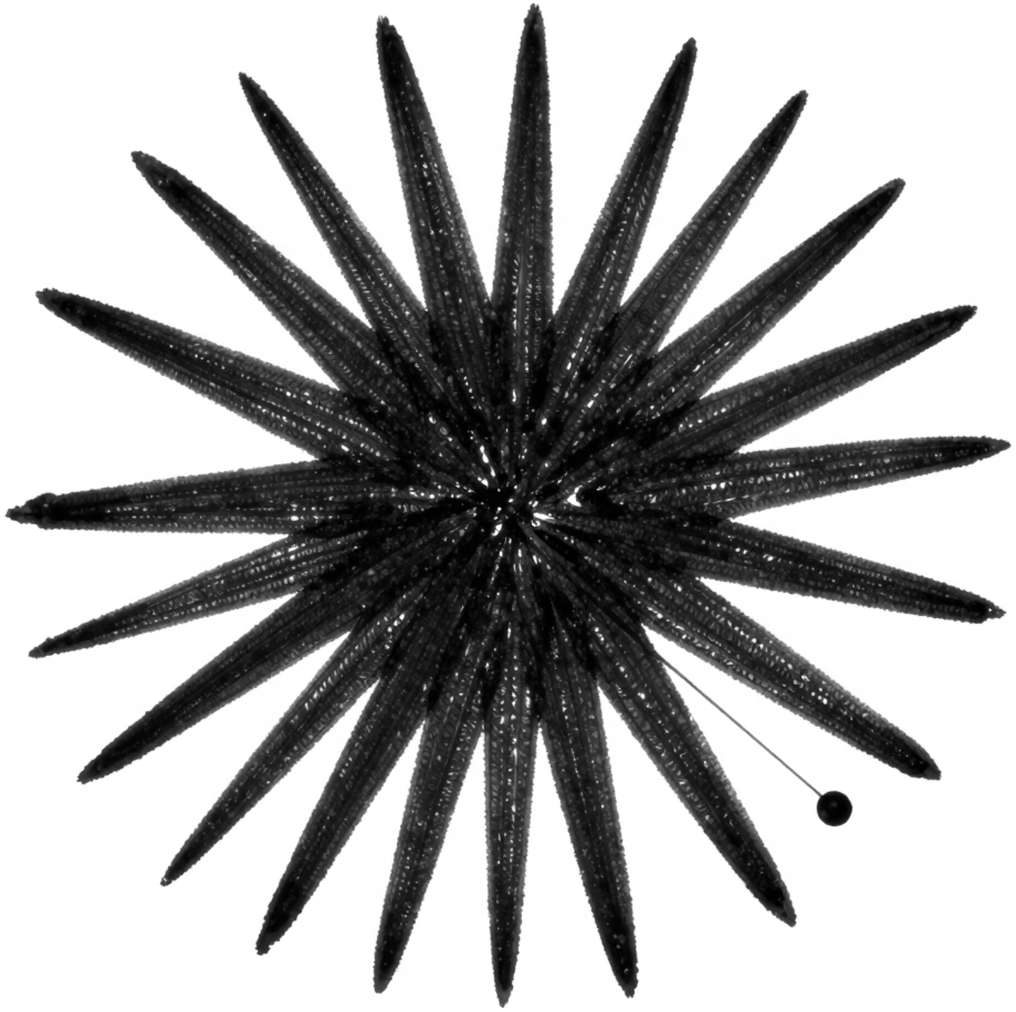


SIGNS OF PRESENCE TOUR

SIGNS OF PRESENCE TOUR takes Nordic graphic scores to four cities. In autumn 2027 the electroacoustic quintet People In Orbit and visual artist Jonas Johansson perform in Stockholm, Helsinki, Reykjavík and Copenhagen, together with a local musician and a local visual artist in each city.
An open catalogue of Nordic graphic scores follows in winter 2027/28.

THE PROJECT

In 1978 the composer Leo Nilsson and the artist Al Eklund made a score with no notes in it. Ink on paper. Marks that a musician reads as sound rather than as pitch: weight, speed, density, silence.

