

Musical Credits

This year, I used portions of 21 different songs and movie scores to provide the background music for the video segments. Keeping with the Nordic theme of the presentation, over half of the music was composed and performed by Scandinavian artists, and over half of these were by Norwegian composers or based on traditional Norwegian folk music. For you fans of the incomparable Norwegian soprano *Sissel* (and I count myself among her admiring subjects), I even managed to find a beautiful folk song she recorded in the original Norwegian for the video segment featuring the Flam Railway. And of course, it was an absolute must to incorporate several of the better known pieces of Edvard Grieg, Norway's most internationally acclaimed composer, in Parts 8, 9, and 10. I'm sure you'll recognize each of his themes, although unfortunately most Americans (including myself before our trip) probably know little about Grieg and therefore have never associated his music with the folk traditions of Norway before.

As a fan of epic music, I couldn't help myself from incorporating several segments of three war movie scores into the "Tribute to the Heroes of Telemark" trilogy. (There are so many great war movie songs to choose from!) Hopefully, you'll recognize the themes from *A Bridge Too Far*, *The Great Escape*, and the inspiring "Heart of a Volunteer" from *Pearl Harbor* (the latter can be heard now and then playing in the background during tributes to American veterans of World War II). And to counter-balance these heart-swelling martial themes with the more terrible aspects of war, Act 1 closes with a brief snippet of one of the greatest anti-war songs of all times, "The Banks of the Nile," sung *a cappella* by the Czech-born artist Katka Garcia.

Finally, I'm excited to have found several folk songs performed by regionally known artists from the County of Telemark (the site of the story for the "Tribute" segments). Each song is rendered in its purest original style. The first song, the foot-stomping "Sandsdalsgangaren," is featured in Part 3, where you'll experience some traditional dancing at the Folk Museum in Oslo. The song is performed by the award-winning "Sir" Knut Buen, who plays the 8-string Hardanger fiddle.

At the end of Act 2 in the Heroes trilogy (and again in Act 3), you'll come across the angelic sound of another Norwegian artist, Arve Moen Bergset, who sings "Eg er Framand" ("I Am a Pilgrim"). His pre-teen voice represents "the cry of the innocents" in the story. (O.K., I know I'm no Spielberg, but go with me on this one.) A few moments later during the epilogue, Bergset, his voice now having reached its full maturity, is featured singing the hauntingly beautiful "Bendik Og Årolilja," ("Bendik and Årolilja") – an ancient ballad about a brave but impoverished knight, who is cut down while seeking the hand of the king's daughter. A Norwegian version of the tale of *Tristan and Isolde*, the ballad ends when the princess dies of grief, the lovers are spitefully buried by the king on opposite sides of one of Norway's "stave" churches to keep them apart (you'll see these churches in the videos), and then vines grow over the church steeple from one grave to the other, ensuring that the lovers remain linked by their passion for all eternity. Ah . . . songs of star-struck lovers are so sad and beautiful – no matter what the language!

Music – in Order by Video Segment

Vikings Trailer

"If I Had a Heart," composed and performed by Fever Ray, from the TV series *Vikings*

"Dancing the Oars," composed and performed by Mario Nascimbene, from the 1958 film *The Vikings*

Part 1 - Welcome to Oslo

"Our Last Summer," composed by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus (of ABBA fame), performed by the cast of the Broadway musical *Mama Mia*

Part 2 - The Adventurers

"Epilogue" (final section) from the soundtrack of the film *Kon-Tiki*, composed by Johan Soderqvist, performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra

Part 3 - Folk Museum

"Sandsdalsgangaren," performed by Knut Buen, from the album, *As Quick as Fire - The Art of the Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle*

Part 4 - Borgund and Solvorn

"Mhysa" (prelude), composed by Ramin Djawadi, from the finale of *Game of Thrones*, Season 3

"Kon-Tiki," composed by Johan Soderqvist, performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra, from the movie *Kon-Tiki*

Part 5 - Jostedal Glacier

"The Snows They Melt the Soonest," performed by Katka Garcia, from the album *Woven Ways*

Part 6 - Aurlandsfjord and Flam

"Eg Veit I Himmerik Ei Borg" ("I Know of a Heavenly Stronghold"), Norwegian folk song originally from Germany, performed by "Sissel" Kyrkjebo, from the album *De Beste*

Part 7 - The Naerofjord

"Mhysa" (final section), composed by Ramin Djawadi, from the finale of *Game of Thrones*, Season 3

Part 8 - Bergen

"Wedding Day At Troldhaugen" (No. 6, Op. 65), composed by Edvard Grieg, performed by Nicholas Roth

Part 9 - The Hardangerfjord

"Morning Mood" from *Peer Gynt Suite* (No.1, Op.46), composed by Edvard Grieg, performed by the Berliner Philharmoniker

"The 13th Warrior," composed by Jerry Goldsmith, performed by the Philharmonic Wind Orchestra, featured in the film *The 13th Warrior*

Part 10 - Troll Sightings

"In the Hall of the Mountain King" from *Peer Gynt Suite* (No. 1, Op. 46), composed by Edvard Grieg, performed by the Checho-Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra

Tribute to the Heroes of Telemark, Act 1

"It's in the Mail," composed by Rachel Portman, featured in the film *The Human Stain*

"A Bridge Too Far," composed by John Addison, performed by the Band of H.M. Royal Marines, from the film *A Bridge Too Far*

"The Banks of the Nile," traditional song from the British Isles about Nelson's Egyptian campaign, performed by Katka Garcia, from the album *Woven Ways*

Tribute to the Heroes of Telemark, Act 2

"Heart of a Volunteer," composed and performed by Hans Zimmer, from the soundtrack of the film *Pearl Harbor*

"The Great Escape," composed by Elmer Bernstein, performed by the City of Prague Philharmonic, from the film *The Great Escape*

"The Day After Tomorrow," composed and performed by Harald Kloser, from the soundtrack of the film *The Day After Tomorrow*

"Eg er Framand" ("I am a Pilgrim"), traditional Norwegian folk song, performed by Arve Moen Bergset

Tribute to the Heroes of Telemark, Act 3

"It's in the Mail," composed by Rachel Portman, featured in the film *The Human Stain*

"Eg er Framand" ("I am a Pilgrim"), traditional Norwegian folk song, performed by Arve Moen Bergset (sung when he was yet a boy)

"Bendik Og Årolilja," ("Bendik and Årolilja"), traditional Norwegian folk song, performed by Bukkene Bruse, solo by Arve Moen Bergset (now fully grown)

"Epilogue" (first section) from the soundtrack of the film *Kon-Tiki*, composed by Johan Soderqvist, performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra

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Dear Friends:

I hope that you have enjoyed the musical aspects of this year's presentation. But remember, I am sharing with you, my invited guests, in many instances just segments of the pieces. To enjoy them in their entirety, I would encourage you to purchase them (as I have done) from popular web sites, such as iTunes or Amazon.Com, for your own listening pleasure.

Warmest regards,
- Bruce (15 April 2014)