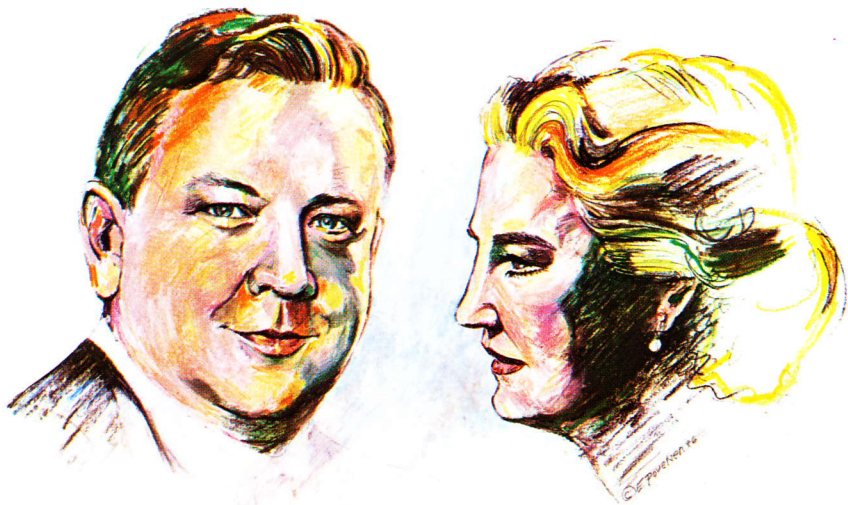


MELCHIOR & FLAGSTAD

IN COPENHAGEN

LAURITZ MELCHIOR SINGS DANISH SONGS
KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD SINGS SONGS BY GRIEG



DACOCD 325

LAURITZ MELCHIOR



1-8 recorded Copenhagen, September 15, 1939

9-10 recorded New York, May 16, 1941

- 1 Henrik Rung/Hans Andersen
 Hvor Nilen vander (Where the Nile waters) 3:18
 Herman D. Koppel, piano and chorus
 OCS1521-1 HMV DA 5211 Victor 2191
- 2 Peter Erasmus Lange-Müller/Thor Lange (from German)
 I Würzburg ringe de Klokke til Fest
 (Holiday bells are ringing in Würzburg) 1:53
 Herman D. Koppel, piano
 OCS1522-1 HMV DA 5211 Victor 2191
- 3 Georg Rygaard/Axel Juel
 Flaget (The Flag) 2:39
 Members of the Royal Danish Orchestra
 Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
 OCS1523-1 HMV DA 5212 Victor 2192

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- 4 Georg Rygaard/Axel Juel
Danmark (Denmark) 2:56
Members of the Royal Danish Orchestra
Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
OCS1524-1 HMV DA 5212 Victor 2192
- 5 Emil Hornemann/Adolf Recke
Kongernes Konge (Thou King of Kings) 2:40
Members of the Royal Danish Orchestra
Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
OCS1525-1 HMV DA 5213 Victor 2193
- 6 Hans Ernst Krøyer/Adam Oehlenschläger
Der er et yndigt Land (There is a lovely land) 2:52
Danish National Anthem
Members of the Royal Danish Orchestra
Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
OCS1526-1 HMV DA 5213 Victor 2193
- 7 Johan Peter Emilius Hartmann/Christian Winther
Flyv, Fugl, flyv (Fly, bird, fly) 3:51
Studentersangforeningen's Chorus (on the occasion of the glee club's
100th anniversary) Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
2CS1527-1 HMV DB 5233 Victor 18078

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- 8 Peter Erasmus Lange-Müller/Holger Drachmann
Der var engang: **Serenade** (Once upon a time: Serenade) 4:06
Studentersangforeningen's Chorus (on the occasion of the glee club's
100th anniversary) Johan Hye-Knudsen, conductor
2CS 1528-1 HMV DB 5233 Victor 18078
- 9 a Fini Henriques/Ellen Reumert
Foraarssang (Spring Song) 1:17
b Peter Heise/William Shakespeare/Edvard Lembecke
Twelfth Night Act 5: **Dengang jeg var kun saa stor som saa**
(When that I was and a little tiny boy) 3:03
Ignace Strasfogel, piano
BS065620 Victor 2189
- 10 Peter Heise/Emil Aarestrup
Skovensomhed (Alone in the Woods) 3:32
Ignace Strasfogel, piano
BSO 65619-1 Victor 2189

KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD

11-13, 15-18 and 20 recorded Copenhagen, July 23 and 25, 1936

14 and 19 recorded New York April 1, 1936

All with Edwin McArthur, piano

11 Edvard Grieg/Otto Benzon

Der gynger en Baad på bølge

(The boat rocks on the waves) Op. 69, No. 1 3:07

OCS393-1 HMV DA 1515 Victor 1813

12 Edvard Grieg/John Paulsen

Et Haab (Hope) Op. 26, No. 1 2:22

OCS395-1 HMV DA 1516 Victor 1816

13 Edvard Grieg/Otto Benzon

Lys Nat (Summer Night) Op. 70, No. 3 2:42

OCS392-1 HMV DA 1515 Victor 1814

14 Edvard Grieg/Hans Andersen

Jeg elsker dig (I love you) Op. 5, No. 3 3:17

BS101163-1 HMV DA 1520

-
- 15 Edvard Grieg/Hans Andersen
Jeg elsker dig (I love you) (in German) 3:08
OCS390-1 HMV DA 1505 Victor 1804
- 16 Edvard Grieg/Henrik Ibsen
En Svane (A Swan) Op. 25, No. 2 (in German) 2:53
OCS377-1 HMV DA 1513 Victor 1814
- 17 Edvard Grieg/Vilhelm Krag
Mens jeg venter (While I wait)
(also: In the boat) Op. 60, No. 3 (in German) 3:02
OCS378-1 HMV DA 1513 Victor 1813
- 18 Edvard Grieg/Friedrich von Bodenstedt
En drøm (A dream) Op. 48, No. 6 (in German) 2:34
OCS391-1 HMV DA 1505 Victor 1804
- 19 Agathe Backer Grøndahl/Andreas Grimelund Jynge
Mot Kveld (Eventide) Op. 42 No. 7 3:01
BS101164-1 HMV DA 1520
- 20 Eyvind Alnæs/Viggo Stuckenberg
Lykken mellem to mennesker
(Happiness between two people) Op. 26, No. 1 2:59
OCS394-1 HMV DA 1516 Victor 1816

1. Henrik Rung/Hans Andersen

Hvor Nilen vander (Where the Nile waters)

Hans Andersen's poem tells of two migratory birds meeting on the Nile and comparing impressions of Denmark and King Valdemar, the king's extramarital love for little Tove, his fondness for his castle Gurre and its surroundings, which lead him to the blasphemy: "Let God keep His heaven, as long as I have Gurre!"

2. Peter Erasmus Lange-Müller/Thor Lange

I Würzburg ringe de Klokke til Fest

(Holiday bells are ringing in Würzburg)

I fancy the girls of Würzburg the most, and she who walks in the valley is dearest to me; for a time we were sweethearts - gave promises we did not always keep - may God grant her happiness.

3. Georg Rygaard/Axel Juel

Flaget (The Flag)

There is nothing quite as stirring/as the flag that's being raised/when it tugs at our hearts/and towards heaven draws our souls.../when it gives its final sigh/as the mighty ship goes down.

4. Georg Rygaard/Axel Juel

Danmark (Denmark)

We love our flowering fatherland/its beeches, its hilltops, its waters/our wanderings lead us to seablue shores/no matter the road or the path that we follow.

5. Emil Hornemann/Adolf Recke

Kongernes Konge (Thou King of Kings)

Subtitled "Prayer for Denmark", the King of Kings is invoked to side with Denmark in war, to grant victory followed by peace, freedom and ample harvest.

6. Hans Ernst Krøyer/Adam Oehlenschläger

Der er et yndigt Land (There is a lovely land)

There is a lovely land/it stands with mighty beeches/near salty eastern coasts/with shifting hills and dales/its name is ancient Denmark/and it is Freja's hall.

