

Åkallan (2014), 11'

Orchestra

Åkallan means "invocation" or "conjunction" and is based on the traditional Swedish folk music *Kulning*.

Kulning is a female way of singing that was used to call for the herds from mountain to mountain.

The use of *kulning* in *Åkallan* ranges from clear quotes of a *kulning* by *Karin Edvardsson Johansson* to a more general use of the same scales with their multitude of microtonal intervals. Microtonality exists in Swedish folk music since a long time and the practice was called "blue" notes - several hundred years before the emergence of Blues or Jazz.

Åkallan (2013) is the first piece in a trilogy commissioned to the three major symphony orchestras in Sweden.

The other two pieces are:

Ärr (2014) which is based on extreme Metal band *Mesuggah* and dedicated to the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and Baldur Brönnimann.

Öde (2015) which is based on recordings by classical singers like Jussi Björling and Birgit Nilsson and dedicated to the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Daniel Harding.

Commissioned by Vara Concert House for their 10:th anniversary. Premiered by Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Kent Nagano at Vara Concert House 27/2 2014



Jesper Nordin (b. 1971)

Jesper Nordin is a leading Swedish composer, and one 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. He has collaborated with conductors like Kent Nagano, Daniel Harding and Pierre-André Valade. His orchestral pieces have been played by such orchestras as the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel and the Swedish and Finnish radio orchestras. He is also included in the repertoires of several of the world's foremost contemporary music ensembles, amongst them ASKO-ensemblen, Ensemble Itineraire, Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain and The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. He was composer-in-residence for Swedish Radio's serious music station (P2) between 2004 and 2006.

Jesper Nordin has also had huge success with his iOS apps *Gestrument* and *ScaleGen* that are based on his own composition technique. It is used worldwide to create music in genres ranging from Electronica and Techno to Jazz Impro and Contemporary Classical music. For more info see www.gestrument.com

His music has been performed at numerous festivals, including ISCM, Gaudeamus, Musiques en Scène, Ultima, Stockholm New Music, Tokyo Summer Music Festival and Archipel. 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). He has also been awarded the Lesser Christ Johnson Prize and received a recommendation at UNESCO's Rostrum. His piece *calm like a bomb* has won multiple awards in composition competitions around Europe and the USA.

Nordin studied at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm for Pär Lindgren, Bent Sørensen and William Brunson, before taking further studies at IRCAM for 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. His music is published by Edition Peters, Frankfurt. More information at www.jespernordin.com