

Åkallan (2014), 11'
Orchestra

Åkallan means "invocation" or "conjunction" and is based on the traditional Swedish folk music *Kulning*.

Kulning is a female way of singing that was used to call for the herds from mountain to mountain.

The use of *kulning* in *Åkallan* ranges from clear quotes of a *kulning* by *Karin Edwardsson Johansson* to a more general use of the same scales with their multitude of microtonal intervals.

Microtonality exists in Swedish folk music since a long time and the practice was called "blue" notes - several hundred years before the emergence of Blues or Jazz.

Åkallan (2013) is the first piece in a trilogy commissioned to the three major symphony orchestras in Sweden.

The other two pieces are:

Ärr (2014) which is based on extreme Metal band *Mesuggah* and dedicated to the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and Baldur Brönnimann.

Öde (2015) which is based on recordings by classical singers like Jussi Björling and Birgit Nilsson and dedicated to the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Daniel Harding.

Commissioned by Vara Concert House for their 10:th anniversary. Premiered by Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kent Nagano at Vara Concert House 27/2 2014



Jesper Nordin (b. 1971)

Jesper Nordin is a leading Swedish composer who has garnered considerable international acclaim in recent years. His music, with its powerful emotional impact and traces of traditional Swedish folk music, rock music and improvised music, is broadcast and performed throughout the world.

His music is performed by conductors like Esa-Pekka Salonen, Daniel Harding and Kent Nagano and soloists like Martin Fröst, Diego Tosi and Jean Geoffroy. His orchestral pieces have been played and/or commissioned by orchestras as the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, St Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Swedish and Finnish radio orchestras. In 2014 the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra highlighted the music of Jesper Nordin during a four day portrait festival. He was composer-in-residence for Swedish Radio's serious music station (P2) between 2004 and 2006.

He is also included in the repertoires of several of the world's foremost contemporary music ensembles, amongst them ensemble recherche, L'itineraire and Quatuor Diotima. He has received commissions from major institutions in Europe, including IRCAM, Radio France, Le Fresnoy, the French Ministry of Culture as well as several Art Councils and radio stations in Europe and North America. His music has been performed at numerous festivals, including Verbier Festival, ManiFeste, Wittener Tage für Neue Kammermusik, ISCM, Musiques en Scène, and Huddersfield. In 2010 he received the Grand Christ Johnson Prize for being "a sound magician, who explores and expands the acoustic space with originality and an uncompromising curiosity" (Royal Swedish Academy of Music).

Nordin studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Pär Lindgren, Bent Sørensen and William Brunson, before taking further studies at IRCAM with Philippe Leroux and others. He subsequently was invited to be a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, where he studied with Brian Ferneyhough and worked in the CCRMA studio.

Jesper Nordin has also had huge success with his iOS apps *Gestruent* and *ScaleGen* that are based on his own composition technique.

For more info see www.jespernordin.com and www.gestruent.com