

Frozen still (2003), 13'

Piano

I have always found it difficult to write for piano and therefore it was a challenge to try and write a piece for solo piano. I approached it by simplifying and paring things down until I only had one line left, or rather one world of sounds. There is no virtuosity here, neither in the composition nor in the musician's part, but I hope that the most important elements of the music still remain in distilled form. Technically it is one of my earliest attempts at French spectral technique, which I have used here in an almost naïve way. The title refers partly to this, since a spectral analysis of a sound is a way of freezing the sound and making it timeless – you can look at it several times and it's still frozen. It's not particularly important to me which sound I started off by analysing, and I don't actually remember if I ended up using an analysis of my piece calm like a bomb or of a Monty Python sketch! The title also refers to my mood when I had moved to a small flat in Paris one cold, damp winter without knowing anybody or understanding the language. At that time it felt really good to write a work for Oskar Ekberg's Diploma Concert at Nybrokajen 11, a context which felt familiar and secure. Score available at 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 Gestruent and ScaleGen that are based on his own composition technique.

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