7. Johan Peter Erasmus Hartmann/Christian Winther

Flyv, Fugl, flyv (Fly, bird, fly)

Fly, bird, fly over the waves of Fure lake/black night approaches/the sun sinks behind darkening woods/day is tip-toeing away/So hurry home to your feathered mate/and your yellow-beaked brood/but when you come back tomorrow/tell me all you have seen.

8. Peter Erasmus Lange-Müller/Holger Drachmann

Der var engang: **Serenade**. (Once upon a time: Serenade)

A toast to womankind, proposed in the perfumed summer night, to her caprices, yearnings and ultimate surrender.

9.a. Fini Henriques/Ellen Reumert

Foraarssang (Spring Song)

Spring has come, open the door/the cuckoo sits high in the beechtree top/predicts you a future so light and so long/All of nature breathes rapture and song

b. Peter Heise/William Shakespeare/Edvard Lembcke

Twelfth Night Act 5: Dengang jeg var kun saa stor som saa

(When that I was and a little tiny boy)

When that I was and a little tiny boy/With hey, ho, the wind and the rain/A foolish thing was but a toy/For the rain it raineth every day.

10. Peter Heise/Emil Aarestrup

Skovensomhed (Alone in the Woods)

All through the beechwood I led you/by the hand, all was green and cool/we heard the nightingale/It was as if the world/with blossoms and branches/with clouds and stars/belonged to us alone.

11. Edvard Grieg/Otto Benzon

Der gynger en Baad på Bølge (The boat rocks on the waves)

The boat rocks on the waves/and there is only one on board/but she is the fairest lass/on this entire fair earth/...for sure, she won't be alone/on board for long.

12. Edvard Grieg/John Paulsen

Et Haab (Hope)

*I feel I could shout for joy/But would I be understood?/No, best I keep it
locked in my heart/far beyond in the darkness a star sparkles/and it is
mine.*

13. Edvard Grieg/Otto Benzon

Lys Nat (Summer Night)

*Didn't the sun just sink behind the distant wood/didn't the pale star just
shine in the smooth wave?/Does the gold of day come so soon?/Summer
night, why are you so short?*

14.15. Edvard Grieg/Hans Andersen

Jeg elsker dig (I love you)

*You alone are in my thoughts/you are the first love of my heart/I love
you as no one here on earth/I love you in time and eternity.*

16. Edvard Grieg/Henrik Ibsen

En Svane (A Swan)

*My white swan, always you were silent, mute/until this our last
meeting/when with the premonition of death/you sang - you were after all
a swan - a swan.*

17. Edvard Grieg/Vilhelm Krag

Mens jeg venter (While I wait)

White flocks of wild geese in the sunshine/as I row to the finishing grounds - wait/wait until midsummer, time for our wedding/with merry dancing to the tune of fiddles.

18. Edvard Grieg/Friedrich von Bodenstedt

En drøm (A dream)

Once I dreamt of a maiden fair/we sat in the fragrant woods/far from the stir of the village/the brook it leapt, the blossoms burst/and all was far away, only you were near/my dream became a day of wonder.

19. Agathe Backer Grøndahl/Andreas Grimelund Jynge

Mot Kveld (Eventide)

All blossoms have bid the sun a last goodnight/lanterns of glowworms dance over the green/the butterfly wrapped in her dewproof veil/rests in the cup of the bluebell frail.

"Mot Kveld" was 18-year old Flagstad's opening selection for her very first recital in 1913.

20. Eyvind Alnæs/Viggo Stuckenberg

Lykken mellem to mennesker (Happiness between two people)

Real happiness thrives not on life's exciting moments/but on quiet understanding between two people/like a whisper in the twilight as day comes to an end.

Alnæs beautiful song was included in Flagstad's first Carnegie Hall recital December 11, 1935, and had to be encored.

In downtown Copenhagen, a stone's throw from the Royal Palace, lies a grimy, melancholic brick building, much in need of renovation. Once the home of the Danish masonic lodge, it has, since the masons moved on to more impressive quarters, housed successively a cinema, an indoor tennis court, The Board of Trade, the Institute of Musical Sciences, and HMV's recording studios. In the years before World War 2, a number of prominent Red Seal artists visited here to record, among them Kirsten Flagstad and Lauritz Melchior.

