

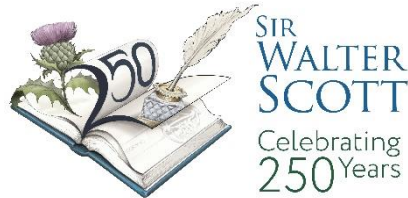


GRIEG SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

GRIEGFORENINGEN I SKOTTLAND

HONORARY PRESIDENT – JOHANNE GRIEG KIPPENBROECK

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Not embargoed

Harp of the North : Edvard Grieg and Andreas Munch in the World of Walter Scott **- film contribution to the Walter Scott 250th anniversary year**

To celebrate composer Edvard Grieg's birthday, the Grieg Society of Scotland is delighted to announce the release of its film contribution to the Walter Scott 250 Year.

Decades after his death, Walter Scott was still a major influence on writers and musicians in Europe and Scandinavia. Two who felt this influence were the young Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg and his older, then more famous compatriot, the poet Andreas Munch.

This film explores the making of a song 'Harpen' ('The Harp') - composed by Grieg to words by Munch - that was created in Rome and stimulated by a pilgrimage to Abbotsford. The song is performed by singer and pianist Sally Garden.

Edvard Grieg, Norwegian composer of Scottish descent was born in 1843 in Bergen. Popularly known for his music to 'Peer Gynt', and his 'Lyric Pieces' for piano, he advanced the cause of Norwegian music on the world stage, and when Norway won independence in 1905, looked back at his work with the cry 'Freedom is the fight for freedom'.

Andreas Munch was the most important and famous Norwegian poet of the mid-nineteenth century. On his 'pilgrimage' to Abbotsford and Loch Katrine in 1862, he asked the question 'What *is* Scotland without Walter Scott?' later publishing a journal of his travels.

The film shows the deep and lasting influence Walter Scott had on major figures in Europe and - the subject of this film – Scandinavia.

ENDS

Notes to editors (over)

Advancing understanding of the lives, artistic legacies and Scottish connections of composer Edvard Grieg and his wife, singer Nina Grieg. Our mission is to inform and inspire.

Notes to editors

Viewing the *Harps of the North* film – the film can be viewed on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/A301S3WXNL4>) and via the Grieg Society of Scotland website <https://griegsocietyscotland.org/harps-of-the-north-film-release-for-walter-scott-250>

About Walter Scott 250 – Walter Scott 250 is a national celebration to mark the 250th anniversary year of Sir Walter Scott's birth on 15th August 1771 and to explore his legacy in the Scotland of today. A partnership network of more than fifty organisations are planning events, academic projects, publications and exhibitions across 2021-2022. The anniversary programme across Scotland is supported and facilitated by the Abbotsford Trust, the independent charity responsible for the home, collection and estate of the famous author. More at www.walterscott250.com and Twitter @WalterScott250 and #WalterScott250.

About the Grieg Society of Scotland - Founded in 2017, the Society advances understanding of the lives, artistic legacies and Scottish connections of composer Edvard Grieg and his wife, singer, Nina Grieg. More at <https://griegsocietyscotland.org/about> and Twitter @GriegScotland

More about Dr Sally Garden at www.monsgraupius.org

For further information, images, interviews

Contact for the Grieg Society of Scotland: Dr Sally Garden (contact details per release email).

Release date : 15 June 2021