The legend of

## PEER EYNT

Music by Edvard Grieg



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#### **About AICMF**

The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival is nationally recognized as one of the foremost music events of its kind. The Festival is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



#### **PROGRAM**

May 7, 2022



Julie Coucheron – Director / Narrator / Piano

**Elizabeth Pridgen** – *Piano* 

**David Coucheron** – Violin

Susan Dodge – Choreographer

Andrea Jones – Amelia Art Studio

Reese Vonnoh & Zoe Gilsenan – Amelia Island Dance Festival

#### Disney Song Medley JJ



Arranged and performed by Julie Coucheron who will engage the young audience in guessing the titles of several children's films.

#### **Peer Gynt** (originally published: 1867)

Play by **HENRIK IBSEN** 

(1828 - 1906)

- 1. Morning Mood
- 2. Ingrid's Lament
- 3. Arabic Dance
- 4. Anitra's Dance
- 5. Solveig's Song
- 6. Mother Aase
- 7. In the Hall of the Mountain King

Music by EDVARD GRIEG

(1843 - 1907)



Peer Gynt is the story of the adventures that a young man encounters as he goes out into the world to seek his fortune - - A Story of Transformation!

Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen and violinist David Coucheron interpret the musical composition for Peer Gynt. Ms. Pridgen will play a Clavinova, a digital musical instrument that can imitate an array of instruments.

Thank you to Amelia Music Studio for supporting the Festival's mission to "offer music education to concert attendees, students, and aspiring young musicians." The donation of 10 children's and their companions tickets to today's concert is deeply appreciated.

#### ABOUT TODAY'S PERFORMANCE

Edvard Grieg's most popular work, the Legend of Peer Gynt was composed for Henrik Ibsen's Norwegian allegorical play in 1875. Today it is considered to be one of the finest examples of beautiful melodic 'picture painting.' Children of all ages will especially enjoy two of the best-known movements: "Morning" and " In the Hall of the Mountain King " as dancers from Susan Dodge's Amelia Island Dance Festival and an artist from Lauren Templeton's Amelia Art Studio interpret the music, live on stage.

Pianist and Director Julie Coucheron, in her native costume, narrates the story while a trio of musicians including Ms. Coucheron, Elizabeth Pridgen, piano, and violinist David Coucheron provide the musical inspiration for the dancers and the painter.

This production was originally conceived by the late Christopher Rex, founder and artistic director of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival, as a visual, musical and dance interpretation of the famous composition. Under the direction of Ms. Coucheron, the production is a collaborative effort with Lauren Templeton, founder of the Amelia Art Studio and Susan Dodge, director and founder of the Amelia Island Dance Festival. It is sponsored by the Young Patrons of the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival.

Past chair of the Young Patrons, Ms. Templeton has recently handed the "baton" to Carrie Anderson Mays, a member of the group and founder/director of the Amelia Music Studio.

~Barbara Alleva Gant (2022)



## **Edvard Grieg**

(1843 - 1907)

Edvard was one of the definitive leaders of Scandinavian music and his influence was great. Although composing many short piano pieces and chamber works, the work Grieg did for Henrik Ibsen stood out. Originally composing 90 minutes of orchestral music for the play, he later went back and extracted certain sections for the suites. Several different instruments are used to describe Peer Gynt's travels around the world to distant lands.

When Ibsen asked Grieg to write music for the play in 1874, he reluctantly agreed. However, it was much more difficult for Grieg than he imagined. "Peer Gynt progresses slowly," he wrote to a friend in August 1874, "and there is no possibility of having it finished by autumn. It is a very complex subject."



#### Henrik Johan Ibsen

(1828 - 1906)

Henrik was a Norwegian playwright and theatre director. As one of the founders of modernism in theatre, Ibsen is often referred to as "the father of realism" and one of the most influential playwrights of his time.

Ibsen's early poetic and cinematic play Peer Gynt has strong surreal elements. After Peer Gynt Ibsen abandoned verse and wrote in realistic prose.

Ibsen is often ranked as one of the most distinguished playwrights in the European tradition, and is widely regarded as the foremost playwright of the nineteenth century. He influenced many other playwrights and novelists.

#### ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

#### **Julie Coucheron**



Pianist Julie Coucheron, who started playing the piano at age four, has established an international career winning prizes in Italy, Germany and the U.S. She has worked with such musicians as Lazar Berman, Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Vladimir Feltsman, John O' Connor and Chistopher O'Riley. Ms. Coucheron has toured Europe, the U.S., South America and Asia, playing in many great halls, including Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Ms. Coucheron has performed at the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival and at La Jolla Summer Fest. She is artistic director for the Fjord Cadenza Festival in Norway and a founding member of the Kon Tiki Classical music Fest in Oslo, Norway.

Ms. Coucheron has released two recordings with her brother, violinist David, who is concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She is also an Artist-in-Residence in Piano at Kennesaw State University School of Music.

#### Elizabeth Pridgen



Pianist Elizabeth Pridgen is a distinguished soloist and chamber musician, who has performed in concerts at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, Merkin Hall, the Tilles Center on Long Island, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, and the "Rising Stars Series" at the Ravinia Festival. Ms. Pridgen has also performed at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and the Kosciuszko Foundation, and in recitals in London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Washington D.C., Miami, San Francisco, and throughout the Southeast and Caribbean.

