

Residues (2006), 17'

Orchestra

My composing is to a large extent concerned with reverberations, remnants and repercussions. In this piece there are remnants of traditional Swedish folk music and of earlier works of my own as well as sounds created by the Canadian instrument-maker and composer Jean-François Laporte. I seldom use material in its original form, however; it would be more accurate to compare my method of working to playing a melody in cathedral acoustics and then taking away the melody itself. The reverberations that remain are what interest me most. In *Residues*, for example, the orchestra plays notated sounds based on Laporte's fantastic instruments as well as treatments of Swedish traditional folk music.

At the world premiere of *Residues* Jean-François Laporte was also participating himself and performing on his instruments with the orchestra. Laporte and I were fellow students at IRCAM in Paris and I came in contact with his instruments there. I realised straightaway that I wanted to use them in my music and in this work I have used the "bol" and the "tu-yo" – both of which have rubber membranes that vibrate when air is blown on to them. With the help of compressed air it is possible to play on several instruments at the same time and also to produce a level of volume that can match a symphony orchestra. Oddly enough the sounds produced by these completely acoustic instruments are almost electronic in character, like synthesizers or computer-processed sounds, and were exactly what I was looking for to expand the orchestral timbre.



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