

'In the Hall of the Mountain King'



Introduction 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' is from the incidental music that Grieg wrote for the play, 'Peer Gynt' by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. At the point in the play when this music is played the protagonist, Peer Gynt, has been captured by some trolls in the mountain. In a dream-like fantasy, he tries to escape, at first by tip-toeing so as not to wake the sleeping trolls. But when they wake he is chased around the hall of the mountain troll king. Eventually, Peer Gynt realises the frenetic trolls are right behind him and as he turns one way he finds a door, but it is locked! He turns another way to find another door, but that is locked too! He turns around one final time to find the King looking down on him. This is where Grieg's piece of music ends.

What do you think might happen next? What would the music sound like?