

SILHOUETTES AND SHADOWS

AN EXPANDED CONCERTO FOR SAXOPHONE AND ORCHESTRA

Premiered by Daniel Harding and
the Swedish Radio Orchestra in September 2024

WHAT IS IT?

A saxophone concerto including elements like electronics, costume and visuals.

A meeting of artists that saw many strong connections between their artistic identities, approaches and ambitions.

A scalable project that can be performed as a straightforward saxophone concerto or presented as a larger vision with a visual soloist, Emmanuel Michaud, performing on stage.

An expanded orchestral experience with the help of virtual orchestras performed by the saxophone soloist Valentine Michaud and the visual soloist.

Using Jesper Nordin's unique technology Reactional Music, Valentine Michaud will be able to access the musical DNA of the composed score mid-performance by shaping and interacting with a real-time generated electronic part.

INSPIRATIONS

Inspired by the artistic legacy of David Bowie, this collaboration focuses on an idea of music that expands into fashion, visual art, movement, science fiction, politics and forward-looking technology. It aims for a meeting of the avant-garde and popular culture and encompasses philosophical and technological visions on the future of music.

STRUCTURE

The form of the piece is planned to be in three movements, starting with the saxophone soloist encompassed in a costume that gradually unfolds during an introvert musical meditation. The second movement then reveals digital colours in a science fiction inspired sequence that utilises the full expressive power of the saxophone. Lastly, the third movement looks to merge the different expressions and find coherence where there was confusion.



EXPANDED VERSION

In the expanded version of the piece, the visuals reflect the musical mixture of physical and digital tools: a modular, semi-rigid structure, amplifying the movements of the soloist, is combined with projected video elements. Performer Emmanuel Michaud modulates these structures in real-time, alternatively reacting to the sound and influencing it. The body of the soloist thus becomes the nexus between the saxophone, the orchestra, the electronics and the space of the stage.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Saxophone and large orchestra (3333 4331 12 Harp Pf Str)

Includes electronics and optional visuals

20-25 minutes

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EXTERNAL LINKS

Examples of other pieces by Jesper Nordin that have also been done in modular and scalable style. The videos show the full sized projects, but they both exist in several versions of different level of complexity when it comes to the technology:

Emerging from Currents and Waves (2018)

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Martin Fröst and SRSO

<https://youtu.be/JIKPZVaVqbc>

Visual Exformation (2016)

Quatuor Diotima, Ramy Fischler, Cyril Teste

https://youtu.be/U_hjiER9ME

An example from Valentine Michaud's work:

Peacock Tales (2022)

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Vienna Philharmonic, Valentine Michaud

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqXmGcxRoyM>

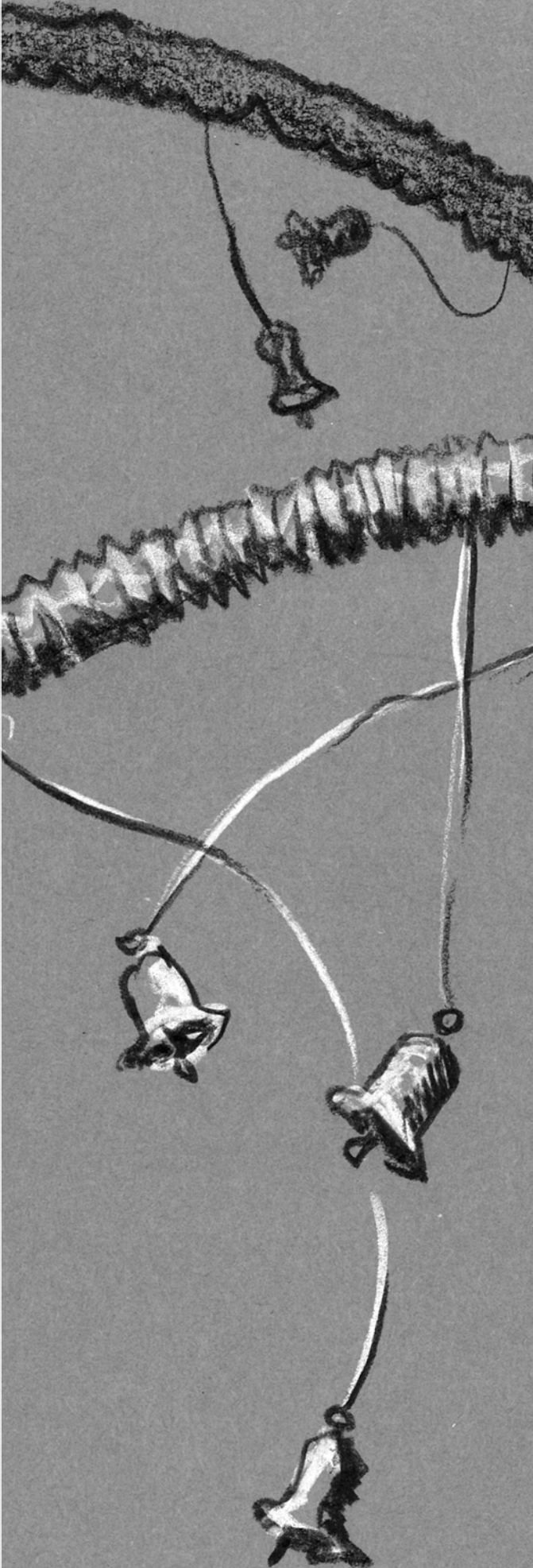
And from the Collective SIBJA's work, founded by Valentine and Emmanuel Michaud:

Waiting for Amon Pt.1: Glitch (2016)

www.sibja.com

<https://youtu.be/w4WGuw21K1M>

Pictures: preliminary sketches by Emmanuel Michaud





JESPER NORDIN
Composition & Software
www.jespernordin.com



VALENTINE MICHAUD
Saxophone & Costumes
www.valentinemichaud.com



EMMANUEL MICHAUD
Visuals & Performance (optional)
www.emmanuelmichaud.com