In February 2026 People In Orbit performed it at Barnens Scen in Malmö, with Leo Nilsson's permission and support from Sten K Johnsons Stiftelse. We projected the score at full width behind the band and moved through it as they played, so the audience could see where in the score the music was.

The tour takes the same method to four cities. In each city a local musician and a local visual artist join the ensemble as co-creators. Eight local artists across four cities, chosen with our partners rather than by us.

GRAPHIC SCORES

Western notation fixes pitch and duration. From the 1950s a generation of composers drew instead. Earle Brown's December 1952 is a page of black rectangles. Cornelius Cardew's Treatise runs to 193 pages with no instructions at all.

A graphic score is precise about gesture, texture, energy and the shape of an attack, and says nothing about the rest. That is left to the performer.

In the Nordic countries this ran alongside the electronic studios. Fylkingen and EMS in Stockholm, the Danish radio studio where Else Marie Pade worked, the studios in Helsinki and Oslo. Most of that work sits unperformed in archives and publishers' catalogues.

THE PERFORMANCE

Sixty minutes. One score per city, always by a composer from that country. Iceland has two, sixty years apart.

The score is projected as wide as the venue allows, and the audience follows the same page as the band.

On the score pieces a local visual artist moves through the score as the ensemble reads it, so the audience can see where the music is on the page.

Every other track is an original piece, by People In Orbit or by the local musician. Then the process reverses. The artist draws a graphic score from the music as it is played, working with the musician, as if the piece had been notated that way from the start.

THE CODEX

Alongside the tour we publish an open online catalogue of Nordic graphic scores, in winter 2027/28.

Each entry carries the catalogue fact, the score itself where the rights holder allows it, and our own reading of the work.

We are aiming at thirty to fifty works, researched with Edition·S in Copenhagen, Iceland Music in Reykjavík, and with Finnish archives and Swedish estates.

It is a static site, so it can be handed to an archive, mirrored or printed, and still work in ten years.

Signs of Presence, Barnens Scen, Malmö, February 2026

Signs of Presence, Barnens Scen, Malmö, February 2026

Four concerts, four countries, four composers.
A reactor hall, an oil silo, a concert hall
and a water reservoir. Stockholm, Helsinki,
Reykjavík, Copenhagen, autumn 2027.

SWEDEN
Signs of Presence · Leo Nilsson and Al Eklund · 1978

Ink on paper, drawn in Stockholm in 1978 and performed as drawn. Leo Nilsson gave permission for the February 2026 performance in Malmö, and received the Royal Swedish Academy of Music's composer prize in 2025.

Leo Nilsson and Al Eklund, Signs of Presence, 1978, page 2

DENMARK
Faust · Else Marie Pade · 1962

Else Marie Pade was the first Danish composer of electronic music. Faust is an electronic suite in six parts, made in 1961 and 1962 for a radio play broadcast on Danish radio's school programme.

It is built from sine tones. God is a bell tone. The devil is a hissing that spirals, like a snake coiling. Pade worked with two frequencies almost alike, set against each other until they beat, which she called fluctuations.

Pade did not write graphic scores. What she left is a graphic representation of a finished electronic work, so Copenhagen is an arrangement rather than a reading.

ELSE MARIE PADE, FAUST, 1962

Denmark

FINLAND
Under research

The Finnish score is being researched with Petri Kuljuntausta.

FINNISH SCORE, TO BE CHOSEN

Finland

ICELAND
Spectacles · Atli Heimir Sveinsson · 1969, and a work by Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir

Iceland plays two scores, sixty years apart. Atli Heimir Sveinsson took the Nordic Council Music Prize in 1976 and studied in Cologne with Bernd Alois Zimmermann and Karlheinz Stockhausen, and electronic music with Gottfried Michael Koenig.

Spectacles is for one percussionist and tape. It runs vertically in two channels, tape and percussion, with timings down the side and hand-lettered instructions. Circles marked jazz, classical, ballet and antimusic are played in any order.

The second is a work by Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir, chosen with her. The Sveinsson rights sit with Iceland Music in Reykjavík, where permission is being sought.

ATLI HEIMIR SVEINSSON, SPECTACLES, 1969

Iceland

STOCKHOLM
Reaktorhallen (R1)
kth.se

A decommissioned research reactor hall twenty-five metres under the KTH campus, used as a performance space since 2010.

