy, she also received a 1-year scholarship to study at the Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Her major scientific and artistic interests are in the field of Polish nineteenth century romantic songs, and in 2014 she made a premiere recording of Polish songs by Apolinary Szeluto. She has received a special prize from the National Opera (Poland) for the performance of Raul Koczalski’s song *Ici bas* during the Karol Kurpiński Song and Aria Competition in Włoszakowice. She also collaborated, as a soloist, with the Teatr Muzyczny (Theatre of Music) in Poznań. In 2012, she commenced her cooperation with the Connecticut Lyric Opera in the United States, in which she made her debut in the role of Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*. Her extensive concert programme has taken her to numerous venues in Poland and abroad. She has performed in Germany, Spain, Italy, Finland, the United States, and Lithuania, among other countries.