

Cri du Berger (2004), 12'

Cello and live electronics

Cri du Berger was commissioned and premiered by Benjamin Carat who has then performed it many times in Europe and North America. It has also been performed by several other cellists around the world. The piece also exists in a version for cello, choir and live electronics that has been performed in Sweden and on tour in France. The reason this piece exists in two versions is due to Benjamin Carat's and Jesper Nordin's mutual interest in choir music and live electronics and has had a big impact on the compositional process of the piece. The idea was to use techniques that could be applied to both a computer and to a group of singers and then put the cello in these surroundings. The basic material for the cello part of "Cri de Berger" is a Swedish herding tune, originally played on natural cow horn. This material has then been processed in the computer and in the imagination of the composer to become the starting point of the piece. The role of the computer and/or choir is to be the "herd" that follows what the cellist is doing. This is done by getting the computer and/or choir to imitate what the cellist is playing during certain parts of the piece. Apart from this quasi-improvised heterophony there is also an element of amplified distortion which comes into play when the cellist plays louder and noisier sounds. Score available at the Swedish Music Information Centre.



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