Long reverberation, raw concrete, and a floor that puts the audience around the reactor pit rather than in rows.

Stockholm opens the tour.

HELSINKI
Silo 468
myhelsinki.fi

A former oil silo on the Kruunuvuorenranta waterfront, thirty-six metres across and seventeen high. The steel shell is perforated with 2,012 openings and the interior is painted deep red.

It is a permanent light work by Lighting Design Collective, and a public space that stands open to the water.

REYKJAVÍK
Harpa
harpa.is

The concert hall on the harbour, with a glass facade of stacked quasi-bricks by Olafur Eliasson.

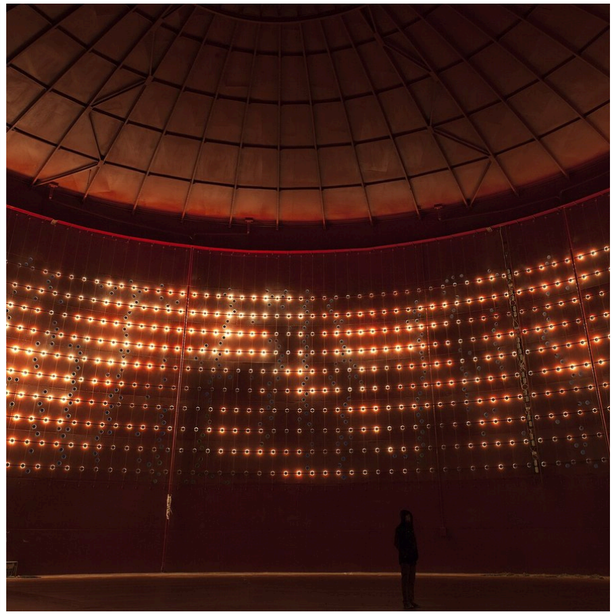
In 2019 NAVA turned Harpa's low-resolution LED facade into an interactive canvas for Tiny/Massive. Over four nights, 58 works answered the building, with the audience controlling visuals and sound from a bus outside.

COPENHAGEN
Cisternerne
cisternerne.dk

A disused underground water reservoir under Søndermarken. Dripping, unheated, with a reverberation of more than fifteen seconds.

The reverberation decides which instruments work, so the repertoire is read for the venue.

Reaktorhallen (R1), Stockholm



Silo 468, Kruunuvuorenranta, Helsinki. Photo Lighting Design Data, CC BY-SA 4.0

Harpa, Reykjavík, during Tiny/Massive, NAVA, 2019

Cisternerne, Søndermarken, Copenhagen. Installation by Jeppe Hein

SIGNS OF PRESENCE TOUR is made by an ensemble and seven partners across Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark. Musicians, composers, scenographers and visual artists who co-create an audiovisual live performance in their own country.

JONAS JOHANSSON
Producer · Scenography, light and live visuals
Sweden
jonasjohansson.se

Jonas Johansson is an artist, educator and designer from Glommen in Halland. He works with light, projection and interactive systems.

He co-founded Nordic Audiovisual Artists in 2016, Svartljus in 2017, Visualia in 2022 and Dome Dreaming in 2026.

He has worked with KRAM/WEISSHAAR, FIELD and Moment Factory, and taught at Beckmans and Hyper Island.

He performs the live visuals in Stockholm and produces the tour.

ADAM SASS
Musical direction · Trumpet and electronics
Sweden
adamsass.se

Adam Sass is a trumpet player and composer in Malmö. He leads People In Orbit and writes all the music for it, and co-writes in floats, a seven-piece Swedish-Norwegian collective.

He plays with BEQ, Vidar Orchestra and Spontaneity Quartet, and has recorded with You Thant, Isildurs Bane and Per Gessle.

In 2025 he took second prize in Blåsmusikpriset Jazz and played 82 concerts across five countries. He directs the ensemble's reading of the scores.

PEOPLE IN ORBIT
Electroacoustic quintet
Sweden
peopleinorbit.se

Adam Sass on trumpet and electronics, Edvin Ekman on saxophone and electronics, Niklas Bergström on piano and electronics, Edvin Elmersson on bass, Frank William Reis on drums, electronics and flute.

