

It Is a Great Honor

By Hanne Farestvedt

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Google Translated from Norwegian

Image Caption:

Back in the mountains: Charlie Albright was in Bergen two years ago. Then he stepped in on short notice after a last minute cancellation. Now he's back playing Grieg's A-minor Concerto. –I am excited to be back, he says to BA. The pianist was only 12 the first time he performed the concerto publicly.

In the past, American Charlie Albright crawled up on the piano rack. There he remained. Tonight he performs the A-minor concert.

Tonight Charlie Albright plays the A minor concert in the Grieg Hall:

Grieghallen: It's quiet in Grieghallen. But Charlie Albright is already finished with his first practice in the city's grand hall. Tonight, in a good festival tradition, he will perform Grieg's A-minor concerto as part of the "goose skin" concert.

-This can be performed by Grieg's piano concert in Grieghallen, in his own home town! It is fantastic, exclaims the American.

The very best

The piano star tells BA that he thinks it is one of the very best piano concerts on the classic repertoire.

- If not the very best. It is at least one of my absolute favorites, he adds. Charlie Albright was only 12-13 years old the first time he performed the A-minor concert publicly.

- It was actually the second piano concerto I learned. I was about ten years old when I heard it the first time, and told my piano teacher that "I have to learn it," he says.

- *Do you remember what hit you that time, which made you enjoy it so well?*

- The whole concerto, both the melody and every theme in it, is absolutely beautiful. Many of the great classic pieces, even the most famous, may have one or two themes that are fine. But in Grieg's A-minor concerto, every part of the play is iconic, says Albright.

Climbed up the stool

He has a reasonably good basis for comparison. The American is a sought-after concert pianist who has played with everyone from Bobby McFerrin to Yo-Yo Ma. And he has spent almost all his life on the piano rack.

- I have a picture of myself, there I am three years old, and we had an old piano standing at home. I climbed the piano rack and started playing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" after the ear, he says.

He began to learn from an old grandmother a few blocks away. She also couldn't read notes, but little Charlie learned by listening.

"Do you play the A-minor concerto with the mature

Whatever it deserves, you should preferably be 90 years old.

Charlie Albright, pianist

- Eventually I got classical piano lessons. The sentence lasted for years, but I just continued. At the same time I took with me all the other fun I had learned, and improvisation, says Albright. Still, and most recently during Saturday's concert in Håkonshallen, he puts in time for improvisation when he holds concerts.

- The funny thing is that you never know what happens. But it is important that it does not sound like improvisation, but as a complete piece that is planned from beginning to end.

Will touch the audience

No matter what Charlie Albright plays, he has one goal with what he does on stage.

- Deterring in musical music, and touching the audience emotionally wise. If that means I miss half of the notes, ■ rather do it than play everything perfectly after the note booklet.

- *What kind of personal touch will you put on the A-minor concerto?*

- It is a piece of music that has a lot of everything, on many levels. It is beautiful on the surface, while it is deeply weeding. If you want to play the piece with the maturity it deserves, you must be 90, says the pianist.

- I hope to get deep in the A-minor concerto. Give it an expression that is somewhat more than surface perfect. There is so much excitement in that piece, and I want to hold on, says Albright.