



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: KEY PIECES OF MUSIC 4

BY EDVARD
GRIEG
1867

IN THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING



THE STORY

Peer Gynt is a character based on a Norwegian fairy-tale character who has many adventures as he travels between the Norwegian mountains and North Africa. One of the adventures describes how Peer tries to steal a bride from her wedding and the angry guests banish him to the mountains. He meets a woman dressed in green who says she is the daughter of the Mountain King. He meets the Mountain King who asks Peer to marry his daughter. The trolls who live with the king taunt Peer and he declines the proposal to marry the King's daughter. Other adventures include a ship wreck, a journey to Egypt to meet the Sphinx and a reindeer hunt.

Accelerando	The tempo (speed) of the music gradually changes and becomes faster.
Crescendo	The dynamics of the music change from quiet to loud gradually.
Full orchestra	All the instruments in the orchestra are playing at the same time.

THE MUSIC

- In the Hall of the Mountain King is from a play called Peer Gynt. There are many other pieces of music in the play
- Another well-known piece of music from Peer Gynt is **Morning Mood**—essential listening!
- The theme of In the Hall of the Mountain King starts slow and quiet using the low instruments in the orchestra—the cellos, double basses and bassoons. The theme is then played in the upper section—violins, clarinets and oboes. This keeps alternating. The music then gradually gets faster (accelerando) and louder (crescendo) and thicker (a few instruments playing to many instruments playing). It ends with full orchestra
- Alton Towers have taken In the Hall of the Mountain King as the theme for their theme park in adverts

THE COMPOSER

- Grieg was a Norwegian composer
- He worked with Liszt (see The Wall of Fame), he met Tchaikovsky (see key Pieces 1) and performed for Queen Victoria
- In Norway, there are many statues of Grieg as he was proud of living in Norway and developed its national identity. He was a Nationalist composer like Smetana (see Key Composer 5)
- Grieg used the words from poems written by Hans Christian Anderson and Rudyard Kipling as lyrics for some of his songs
- Grieg has a large crater on planet Mercury named after him

