

PRESS RELEASE – OCT. 5, 2006

THE 100-YEAR COMMEMORATION OF EDVARD GRIEG'S DEATH

AN OCCASION TO **REVITALIZE** AND **RENEW** THE GRIEG HERITAGE

GRIEG 07 is a corporation, founded by the City of Bergen with the aim to initiate, coordinate and carry out the celebrations and events, at national and international level, designed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Edvard Grieg's death.

The main goals of the organization are to secure and encourage an interest in Grieg's music.

To vitalize the commemoration and to give impetus to the common perception of Grieg's music, young musicians and artists are invited to draw inspiration from Grieg's thought and action in art and ideology.

With immense respect for Grieg's thoughts and actions in art and the fundamental belief that his music will live on through the next century and for a long time to come, GRIEG 07 wants to combine Grieg's music and thought with our present day's aesthetics and conditions.

Taking this as a starting point for a comprehensive revitalization of the Grieg heritage, GRIEG 07 presents a profile, consisting of three parts:

GRIEG THE HUMANIST

GRIEG THE COMPOSER

GRIEG THE SAMPLER

GR!EG
2007



GRIEG 07 is led by a national board of nine competent representatives from relevant professional fields. Herman Friele, the Mayor of Bergen, has been appointed chairman of the organization. The administration consists of Ragna Sofie Grung Moe (director) and Are Frode S holt (project coordinator). The organization has a temporary budget of NOK 15 million, with the main contributions coming from the Norwegian government, the City of Bergen and the County of Hordaland.

Presenting Norwegian culture internationally is an integral part of Norwegian foreign policy. In connection with the 100th anniversary of Edvard Grieg's death in 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support activities and events abroad that are in keeping with the objectives of Grieg07. Grieg07 will cooperate closely with the Ministry to ensure that these activities meet high artistic standards and have a long-term impact.

This cooperation includes the presentation of Grieg on the internet, where information will be translated into 18 languages and distributed through the official site for Norway (Norgesportalen). It also includes presenting Grieg on the internet, the production of a number of CDs, posters, brochures and other material.



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BOARD OF MEMBERS

Chairman: Herman Friele, Mayor of Bergen

Herman Friele is the CEO and principal owner of the Norwegian coffee company Friele and has been Mayor of Bergen since 2003. He has previously been chairman of the board of the Edvard Grieg Museum, Troidhaugen and Siljustøl.

Ingrid Maria Hanken: Associate Professor and Pro-Rector at the Norwegian Academy of Music

Ingrid Maria Hanken is an Associate Professor in educational science. She has produced a number of plans for schools, music education. In addition to the Norwegian Academy of Music, she has held posts with the National Ballet Academy, the Ministry of Education and Church Affairs, the Norwegian Council of Universities, the Norwegian Council of Music Schools and the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

Signe Bakke: Associate Professor at the Grieg Academy

Signe Bakke won first prize in «Young Piano Masters» when she was 18 and held her debut concert in the University Hall at the age of 23. She has played as a soloist and worked as an accompanist and chamber musician. Bakke frequently plays concerts at Troidhaugen. In 2001 she recorded an album with selected pieces by Edvard Grieg.

Synne Skouen: Composer

Synne Skouen studied composition at the Music Academies in Vienna and Oslo. She has worked as a critic for the newspaper «Arbeiderbladet», as editor of «Ballade», and as Musical Director of NRK P2, subsequently Cultural Director of NRK. She has been leader of the Norwegian Society of Composers since 2002. She has written music for the ballet «Volven» (Den Norske Operaen), for the video-opera «Dusj» and for the televised tale «Froskeprinsen». Skouen has composed chamber music and music for choir and orchestra. As festival composer, she has worked with various festivals, most recently the 2006 Grieg Festival in Oslo.

Hilde Bjørkum: Festival Director, Førde International Folk Music Festival

Hilde Bjørkum studied educational science, then worked as a musician, dancer and organization secretary. Bjørkum was one of the founders of the Førde International Folk Music Festival, where she still works as Artistic Director and Head of Administration. The festival is the biggest multicultural music event in Scandinavia. Bjørkum is an important music ethnologist. She is a member of the Arts Council of Norway's professional committee for music and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' committee for support of professional musicians abroad.

Therese Jepsen: Executive Director of the Rafto-House in Bergen

Therese Jepsen has a degree in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics. She has been Executive Director of the Egil Rafto House Foundation since 1997. The Foundation has two main purposes: the use of the Rafto-House as a base for the work of human rights organizations and educational projects related to human rights. The arts and artistic communication are important channels for the Foundation's work.

Lorentz Reitan: Senior Advisor, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra

Lorentz Reitan is a professional music educationalist. He has taught at the former Bergen Lærerskole (now Bergen University College) and has worked as Director of the Bergen International Festival and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1997, he led the organization of the Harald Sæverud anniversary and wrote a biography about Sæverud. Reitan has numerous responsibilities in the field of Norwegian culture.

Svein Berge: Musician (Røyksopp)

Svein Berge represents 50% of the composer/music duo Røyksopp. To date, Røyksopp has sold more than 1.5 million CDs internationally, and after extensive tours on three continents the band is one of Norway's top music exports. Based in Bergen, Røyksopp has produced and remixed a number of artists and groups. Among others, they have also worked for internationally known bands and artists like Coldplay, Peter Gabriel and Beck.



Ingebjørg Engel Astrup: Head of Department of Cultural Affairs,
Hordaland County Council

Ingebjørg Engel Astrup originally trained as an educationalist. She has worked in arts related positions at the Hordaland Arts Centre, the Norwegian Arts Centre in Helsinki, with the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee and Bergen Cultural City 2000. She was Head of the Department of Cultural Affairs in the municipality of Os and occupies the same position in Hordaland County Council.

ADMINISTRATION

The GRIEG 07 administration consists of Ragna Sofie Grung Moe (Director) and Are Frode Søholt (Project Coordinator). The administration employs assistants or additional personnel when necessary.

Ragna Sofie Grung Moe

Director

Ragna Sofie Grung Moe is a professional music teacher (Norwegian Academy of Music), holds a bachelor's degree and a Master's degree as a bassoonist (Conservatoire de Musique de Genève/ Eastman School of Music) and a MA in Arts Administration (University of Cincinnati). She has worked as a regional musician in Northern Norway and later in the administrations of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Grieg anniversary 1993, Bergen City (Advisor - music and performing arts), the Grieg Academy at the University of Bergen (managing director) and the Edvard Grieg Museum (Executive Director).

Are Frode Søholt

Project Coordinator

Are Frode Søholt is a professional singer (Grieg Academy/ Institutt for Musikk/ Bergen University). In addition, he has studied art history, music sciences, choir conducting, German flute and philosophical aesthetics. He has work experience as a freelance singer (opera and church music), as well as in the administrative sector: at Gloppen Kulturskole (Rector), with the Tromsø Symphony Orchestra (Head of Production) and the Norwegian National Opera (Strategy Officer). He is Artistic Director and Head of Administration of the Gloppen Music Festival.