

**Surfaces Scintillantes (2008), 12'**

Ensemble

Surfaces Scintillantes was commissioned and premiered by Ensemble XXI, conducted by Dominique Dournaud in Dijon 6/6 2008. The relationship between surface and depth in music is something that fascinates me in many ways. Some of my favorite music (for instance a lot of rock music) is clearly focused on the more superficial aspects but cannot help to also express deep emotions. On the other hand, some very deeply thought out music can be very shallow. As a composer I'm also very interested in depth in the compositional process. In a piece called Undercurrents I worked with material in layer after layer. I was always taking away the original layer and only using the effects it had had on it's musical surroundings. In Surfaces Scintillantes I'm doing exactly the opposite - the piece as you hear it IS the basic material. The only thing I've done with it is "polish" it to add some extra sparkles.

The idea of the surface is also very present in this piece since every single note comes from extensive improvisations and playing on an instrument I've built using a Wacom drawing board and a computer. I programmed an environment where I can control the harmonic and rhythmic framework and then, using a pen on the drawing board, I can play freely within this framework. This is the ultimate tool for me who has always searched for controlled freedom using improvisation in different ways. This is the first piece I've composed solely with this method.



**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](http://www.jespernordin.com) and [www.gestrument.com](http://www.gestrument.com)