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FOREWORD

Bragi's Harp is a concerto piece for harp and symphony orchestra. Bragi is the son of Odin and the skaldic God of poetry in Norse mythology, and he is a harp player. Snorri Sturluson writes in the *Gylfaginning* after describing Odin, Thor, and Baldr:

One is called Bragi: he is renowned for wisdom, and most of all for fluency of speech and skill with words. He knows most of skaldship, and after him skaldship is called *bragr*, and from his name that one is called *bragr*-man or -woman, who possesses eloquence surpassing others, of women or of men. His wife is Iðunn.

The composition is very romantic and cinematically written, inspired by the Norwegian folk music. This piece is inspired by my Norwegian heritage. Growing up with the music of Edvard Grieg I always wished there was a Grieg concerto for harp. The piece is musically paintings of the mountains in the west coast of Norway, the crystal blue streams and rivers on its way to the fjords and the life on the traditional mountain farms called *sæter*, with the playful and energetic goats jumping around in the mountain. The concerto was world premiered by Trondheim Symphony Orchestra & Opera, Uno Vesje (harp) and conducted by Ingar Bergby the 24th of May 2017 in Olavshallen in Trondheim, Norway.

SHORT BIO

Uno Alexander Vesje (1989) is a Norwegian harpist and composer. Uno studied harp performance at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City and earned his Masters Degree at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. In 2017, Uno earned a Masters Degree in Composition at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology with the project "Harp – from solo to bigger format".

Uno has won a number of prizes and scholarships for his harp compositions as well as his performances on the instrument. His accolades include Winner of the 6th USA International Harp Competition Composition Contest (2018), third prize in the International Edvard Grieg Composition Contest for his solo suite for harp (2014), semifinalist at the World Harp Competition (2018), and receipt of two Norwegian Art Councils Art Grants, both as a harpist and as a composer. His harp concerto, *Bragi's Harp*, was selected to be performed with the Bergen Philharmonic Youth Orchestra at the final gala concert at the Young Nordic Music Festival in 2018.

Uno has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and performed the world premiere of his own harp concerto with the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra and Opera. He has performed as a soloist of his own compositions in venues around the world including the Hong Kong Jockey Club Amphitheater at the World Harp Congress, in the Oslo Concert Hall at TEDx, and at TivoliVredenburg in Utrecht for the Dutch Harp Festival. His international debut performance as performer/composer took place at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2016. Uno has contributed to a number of recordings as both a harpist and composer. He has released two albums, "Poems From a City" (2014) and "Oslo(ve)" (2017).

www.unoharp.com

Harp

Bragi's Harp

Uno Alexander Vesje
2017

Tempo rubato

♩ = 60

Use the metal on a wooden tuning key to make a fast tremolo between the two strings.
Make the tremolo in the middle of the string so you get the octave overtone.

Harp

pp mp Fl.

Harp

mp A Eb

A Adagietto ♩ = 66

Harp

mp Ab

Slide tuning key towards soundboard while playing the tremolo.

Harp

mp B B#

Fast Glissando/tremolo with two wooden tuning keys.
Make it with more and more tones.

B

Harp

ff

6

6

Bragi's Harp

C

41

Hp. *ff* *mp*

44

49

D

54

56

59

Bragi's Harp

Uno Alexander Vesje
2017

Tempo rubato

♩ = 60

Musical notation for measures 1-6. Measure 1 contains a whole rest with a '3' above it. Measures 2-6 contain a melodic line starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A slur covers measures 2-6. Measure 6 ends with a whole rest and a '6' above it.

A Adagio $\text{♩} = 66$ **B**

Musical notation for measures 7-17. Measure 7 has a whole rest with '18' above it. Measure 8 has a whole rest. Measures 9-17 contain a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. A slur covers measures 9-17. Measure 17 ends with a fermata.

Musical notation for measures 18-27. Measure 18 has a whole rest with '40' above it. Measures 19-27 contain a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *mf*. A slur covers measures 19-27. Measure 27 ends with a whole rest and '10' above it. A box labeled 'C' is above measure 27.

Musical notation for measures 28-29. Measure 28 has a whole rest with '10' above it. Measure 29 has a whole rest with '2' above it. A box labeled 'D' is above measure 28, and a box labeled 'E' is above measure 29. The piece ends with a 5/4 time signature.

Musical notation for measures 30-36. Measure 30 has a whole rest with '65' above it. Measure 31 has a whole rest. Measure 32 has a whole rest. Measure 33 has a whole rest with '7' above it. Measure 34 has a whole rest. Measure 35 has a whole rest. Measure 36 has a whole rest. Time signatures 4/4, 4/4, 5/4, and 4/4 are indicated.

Musical notation for measures 37-38. Measure 37 has a whole rest with '74' above it. Measure 38 has a whole rest. Measure 39 contains a melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A slur covers measures 39-40. Measure 40 ends with a whole rest and '2' above it. A box labeled 'F' is above measure 37.

Bragi's Harp

$\text{♩} = 60$

Tempo rubato

Use the metal on a wooden tuning key to make a fast tremolo between the two strings.
Make the tremolo in the middle of the string so you get the octave overtone.

Harp

Piano

Tempo rubato $\text{♩} = 60$
use sustain pedal.

pp *mp* *p* *8va*

Hp.

Pno.

ppp *3* *ppp*

8va

Hp.

Pno.

Adagietto $\text{♩} = 66$

p *ppp* *p*

A

Hp.

Pno.

ppp *p*

Hp.

Pno.

ppp *3* *ppp*

Bragi's Harp

2

Slide tuning key towards soundboard while playing the tremolo.

Fast Glissando/tremolo with two wooden tuning keys.

Make it with more and more tones.

D \flat C \flat B \flat A \flat F \flat G \flat A \flat

Hp. *ff*

Pno. *pp* *p* *mf*

Hp.

Pno. *f*

Hp. *ff*

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp*

Hp. *mp*

Pno. *ppp* *p*

Hp.

Pno. *p* *mp*