In the summer of 1936 when Flagstad called at the Copenhagen studios, she had less than 18 months before catapulted to world fame, the dream Brünnhilde-Isolde opera lovers on both sides of the Atlantic had been longing for. Similarly, in September 1939 when Lauritz Melchior recorded his Copenhagen batch he was unrivalled as the world's leading Heldentenor. Yet nothing could be more in character than 41-year old Flagstad's and 49-year old Melchior's desire to descend for a spell from the heights of Valhalla, scale down their mighty voices, and perform the songs of their native lands. It is true of both artists, that in their extended and prolonged concert careers abroad, they never (or only rarely) failed to include one or several songs of their respective country in their programmes. For Melchior, it was particularly the patriotic, often martial strain that held a life-long and sincere attraction, and indeed his compatriots did not always sympathize with his naive, sometimes blustering, enthusiasm. For many Danes national sentiment was more convincingly communicated by the noble and restrained delivery of Aksel Schjøtz than it was by Melchior's ringing fervour. Yet as one veteran

commentator of the Danish musical scene once remarked: "A calm summer's evening on a Danish lake and a stormy night on the North Sea - are they not both moving?"

Flagstad's involvement with the song heritage of her country peaked towards the close of her career, when she recorded close to 100 Norwegian hymns and on September 7, 1957, dressed in national costume, sang a tumultously-received all-Grieg programme in London's Albert Hall; the concert marked her farewell and final concert appearance outside Norway and the 50th anniversary of the death of Edvard Grieg.

Of the Grieg songs included, only "En Drøm" was originally published in German, but there did prevail prior to World War 2 a feeling, largely shared by concert managements, gramophone companies and performers, that Grieg in German had a greater appeal and was more widely understood. For four of the Copenhagen recordings Flagstad apparently bowed to this view, although a few months previously she sang "Jeg elsker dig" in Norwegian for her first RCA batch. It has been included in the present issue (No. 14), as has Backer-Grøndahls "Mot Kveld". The two final Melchior sides are also non-Copenhagen; they were recorded in New York in 1941.

The present volume also includes the two accompanists who figure most prominently in Flagstad's and Melchior's recital and recording activity, Edwin McArthur and Ignace Strasfogel. The story goes that shortly after coming to America in 1935, Flagstad attended one of Melchior's recitals. There was some delay getting started, then a smallish Strasfogel pattered determinedly to the pianoforte, and shyly waited - long pause - then

Melchior, in all his towering and impressive bulk sauntered across the stage to audible tittering (for contrast is the food of laughter); this (according to the story) is where Kirsten Flagstad said to herself: "This is never going to happen to me" - and so out of reportedly 25 eager candidates she picked the young, six-foot plus Edwin MacArthur.

Hans Hansen

Tristan and Isolde

Kirsten Flagstad and Lauritz Melchior sang together in more than 200 performances, far more frequently than with any other partner. Indeed it is unlikely that any two other major artists of grand opera have even approached this record of partnership.



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COMPACT
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DIGITAL AUDIO

LAURITZ MELCHIOR

- 1 **Rung:** Hvor Nilen vander
- 2 **Lange-Müller:** I Würzburg
- 3 **Rygaard:** Flaget
- 4 **Rygaard:** Danmark
- 5 **Hornemann:** Kongernes Konge
- 6 **Krøyer:** Der er et yndigt Land
- 7 **Hartmann:** Flyv, Fugl, flyv
- 8 **Lange-Müller:** Serenade
- 9 **Henriques:** Forår/**Heise:** Dengang
- 10 **Heise:** Skovensomhed

DACOCD 325

Total playing time: 61:26 A A D

KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD

- 11 **Grieg:** Der gynger en Baad
- 12 **Grieg:** Et Haab
- 13 **Grieg:** Lys Nat
- 14 **Grieg:** Jeg elsker dig
- 15 **Grieg:** Ich liebe Dich
- 16 **Grieg:** En Svane
- 17 **Grieg:** Mens jeg venter
- 18 **Grieg:** En drøm
- 19 **Backer Grøndahl:** Mot Kveld
- 20 **Alnæs:** Lykken mellem to

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