

## CALL SHEET

“In the Hall of the Mountain King” from *Peer Gynt* Suite No. 1,  
by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

1. This very famous piece of music opens with the low strings making use of a plucking technique, one unique to the string family. What is it called?

- a. *spiccato*
- b. *tremolando*
- c. *pizzicato*
- d. *saltimbocca*

2. Pick at least two of the following words to describe this opening passage!

ominous   cheerful   uncertain   determined   carefree

ecstatic   bloviating   quizzical   creepy

3. After the low strings the opening theme gets handed to a pair of low instruments in another family of the orchestra. Which family is it?

- a. brass
- b. percussion
- c. woodwinds

4. The theme gets handed back and forth between the two groups like a football – listen closely for when it moves on to somewhere new! What new group of instruments gets it now?

- a. violins
- b. trombones
- c. piccolos
- d. oboes

5. And, like in question no. 3, off the theme goes to another instrument family, although this time to a high member of that family – is it the same one as in question no. 3?

- a. yes
- b. no



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6. This series of handoffs gradually builds in volume and tempo to a grand climax, when the strings finally stop plucking and play with their bows! What percussion instrument now plays on the off-beats to signal to you that you’ve arrived at the beginning of the end?

- a. triangle
- b. cymbals
- c. xylophone
- d. castanets

7. Finally Grieg drives the whole orchestra to a thrilling, triple-forte finale! Assess the following statement: “Through varying instrumentation, articulation, tempo, and dynamics, Grieg is able to build an entire piece out of essentially only two phrases of music.”

- a. True
- b. False

Can you explain your answer?

Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* suites – from a composition originally intended to furnish incidental music for a play of the same name by Grieg’s countryman Henrik Ibsen – have long since become favorites for listeners both in and outside of the concert hall. This piece in particular appears in many different contexts, some of them quite unrelated to symphonic music! List the last several times you’ve heard this music used, whether in a movie, TV commercial, video game, etc.