

GRIEG CONCERTO

ON Saturday, November 5, the National Orchestra will present the final public concert of the Wellington return season. The soloist on this occasion will be the Wellington pianist CARA HALL, who is making her first appearance with the National Orchestra since her return from overseas. In this article BESSIE POLLARD discusses in outline the work in which Miss Hall will be featured as soloist—Grieg's Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16.

The Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, written when Grieg was 25, has lived on to become an essential work in the repertoire of every great pianist. Its brilliance is most effectively complemented by sublimely beautiful passages which reveal to the full the dramatic capabilities and tonal resources of the piano. The work was introduced at Christiania in 1870, the soloist being Edmund Neupert, to whom the composition was dedicated.

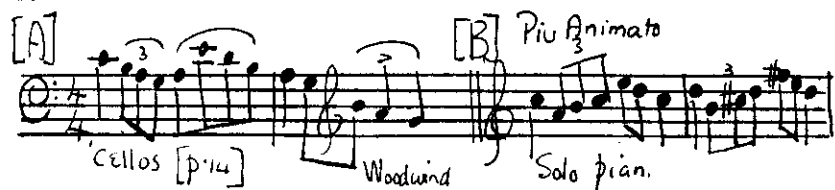
The first movement—*Allegro molto moderato*—begins with a drum roll, after which the solo piano plays an introductory passage in descending octaves. Then horns and woodwind, answered by strings, give out the main theme. The piano restates the principal subject (below)—



The soloist then plays a buoyant and spirited passage—*Animato e molto leggiero*—which begins—



The second subject is announced first by 'cellos and woodwind ("A" below) and then taken over by solo piano. A few bars later another important motif appears. ("B" below)—



The *Adagio* begins with a thoughtful, touching melody for muted strings ("A" below). When the soloist enters, this theme is presented much more elaborately ("B" below)—



The Finale—*Allegro moderato*—has an almost peasant lustiness; it is full of Norwegian folk colour in both the harmonic structure and in the gay rhythms. The main theme is given out by solo piano ("A" below), while the rather nostalgic second subject is heard first from the flute ("B" below)—



Grieg's Concerto in A Minor, Op. 16, for Piano and Orchestra with Cara Hall as soloist, will be presented at the third Wellington concert of the National Orchestra, conducted by Andersen Tyrer, on Saturday, November 5.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 4, 1949.



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