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## FANTASY ON NORDIC THEMES

FRANK ERICKSON

## INSTRUMENTATION

- I Full Score
- 8 Flute/Piccolo
- 2 Oboe
- 4 Ist B Clarinet
- 4 2nd B Clarinet
- 4 3rd Bb Clarinet
- 2 E Alto Clarinet/
  - E Contrabass Clarinet
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet/
  - B Contrabass Clarinet
- 2 Bassoon
- 2 Ist El Alto Saxophone
- 2 2nd El Alto Saxophone
- 2 By Tenor Saxophone
- I E Baritone Saxophone

- 3 Ist B Trumpet
- 3 2nd B Trumpet
- 3 3rd B Trumpet
- 2 Ist F Horn
- I 2nd F Horn
- I 3rd F Horn
- 2 Ist Trombone
- 2 2nd Trombone
- 2 3rd Trombone
- 2 Baritone T.C.
- 2 Baritone B.C.
- 4 Tuba
- I Mallets

(Bells, Xylophone)

- l Timpani
- 3 Percussion

(Snare Drum, Bass Drum,

Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal)

## Frank Erickson Publications



In western culture the richest heritage of folk music is undoubtedly of British origin. Even our American folk songs owe much to this tradition and the same can be said of Nordic (Scandinavian) folk songs as well. The origin of folk songs is quite similar throughout all of Scandinavia. The comprehensive designation "folk music" generally covers peasant songs and instrumental pieces which have survived from early times

The close of the 16th century showed enough interest in folk songs to preserve the words but little or no concern was given to the preservation of tunes. Our knowledge of the melodies of medieval songs thus dates only from the early 19th century, which saw the beginnings of a collecting activity that continued for over a century. It was this interest in a national folk song heritage that played such an important part in the music of important Scandinavian composers such as Jean Sibelius (Finland), Edvard Grieg (Norway) and Hugo Alfven (Sweden),

It is true of most melodies belonging to the ancient ballads that the medieval modes are easily discernible in them, even if some bear marks of a more recent music. These "modern" twists may be explained by the fact that the melodies were not written down until recent times. We also know that many of the ancient tunes were difficult to sing and have been simplified into the form they are known today.

Denmark - In Forest and Meadow: Measure 20

This song could well have had its origin as a minstrel tune played by town musicians who performed regularly at local celebrations and feast days. These lyrics suggest the bright treatment of this melody:

The trees bending low, filled with fruit heavy laden, Fill with joy the heart of all.

Norway - Let Me Sing You a Merry Ballad : Measure 69

The title belies the plaintive quality of this folk ballad. In the gathering, old and new tunes existed side by side and were often combined into one. This might account for the contrast between the opening 8 measure modal melody and the short 4 measure phrase in major that follows. Could this folk song have arisen in the 17th Century when music played such an important part in the celebrations held in honor of the national saint, King Olav?

Sweden - Christmas Is Here Again: Measure 90

As folk songs were collected they were also highly influenced by music from other European countries. The derivation here seems to be from the Polish *polska* (not to be confused with the *polka*) both in meter, 3/4, and form, AABB. The major mode also suggests recent origins.

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Timp.
Cym.
S. D.
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