Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), celebrated Norwegian composer, is best known for his Concerto in A minor for piano and orchestra as well as his Peer Gynt Suites for orchestra. However, his gift for lyricism is also displayed in his nationalistic pieces for piano, his songs and his suites for strings.

The four pieces in this arrangement are taken from one of his sets of Lyric Pieces for piano. They are composed in a simple but charming Norwegian folk idiom.

Working Song
Notice the articulations of the main theme as initially presented by the clarinet. This sets the ponderous character of the first piece.

Air
In this movement the horn presents the quiet, contemplative theme which is then then passed along among the clarinet, flute and oboe.

Song of the Suitors
Again the main theme is given to the clarinet in a rather jocular fashion. The apparent nervousness of the suitor is portrayed by various interruptions in the phrase. The movement ends peacefully after the bassoon has a bruff version of a subsidiary tune.

Bride’s Song
This song is certainly happy and carefree. Any uneasiness that the bride may have had seems to have been happily put aside. Let the horn-bassoon duet (m. 36-41) proceed headlong into a strong, voluminous ending.
Norwegian Suite
I. Working Song

Arranged by Kenneth Bray

Moderato \( \frac{d}{2} \)

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Horn

Bassoon

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IV. The Bride's Song