

Jesper Nordin (b. 1971)

The music of Jesper Nordin is starting to make a mark on the international music scene with its characteristic soundworld and powerful emotional impact. This has led to him being selected as one of the composers to be published by Edition Peters as "Die Neue Generation".

The music of Jesper Nordin, with its clear traces of traditional Swedish folk music, rock music and improvised music, is performed and broadcast throughout the world. His orchestral music has been performed by symphony orchestras like BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and others. His chamber music is regularly performed by ensembles like l'Inferno, ASKO, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain.

From 2004 to 2006 he was Composer in Residence at P2, the Swedish Radio's serious music channel. In 2006 the Swedish Radio also released the portrait-cd "Residues" that include several of his orchestral pieces as well as works for choir, solo instruments and electronics. "Residues" has been hailed as a "milestone for contemporary music lovers" in France and as "a central album of the Swedish music from the first decade of the 21:st century" in Swedish press.. For more info see www.jespernordin.com



calm like a bomb (2000), 10'

violin and electronics

We often hear that in the aftermath of an explosion or a similar extreme shock, there reigns a strange silence: a sort of inner, timeless silence that drowns out the outer tumult. The title "calm like a bomb" calls to mind that type of contradictory phenomenon. And in the sensual central part of this work time does indeed seem to stand still.

Jesper Nordin borrowed the title from a track by the group "Rage against the machine". It was written for violin and tape, the tape part consisting of arrangements of improvisations and variations on a lullaby. Here, Nordin has edited material from the folk/rock musician Fredrik Lindqvist, violinist Daniel Frankel and the folk singer Sofia Karlsson, whose voice and vocal technique play an important role in defining the character of the music.

As the music passes into the final section, it does so through the emergence of a kind of tick-tock, mechanical music, and with this slightly limping march of alternating meters and accents, calm like a bomb ends in something reminiscent of a more "urban" sound milieu. For Nordin himself, "calm like a bomb" was a seminal work on the route towards an individual idiom. The piece has been played at a number of international festivals and has been awarded several prizes.

/Tony Lundman

English translation: Neil Betteridge

calm like a bomb is published by Edition Suecia