Jan Martin Smørdal
Acoustic Accident
Press release 2011

Still in his thirties, Jan Martin Smørdal rank among some of Norway’s finest arrangers, musicians and composers and during the last ten years he has produced an impressive array of music. His work span from cunning string arrangements heard in Norwegian top hits, to commissioned work for various classical ensembles and solists, ending in installations and music created for physical objects, such as the installation "Mylna" commissioned by Nedre Eiker municipality in 2010, performed with Mjøndalen Bridge.

Together with Thom Hell, Smørdal won a Norwegian grammy for the best pop song of 2008. The song "Darling" was taken from the album "God if I saw her now," an album which ensured Hell the award for "best male artist" the same year. The string arrangements were done by Smørdal and took a prominent part in shaping the outcome of the musical production.

Despite the amount of time Smørdal spends on writing music and arrangements, he remains a musician first and foremost. In this aspect his collaborations with some of Norway’s finest musicians seems appropriate to mention. The compelling and unique sound of Smørdal’s guitar has helped shape the album productions of artists such as Hanne Hukkelberg, Jenny Hval (Rockettothesky), Hilde Louise Asbjørnsen and Torgny Amdam.

In 2011, one of Smørdals main points of interest is to emerge as a composer and musician in his own right, breaking the boundaries of commissioned work, fixed instrumental settings of existing ensembles and and thus defining his own voice through the ensemble Acoustic Accident. The ensemble released the album "Q.S." in 2004, to great avail from Norwegian critics. Described as a small scale musical project performed by a large ensemble, Acoustic Accident represented something new and different, reflecting Smørdal’s ability to incorporate a great spectrum of musical influence into an ingenious mix of compressed form and tonality. This year sees the continuation of Acoustic Accident, and the ensemble emerges as a different kind of animal, perhaps smaller, but growlier still.

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