

A Perfect Grieg Evening

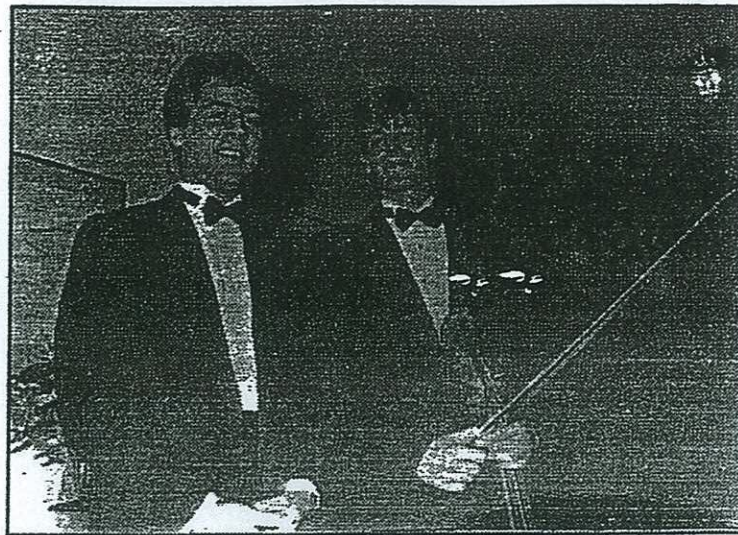
*With Rain
À La Bergen
On Governors Island*

By Toralv Østvang

NEW YORK — Members, friends and guests of the Edvard Grieg Society, Inc. of New York had a perfect Grieg evening on Governors Island last Friday. Radio celebrity Robert Sherman provided the nearly 100-person crowd with additional insight on the life and music of composer Edvard Grieg; Darrett Adkins, cello, and Jeremy Denk, piano, gave an excellent performance of Grieg's *Cello Sonata in A Minor (Opus 64)*; and the weather added to the feeling of being in Grieg's hometown Bergen in late September, with rain and winds keeping the guests away from the beautiful Officers Mess patio, but enjoying the warmth and beauty of the building's interior instead. "This is truly the atmosphere of Grieg," commented Mr. Sherman.

The fall concert was part of the fund-raising program for next year's ambitious 150th anniversary of the birth of the great composer Edvard Grieg.

WQXR Executive Director Robert Sherman, introduced by Grieg Society President Per Brevig as a true friend of Norway, said each country has one or two great composers who more than anybody else symbolizes the atmosphere of their country. "Grieg does just that—Norway is a small country, Grieg preferred to make small musical pieces, and he liked



Above picture: Jeremy Denk (left) and Darrett Adkins pictured after their performance on Governors Island. Left picture: Guest speaker Robert Sherman and wife Veronica Bravo (left couple), and hosts Berit and Per Brevig of the Edvard Grieg Society.

it best in peaceful surroundings," said Mr. Sherman.

According to the speaker, America is not yet aware of the great bulk of Grieg's music, but Mr. Sherman was convinced that the 150th anniversary would get Grieg's recordings going.

The Adkins-Denk duo, now celebrating its 5th anniversary, was highly praised by the audience after their performance of the *Cello Sonata*, one of Grieg's major works, completed in 1883.

Piano manufacturer Steinway supported the concert by transporting a piano to Governors Island on Friday afternoon.

A delicious dinner completed the evening's program, and the Grieg Society was correct in stating, in the invitation, that there is no better and more beautiful view of Manhattan Island than what you see from Governors Island, rain or shine.

It was Captain Allen J. Taylor (Rit) of the U.S. Coast Guard who sponsored the event. □