

"Nordic Walking – a musical hike through Scandinavia"

Jean Sibelius
(1865 – 1957)

4 Pieces for violin and piano, Op. 78

Aulis Sallinen
(1935 –)

Cadenze for Solo Violin

David Monrad Johansen
(1888 – 1974)

Sonata in A major, Op. 3

- INTERMISSION -

Christian Sinding
(1856 – 1941)

Suite for violin and piano, Op. 10

Edvard Grieg
(1843 – 1907)

Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45

Ian Mardon
Yuko Hirose

Violin
Piano

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the death of Edvard Grieg and 50 years since the death of Jean Sibelius, we set off on a hike through the Scandinavian landscape.

Our starting point is in Finland. The country's most famous composer, Jean Sibelius, was born in the southern town of Hämeenlinna, about 100 kms north of Helsinki. Here we take the opportunity to enjoy Finland's countryside, picking up our Nordic walking sticks and hiking through the Lohjanselk, with the sounds of Sibelius' 4 pieces for violin and piano Op. 78 ringing in our ears.

From there, it's not so far to Europe's largest lake: Ladoga Lake in southern Karelien became Russian territory in 1940, but in 1935, when Aulis Sallinen was born in the nearby town of Salmi, it still belonged to Finland.

Now we move on to northern Norway towards the polar circle and to the town of Møsjørn. This is where David Monrad Johansen first saw the light of day. We take advantage of our visit here to walk along the Vefsnfjord. Besides his major work for soloists, choir and orchestra, Voluspå, he also composed one impressive sonata in A major for violin and piano.

After the intermission we find ourselves in Kongsberg, near Oslo to enjoy the Suite Op. 10 for violin and piano by Christian Sinding. Although he lived in Germany for over 40 years, Sinding was born in Kongsberg and died in the Norwegian capital in 1941.

From Oslo, we travel northwards to finish our adventure in Bergen, Grieg's birthplace. Grieg particularly loved hiking through the nearby mountains. In Trolldaugen we make a brief stop at the museum which bears his name.