

Valse triste

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 11 Aug 1998

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Robert Borski — 11 Aug 1998, 00:32

For those as ignorant as me, the `_Valse Triste_` was written as accompaniment to a scene where a dying woman dreams of a ball, and mistaking Death for her husband, starts to dance with him.

What David neglected to add is that Valse Triste is by Jean Sibelius, another Scandinavian composer (though from Finnland, whereas Grieg--the composer of Peer Gynt--is from Norway). Valse Triste is excerpted from the larger work, Kuolema (Death), a play by Arvid Jarnevelt.

Peer Gynt, of course, concerns the adventures of its eponymous hero, a major proportion of which involve trolls (and hence is a major clue as to who pilfers the Dunstan diary). The play itself was written by Henrik Ibsen.

Wolfe, cheating a little (though I suppose it's easy enough to confuse Scandinavian composers--outside of Grieg and Sibelius, who's left, besides maybe Carl Nielsen?), manages to touch two tangents with one misascription.

I also believe David is dead on about when Castlevia starts--Nov. 7 or Geimhreadh. (It's also when 80% of the book's action takes place [Chapters 1-29].)

Robert Borski