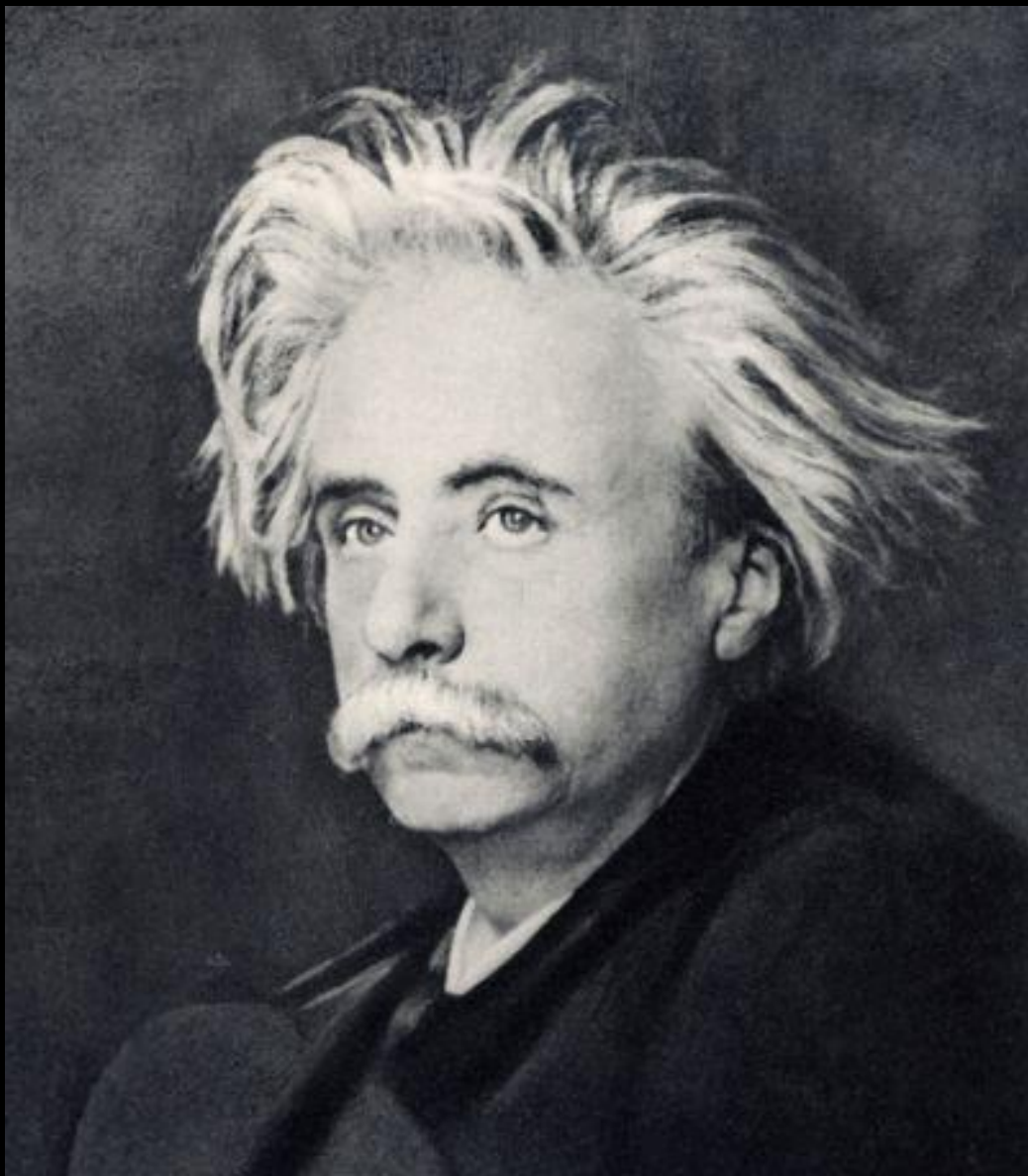




Edvard Grieg
Finally Gets His
Wish:
A Bilingual
Approach To
Singing His Songs

Dr. Melissa Holm-Johansen

Bryon Wilson, piano



Fredriksten Fortress
Halden, Norway

"A singable version of a poem in a language different from the original is more than a translation. The goal in translating a prose text is to express the exact meaning of the original in the target language, adding nothing and omitting nothing. The goal in translating a poem into a new language, however, is to create a new poem that preserves the meter, the rhyming pattern, the psychological atmosphere and the poetic beauty of the original without departing farther than necessary from its original meaning. If the new version is to serve as a song text, text, it must fit the pre-existing music. The process whereby one attempts to achieve this result might be called *poetic re-creation*. The original poem and its counterpart in another language are siblings, not identical twins."

- Dr. William Halverson



Edvard Munch
(1863 – 1944)

Livets dans
(*The Dance of Life*)



Henrik Ibsen
(1828 – 1906)

"I felt like a stranger to [him]
all my life" – Edvard Grieg



Pierre Eugène Montézin
(1874 – 1946)

Les cygnes
(*The Swans*)



Claude Monet
(1840 – 1926)

Le Bassin aux Nymphéas
(*Water Lily Pond*)

Map of the official language forms of Norwegian municipalities. Red is Bokmål, blue is Nynorsk and gray depicts neutral areas.





Hans Dahl
(1849-1937)

Solskinsdag
(Summer in the Fjords)

Ro

[noun/verb, norwegian]
/ru:/

Meaning both peace and to row.
A deep Nordic calm, found
between wide skies and still
fjords—but also the steady
movement of pulling through
cold water, one stroke at a time.
And now, as the viral Viking
chant of “RO! RO! RO!” echoes
through World Cup stadiums,
Norway’s quietest word has
transformed into a thunderous
battle cry.



TUSEN TAKK!

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