

# Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

## Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak (1842 - 1866)

**Composed by Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1907)**

**Arranged by Klaus Bjerre 2004**

**for the 10 piece brass format (4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba) with substitute parts allowing for performances by various constellations of orchestral and brass band players. Also allowing for a performance by clarinet choir (1 Eb soprano - 3 Bb sopranos - 1 Eb alto - 3 Bb basses - 1 Eb contralto - 1 BBb contrabass).**

This present editor only very recently became aware of the existence of this composition by the young Edvard Grieg. A computer-wizard friend found the original, probably German, piano edition on a French website.

Piano settings offers wide scopes of interpretations for arrangers. This piece is very orchestral in its outlay. No surprise that Halvorsen made an orchestration played at Grieg's own funeral. A version for brass ensemble also is known,

However this present editor found this piece obvious for an expansion of the repertory for the 10-piece brass format, which only has one obvious limitation in this context: the lack of timpani. Some arrangers suggest tongue tremolos as a workaround. This present arranger rather has chosen to challenge the lower brasses with the call for a very exact and clean fast tonguing technique, because the display thereof will support the expression of the profound unrest inherent in this piece.

The original keys of A minor and A major have been kept, even if they present quite a challenge for especially the instruments in Bb and Eb. The tempo suggestion of the quarter note equalling 54 beats a minute has been chosen as the half tempo of the standard march tempo of 108. The middle section in A major implicitly is such a march in 108 written in small note values.

The 10 staves of the score are represented by these parts:

Piccolo trumpet in A with substitute parts for Eb cornet/clarinet and D trumpet. For balance reasons the execution on piccolo trumpet is recommended.

Trumpets 1 and 2 in Bb. Substitute parts for trumpets in C.

Trumpet 3 in Bb doubling on Bb flugelhorn. The employment of the flugelhorn is most important for the performance of this arrangement.

Horn in F. Substitute part for Eb horn/alto clarinet.

Tenor trombones 1, 2, and 3. Substitute parts for Bb treble clef trombones/bass clarinets.

Bass trombone. Substitute part for Eb contralto clarinet (NOT to be used by Eb tuba, because that will skew the intended sound picture).

Tuba. Substitute parts for Eb and BBb tubas. The latter also to be used by BBb contrabass clarinet.

This arrangement strives to exploit the colour palette of the 10-piece brass format. As very often with my arrangements the upper trumpets will find, that they have been under-employed especially in their upper ranges. But then one just has to ask: which are the brass players most often complaining fatigue during the last third of a concert? Any single piece must be seen as part of a larger concert context.

Players out of the British brass band tradition may substitute trumpets with cornets. They also will find other adequately transposed parts. But the trombone parts should still be played on trombones, and the flugelhorn should retain the passages intended for it.

The clarinet version will present a narrower palette of colours, but will retain one of the major qualities of the brass version: the unified ensemble sound.

Grieg and Nordraak both are inscribed in historical contexts of national emancipation. The very young Nordraak wrote the Norwegian national anthem still in use. A tune of immense beauty, which has its simplicity forming its strength.

Aside from their strong national affiliations both Grieg and Nordraak were cosmopolitans in the then available European sense. Grieg studied in Leipzig and worked for an extended period of time north of Copenhagen. Nordraak studied in Berlin, where he died shortly after a visit by Grieg, who was on the route to Rome. There is a wealth of information available on the web. One possible search would be this one:

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=da&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=edvard+grieg+rikard+nordraak+funeral+march&meta>

This arrangement can be performed free of charge. However all performances, or series of performances, shall be reported to this arranger. If this arrangement appears in written programmes, layouts or scans of these shall be sent to this arranger. PDF and EPS formats will be fine.

This present arrangement does NOT constitute a source text of musicological value. It merely represents an interpretation of the Grieg piano Urtext. Due to the complexity of the setting a lot of resources have been allocated to the proofing process. This does not ensure, that no faults or inconsequences of notation have passed through the mesh. Serious comments are most welcome. If necessary this edition will be updated. Please check with your downloading source.

An upload of the 17<sup>th</sup> of July had 4 wrong notes in the 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet part. These have been corrected in score and parts. Some complex passages have been enharmonically respelled. Some cautionary accidentals have been added.

Korsør on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2004

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10-piece Brass Ensemble

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak (1842 - 1866)

Edvard Grieg (1843 - 1907)

Arranged by Klaus Bjerre 2004

Langsam (*Lento*)  $\text{♩} = 54$

5

Piccolo trumpet in A

B $\flat$  trumpet 1

B $\flat$  trumpet 2

B $\flat$  trumpet 3 with B $\flat$  flugelhorn

F horn

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Trombone basso

Tuba





10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

15 15

A piece

B♭-tp 1

B♭-tp 2

B♭-tp 3

F horn

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btrb

Tuba



10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

19 19 *straight mute*

A picc

B♭ tp 1

B♭ tp 2

B♭ tp 3

Flugelhorn

F horn

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btrb

Tub





10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

32

33

35

straight mute

*mol - to ri - tar - dan - do*

A piece

B♭-tp 1

B♭-tp 2

B♭-tp 3

F horn

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btrb

Tub

The musical score consists of ten staves, each representing a different instrument in the ensemble. The instruments are: A piece (likely a conductor or a specific instrument), B♭-trumpets 1, 2, and 3, F horn, Trombones 1, 2, and 3, Baritone, and Tuba. The score is divided into three measures: measure 32, measure 33, and measure 35. Measure 32 shows the beginning of a phrase with various dynamics like *p* and *mf*. Measure 33 continues the phrase with similar dynamics. Measure 35 features a *straight mute* instruction and a *mol - to ri - tar - dan - do* tempo marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

37 37 *a tempo*: ♩ = 54

41

10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

43

45

A picc

Musical staff for A picc. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents. A box containing the number 45 is placed above the staff at measure 45.

B♭-tp 1

Musical staff for B♭-tp 1. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *mp*, *f*, and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

B♭-tp 2

Musical staff for B♭-tp 2. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *mp*, *f*, and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

B♭-tp 3

Musical staff for B♭-tp 3. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *mp*, *f*, and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

F horn

Musical staff for F horn. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

Trb 1

Musical staff for Trb 1. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

Trb 2

Musical staff for Trb 2. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

Trb 3

Musical staff for Trb 3. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

Btrb

Musical staff for Btrb. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

Tub

Musical staff for Tub. The staff contains a melodic line starting at measure 43. It includes dynamics such as *f* and *con tutta forza*, and articulation like accents.

10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

47

49

A piece

straight mute

To flugelhorn

The image shows a musical score for a 10-piece brass ensemble, specifically measures 47, 48, and 49. The score is arranged in a system with ten staves. From top to bottom, the staves are labeled: A piece, B♭-tp 1, B♭-tp 2, B♭-tp 3, F horn, Trb 1, Trb 2, Trb 3, Btrb, and Tuba. The music is in a key signature of one flat (B♭ major) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'A piece'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings are *sfz* (sforzando) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score also includes performance instructions like 'straight mute' and 'To flugelhorn'. The measures are numbered 47, 48, and 49. The score is written for a 10-piece brass ensemble, including four trumpets, one horn, four trombones, and a tuba.

10-piece Brass Ensemble

Sørgemarsch over Rikard Nordraak

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

Funeral March for Rikard Nordraak

51 51

A picc

B♭-tp 1

B♭-tp 2

B♭-tp 3

F horn

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btrb

Tuba

