THREE NORWEGIAN DANCES

HALFDAN KJERULF







THE ARRANGER

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. Her compositions have received many accolades including frequent selection as J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice, as well as performances at the Midwest Clinic and

American String Teachers Association Conference. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players, and co-creator of "the Big IDEA" practice method. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Halfdan Kjerulf was a Norwegian composer from the mid-19th century known best for his nationalistic part-songs and piano music. As a predecessor of Edvard Greig, it is surmised that Kjerulf's music may have been an influence in Grieg's own writing. The three pieces in this new arrangement for string orchestra can be performed as individual pieces or together as a multi-movement work.

The opening Intermezzo is structured in an overall ABA form. The A sections are very animated with drastic dynamic changes that contrast with a more lyrical B section. Both Springdans and Brureslått come from Kjerulf's 25 Selected Norwegian Folk Dances for Piano, which featured transcriptions of traditional folk melodies dating from the Middle Ages. Fittingly, these pieces would have been originally performed on fiddle or hardanger-fiddle. The Spring Dance is to be played molto rubato with much dynamic phrasing. The Brureslått, or Bride's Song, which features a back-and-forth interplay between the lower strings and first violins, closes out the collection with high energy.

-Katie O'Hara LaBrie

THREE NORWEGIAN DANCES

HALFDAN KJERULF (1815–1868)

Arranged by

KATIE O'HARA LABRIE

(ASCAP)

I. Intermezzo















II. Springdans (Spring Dance)















