

Arv (2004), 16'
Orchestra

Arv means “heritage” in both Swedish and Norwegian and the title is chosen to represent the common heritage of both countries in language, culture and society. Arv was commissioned by Trondheim Symphony Orchestra of Norway for the year 2005 which marks a hundred years since the dissolvment of the Swedish-Norwegian union. Up until 1905, Sweden and Norway was one country and the separation into two independent countries is one of the few peaceful examples in history of one nation splitting into two. Arv is based on the mutual folk music tradition of northern Sweden and Norway with its somber melodies and quarter tones (actually the quarter tones of Nordic folk music has been referred to as “blue notes” for several hundreds of years, long before there existed a musical style called “Blues”). I have never felt strange using material, titles or inspiration from folk music, rock, improvised music or other genres outside of the contemporary/classical tradition. In my personal musical heritage these other styles of music have an equally strong – or sometimes stronger – importance and for me they have qualities that I sometimes find lacking in contemporary music. I have never strived towards a “crossover” type of music (which for me indicates someone standing firmly on one side of a border and picking some objects from the other side to look at), for me the interest lies in the undefined area between two styles or attitudes.



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 Gestrument and ScaleGen that are based on his own composition technique.

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