

**Close Encounter (2008), 13'**

Laporte-bol & live electronics

Close Encounter was commissioned and premiered by Jean-François Laporte at Montreal New Music Festival 2009. When a composer is writing for a specific musician and his or her instrument, it is always a strange mixture of relationships. The composer has probably written for the instrument before (or can at least study other composers who have) so even if the musician is the one who knows the instrument most intimately, the composer can still come with his or her own ideas from the outside. In that way all three parts have different kinds of relationships. But when writing for Jean-François Laporte and his own constructions, it is something more than that he just knows this specific instrument well. It's not just a relationship as a musician can have with his or her instrument - like with a brother/sister/husband/wife - it's actually his own children. So as the outside composer, you can never come as close to the instruments as he has done. That being said – for me personally the two pieces I have been writing for Laporte instruments has been two of the most interesting experiences I've had as a composer. The first one was the piece "Residues" for Laporte-instruments and symphony orchestra, that was premiered by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra in 2006 and later released on cd. This second piece "Close Encounter" is for one Laporte-Bol and live electronics. Where I tried in the orchestra piece to blend the orchestra and the Laporte instruments in a more global way, I have here tried to go deeper into the soundworld of one instrument and expand it through close microphones and real time treatments in the computer. But the title "Close Encounter" also refers to the experience of writing a piece for a great artist and his own child.



**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](http://www.jespernordin.com) and [www.gestrument.com](http://www.gestrument.com)