In 2014 she was appointed Artistic Director of the Atlanta Chamber Players, one of the leading chamber ensembles in the United States. Ms. Pridgen performs regularly at festivals, including the Rome Chamber Music Festival in Rome, Italy, the Strings Music Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival. An avid chamber musician, she has collaborated with artists such as Elmar Oliveira, Robert McDuffie, Yo-Yo Ma, Lynn Harrell, Hilary Hahn, Sarah Chang and Anne Akiko Meyers.

#### **David Coucheron**



Violinist David Coucheron joined the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra as Concertmaster in September 2010. At the time, he was the youngest concertmaster among any major U.S. orchestra.

An active recording artist, recordings with sister and pianist Julie Coucheron include "David and Julie" (Naxos/Mudi) and "Debut" (Naxos). He is also the featured soloist on the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's recording of Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending, which was released on ASO Media in Fall 2014.

Coucheron began playing the violin at age three. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, his Master of Music from The Juilliard School and his Master of Musical Performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, studying with teachers including Igor Ozim, Aaron Rosand, Lewis Kaplan and David Takeno. Coucheron plays a 1725 Stradivarius, on kind loan from Anders Sveaas Charitable Trust.

#### ABOUT THE PERFORMERS (continued)

#### Susan Dodge



A professional dance artist and instructor, Susan Dodge is the founder and president of the Amelia Island Dance Festival. She is a former native of Jacksonville and a graduate of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Susan is also a Summa Cum Laude graduate in Dance Performance from Southern Methodist University. She has taught at multiple dance universities and dance companies across the U.S. including New York's Paul Taylor School and was a co-founder of the Dance Project of Washington Heights. She has danced in many musicals and was a member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company and Taylor 2 in New York.

In addition to presenting the Amelia Island Dance Festival each year since 2019, Susan currently teaches at the Royal Amelia Dance Academy and is member of the board of the Florida Ballet of Jacksonville.



#### **Andrea Jones**

Andrea Jones earned a bachelor's degree in studio art at the University of Denver. She has experience volunteering in art activities such as face painting and portrait drawing. Working with children of all ages in a creative setting inspires her own personal work. Andrea is the assistant at the Amelia Arts Studio and is the Visual Arts Specialist at The Amelia Island Montessori School.

#### **Reese Vonnoh**

Reese is a currently a student at U.F. and is a former student of the Royal Academy of Dance, Amelia Island.

#### Zoe Gilsenan

Zoe will graduate this year from FBHS and will attend UF in the fall.

#### **Lauren Templeton**

Lauren Templeton began her formal visual art studies at The Corcoran School of Art in her hometown, Washington, DC. She graduated from Colgate University in New York with a BA in Art and Art History with a concentration in Studio Art. Lauren earned her Florida Professional Educator's License with certification in Visual Arts K-12 in 2007 and offers nearly 15 years of teaching experience.

In 2016, Lauren founded Amelia Art Studio. Located on Amelia Island, the studio welcomes artists of all ages interested in forming new pathways for self-expression, the study of art as a discipline, and the exercise of creativity. With an emphasis on Arts Integration and Art History, Lauren's teaching methods are focused on reinforcing the formal elements of art, the basic principles of design, and nurturing a long-lasting passion for art-making.

#### Thank you for your continued support!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today: www.aicmf.org
1405 Park Avenue, Suite 101 - Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Peer Gynt is a joint production by the following organizations:



https://www.aicmf.org

## amelia art studio

https://www.ameliaartstudio.com



https://www.ameliaislanddancefestival.org

# J Become a **Young Patron**, Today!





You will surely want to be a part of this dynamic group of young professionals who sponsored and helped plan this family concert, "The Legend of Peer Gynt."

The core group was initiated by Ktimene Axtell, Lauren Templeton, Trang Weist Jennifer Bauer and Carrie Anderson Mays to introduce Island children to classical music

In 2020 this group of women aided in planning and promoting the first family concert, "The Carnival of the Animals." The next production was the highly acclaimed "Peter and the Wolf" for both a virtual and in-person audience in 2021.

Membership in the YP group is FREE and offers a 20% discount on Festival concert tickets plus the opportunity to attend special free pre- or after concert parties with a dynamic group of young adults. In conjunction with two concerts this year, parties were held at Mocama Beer Company and the Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island.

Our core group welcomes like-minded Islanders to aid in planning parties for before or following one of the Festival's 2023 concerts.

To join or for more information, visit www.aicmf.org or call the Festival office 904 261-1779 from 9am to 1pm.

#### SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

This list represents contributions and pledges for the 2021/2022 Festival made from August 1, 2020 through February 7, 2022. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed a name, we sincerely apologize and ask that you notify us at 904-261-1779 or send an email to info@aicmf.org for corrections.

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Sunday, May 22, 2022 Beer & G-Strings – Musical Fireworks
5 pm | Courtyard Amelia Island by Marriott

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The primary purpose of the Institute is to be a premier training and mentoring program which also provides performance opportunities. Two outstanding college quartets will receive intensive, private coaching by the members of the Dover Quartet. The Institute will culminate in a public concert at the Historic Nassau County Courthouse on the final day of the program at 5:00 PM Saturday, June 4.

Our 21st season will feature the following talented artists:

Latimer Quartet from the Curtis Institute of Music Meraki Quartet from Rice University

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The Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival no longer requires concert attendees and volunteers to wear facial masks during upcoming events, but they are recommended.

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