

Gido (2007), 15'

Violin, dance and hanging bells

A meeting of cultures through the ancient, through the holy and the intimately personal. A Korean coreographer met a Swedish composer – at a French monastery. A sacred place in the middle of nature and culture. Rural and religious aspects combined into one. The bells from the shepherd and the bells of the church invites to prayer - both solemn and insistant.

The project "Gido" (which is Korean for "prayer") is based around the very special meeting between two young artists with very different backgrounds but a common estethical ground. The Korean coreographer Young-Doo Jung and the Swedish composer Jesper Nordin are both well established in their home countries and are gradually building up an international reputation. Both of them have in recent years been very acitve in France so their meeting at Royaumont was not unexpected.

The project "Gido" started at the Royaumont in 2007 and resulted in a piece for one violinist and two dancers, all of whom were also playing on bells that was suspended from the celing. The bells with their pendulating movements formed one of the basic aspects of both sound and movement. The movements of the dancers are based on the swinging bells but their movements also becomes music as they touch the bells.

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

