

Emerge (2017), 12'

Orchestra and live electronics

When you stand very closely to something that is transforming - a butterfly emerging from its cocoon or the emergence of completely new phenomena like social networks or virtual reality - you can seldom understand what it will become just by looking at it. You might be able to imagine some of the implications, but you will not know for sure until afterwards. Music, art, culture and the society at large is in a state of transformation at the hands of technology, and we who stand in the middle have very limited possibilities of predicting the outcome.

The amazing thing with art is that you can ask questions and paint visions at the same time. Where is music and art heading? Can the endless possibilities of technology become a bridge to the depth of tradition? Can we use emerging technologies to democratize expression while still choosing excellence over amateurism? How can the immense scope of potential in technology coexist with our limited physicality?

Emerge is the start of a collaboration between soloist Martin Fröst and composer Jesper Nordin where they delve into the possibilities of emerging technologies in music. With the help of other musicians, orchestras and artists from other fields they will create visions of the future of music.

Jesper Nordin has with his own invention Gestrument (gesture-instrument) created a way to perform music with movements and gestures in any style of musical expression. In **Emerge**, Martin Fröst gets to perform not only by playing on his clarinet and by leading the orchestra, he also gets to control a virtual orchestra with his movements. This digital orchestra that is heard together with him and the other live musicians orchestra is played by Martin Fröst in realtime and adds comments and contrast to the orchestra and the soloist.



Co-commissioned by The Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra,
Orchestra Philharmonique de Radio France, IRCAM/Centre Pompidou,
Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Society, Oslo Camerata,
Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and Swedish Chamber Orchestra

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