

Music 320

Nationalism: Scandinavia

Sweden: Franz Berwald (1796 - 1868)

- Ahead of his time in writing Nationalistic music: audiences in Stockholm wanted to hear Beethoven.
- He had some success in mainland Europe (esp. Vienna) but Swedes not much interested in him until this century.
- Wrote orchestral works on Scandinavian subjects e.g. a "tone painting:"
Memories of the Norwegian Alps
- Would later be an influence on Sibelius

Denmark: Niels Gade (1817-90)

- He is considered a nationalist: founded Danish musical institutions, but his music is rarely heard
- Mostly known for piano music

Norway: Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) best known 19th Century Scandinavian composer

- Educated in Leipzig, early influence of Schumann; later influences Chopin and Mendelssohn.
- The most overtly Scandinavian pieces are piano miniatures, e.g. ***Norwegian Peasant Songs, Op. 72***
 - Most are transcriptions (for piano) of actual country fiddle tunes, spring dances, wedding dances etc. Often modal
 - Some pieces reflect native Norwegian instrument called Hardanger fiddle:
 - A native instrument with 2 sets of strings, half act as drones.
- Another famous piece is suite of incidental music to Henrik Ibsen's play ***Peer Gynt***.
 - Grieg wrote 23 numbers for the play; now there are 2 orchestral suites drawn from this body
- An early but famous work is Piano Concerto in A Minor; shows influence of Schumann, but also good Scandinavian melodies.