

Invisible Mantra (2005), 13'

Mixed Choir

Invisible Mantra was commissioned by the Swedish Radio SRP2 and premiered by the Swedish Radio Choir 2005. It has been performed by several other choirs in Europe and Asia, for instance by Taipei Singers at ISCM in Hong Kong 2007. This wordless choral piece has roots in three different and very important phenomena in my life: meditation, the folk music of Jämtland and my participation in the improvisation group Altaír. I have never previously made direct use of my many years' experience of meditation in my music and although this work is primarily intended as music for its own sake, there are also clear links between the feeling in the music and the experience of meditation.

As far as the purely musical influences are concerned I have also made use of a folk tune from Jämtland in this piece that I have then taken apart and processed in my mind and in a computer to produce the basic material of the work. Influences from the improvisation group Altaír are always present in my music but are especially obvious in this work, partly because I use the human voice in ways that we usually do in the group and which cannot be traced back to traditional choral music, and partly because to a large extent I have experimented with my own vocal improvisations to obtain the melodic material – improvisations inspired by our music in Altaír.

Score at the Swedish Radio Library.



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