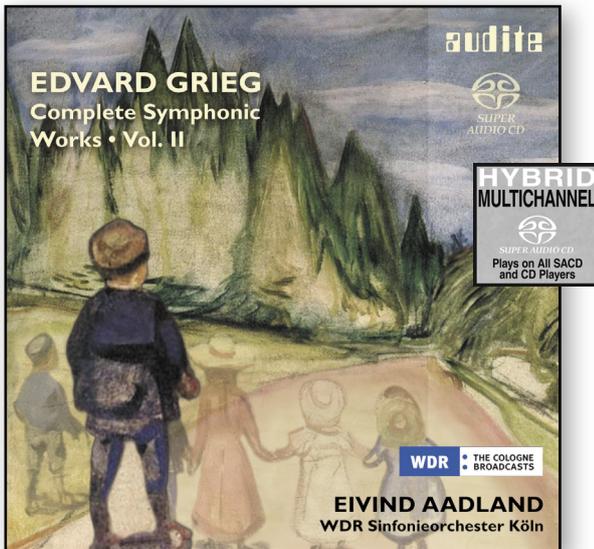


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Press Info:

## EDVARD GRIEG

### Complete Symphonic Works • Vol. II

- **Two Elegiac Melodies**, Op. 34
- **From Holberg's Time**, Op. 40
- **Two Melodies**, Op. 53  
(Norsk / Det første møte)
- **Two Nordic Melodies**, Op. 63  
(I folketonestil / Kulokk & Stabbelåten)

**WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln**  
Eivind Aadland, conductor

"The flavour of this music is in my blood", says the conductor Eivind Aadland, who grew up in Grieg's hometown of Bergen and who today is an international artist. Grieg studied in Leipzig and created a form of Nordic music language – by integrating into his music many songs and dances of his native land – at a time when the Norwegian language itself was in turmoil and the country was seeking political independence from Sweden.

This SACD is the second volume in audite's five-part recording series of Grieg's complete symphonic works with Eivind Aadland and the WDR Sinfonieorchester. These works for string orchestra – a genre which Grieg mastered like no other – are chiefly arrangements of songs and piano pieces. Whereas the song arrangements of the *Elegiac Melodies* Op. 34 and the *Two Melodies* Op. 53 were a form of "export editions" for non-Scandinavian countries (where they were extremely popular, even during Grieg's lifetime), the famous suite *From Holberg's Time* Op. 40 is a homage to Ludvig Holberg, the caustic "Molière of the North", whose 200<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated in Bergen in 1884. For this occasion, Grieg composed a suite "in the old style" on dance forms of the late baroque (Holberg's own time) without, however, denying his own, romantic style. The latest work in this selection (*Two Nordic Melodies* Op. 63) was written by the 51-year-old Grieg who was touring internationally as a conductor and who, in the absence of major works, broadened his repertoire with smaller pieces.

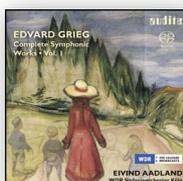
audite's complete edition includes Grieg's symphonic works as well as two suites from his incidental music, compiled by the composer himself specifically for concert use. The third volume of the complete edition is scheduled for release in 2012.

**Eivind Aadland** was chief conductor and artistic director of the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra from 2003 until 2010 and has also worked with many other Scandinavian, European and international orchestras. Aadland initially studied the violin with Yehudi Menuhin. From 1981 until 1989 he was concert master of the Bergen Philharmonic and from 1987 until 1997 music director of the European Union Chamber Orchestra. He subsequently devoted himself fully to his conducting career and studied with Jorma Panula.

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