

THE LEGEND OF PEER GYNT

(adapted from Music for Home Schoolers blog by Lynn-Loretta Harbertson, posted March 3, 2011. Original version found at <http://musicforhomeschoolers-loretta.blogspot.com/2011/02/in-hall-of-mountain-king-edvard-grieg.html>)

There once was a little boy named Peer Gynt. He was a bad boy. He stole things, played tricks, and never helped his mother. Everybody hated Peer Gynt. One day, he went to a wedding. There he met the most beautiful girl in the world. He knew the instant he saw her that he was in love. The girl's name was Solveig.

Peer wanted to marry this wonderful girl. But that would not happen because Solveig's parents had heard about Peer and they didn't like him. They told Peer to leave their daughter alone because she would not marry him.

Poor Peer's heart was broken. He knew that he could not stay in the village because seeing Solveig would be too painful to his heart. So he ran from the village and into the mountains where he could be alone forever. But little did Peer know that along his way he would have many adventures.

Peer Gynt arrived at the hall of the Mountain King. He was then surrounded by many ugly trolls, captured and taken before the king. At first the king was not happy to have an intruder in their kingdom but Peer assured him that he is looking for a new home and perhaps he would be allowed to live there. The king finds that he likes this young man and suggests that Peer could marry his daughter. She was beautiful but not as pretty as Solveig. The king decided that Peer would have to become a troll to marry his daughter.

That night when he was alone in his bedroom Peer began to think about the king's plan. He decided he did not want to become a troll. But now he has a problem. How can he say "No" to the king without making him really mad. He decided he had better sneak out of the mountain right then while it is still dark. He fills his pockets with jewels, and quickly makes his exit across the castle's drawbridge and into the valleys of the mountain.

Peer tip toed through the halls of the mountains so very quietly but unfortunately there were troll guards along the way who heard him. A chase begins as Peer frantically tried to escape. At last the trolls started to surround Peer. He was sure he is going to be captured and turned to face them. They captured him, and found out that his pockets were filled with gold and jewels that he stole from the king. He was dragged back to the king's castle, where he was put in prison, until he finally agreed to marry the king's daughter, Anitra.