

Double Concerto (2003), 21'

Violin, cello & orchestra

Double Concerto for Violin, Cello and Orchestra was commissioned and premiered by Västerås Sinfonietta with the orchestras concert master Daniel Frankel and solo cellist Åsa Åkerberg as soloists, conducted by Eivind Aadland 10/4 2003. The Double Concerto was chosen as a "Recommended work" at UNESCO's Rostrum for composers 2005. The Double Concerto was released on the portrait-cd "Residues" by SR Records in 2006. The material in this concerto is based on a Swedish folk tune that I've used in several of my pieces before, a wedding march from the north of Sweden called "Jämtländsk brudmarsch". The material from this tune has then been treated in different ways through a computer to break it into something that could be re-shaped but still keep some of its original qualities. Some of the most present traces from folk music in this piece are the drones and the use of quarter tones. Non tempered tuning systems are very common in folk music from around the world and it is sometimes strange how different kinds of music can share the same view of the quality of these pitches. One of the most striking examples of that is that the quarter tones in Swedish folk music have been referred to as "blue notes" for hundreds of years - long before there was a music style called Blues. There were even more specific names for smaller intervals that were called "lightblue" and "darkblue".

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'itinéraire 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