They have played Stockholm Jazz Festival, Copenhagen Winter Jazz, Jazz i Halmstad, Malmö Live, Kungliga Operan, Babel and Donau 115 in Berlin, and toured the Faroe Islands, Sweden and Iceland in 2025.

Their debut album Close/Away came out on Prophone in October 2023, and a second album on the Danish label April Records in April 2026.

EXTENDED TEAM
Local collaborators
Finland, Iceland, Denmark

An extended team supports realisation, production and technical execution in each country, through Aavistus Festival in Helsinki and Huldufugl in Reykjavík. Stockholm is produced in-house.

Finland: Antti Hietaniemi, Suvi Parrilla, Hannu Häkkinen.

Iceland: Owen Hindley, Nanna Gunnars, Atli Bollason.

Denmark: being formed with Cisternerne.

Jonas Johansson

Adam Sass

People In Orbit

MERLE KARP
Visual artist and VJ · Live visuals
Finland
merlekarp.fi

Merle Karp is a visual designer, video artist and VJ in Helsinki, working as Folded Visuals. She is festival director and co-founder of Aavistus, Finland's festival of audiovisual art and VJ culture, which she has run since 2019.

She has shown at Flow Festival, the Reflektor light art festival and the Finnish Pavilion in Venice.

She co-founded the Nordic Lights residency with Jonas Johansson. She performs the live visuals in Helsinki.

PETRI KULJUNTAUSTA
Composer and sound artist
Finland
kuljuntausta.com

Petri Kuljuntausta is a composer, sound artist and author in Helsinki, working in experimental and electronic music since the early 1990s.

He composes with recorded sound: whale calls, hydrophone recordings, the northern lights. He has released more than a hundred recordings, and in 2011 founded Akusmata, Finland's only gallery for sound art.

He has written three books on Finnish electronic music and sound art, and received the Finnish State Prize for Art in 2005.

LEIJA LAUTAMAJA
Folk musician
Finland
leijalautamaja.com

Leija Lautamaja is a folk musician in Helsinki. She plays diatonic melodeon and harmonium, and holds a Master of Music from the Sibelius Academy, where she went on to head the junior academy in folk music.

She plays in Floating Sofa Quartet with musicians from Denmark and Sweden, in the Nordic harmonium sextet Marja-Liisa Orgelsuite, in ENKEL, and in the duo The Moontwins. Her solo work is Finnish pop for reed organ, electric guitar and drum machine.

ENKEL took first prize at the Konsta Jylhä competition in 2023, and Floating Sofa Quartet won Album of the Year at the Danish Music Awards Folk in 2019.

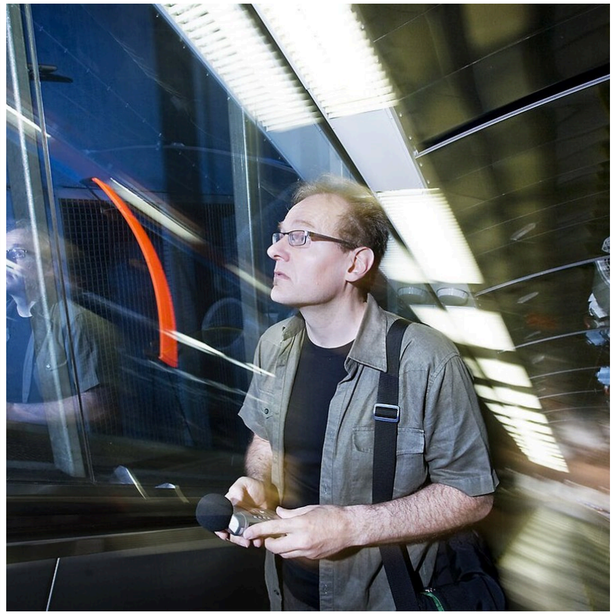
KATERINA BLAHUTOVA
Scenography and lighting · Live visuals
Iceland
katerinablahutova.com

Katerina Blahutova is a multidisciplinary artist from the Czech Republic, based in Reykjavík. She works with scenography, lighting, audiovisual art and interactive installation.

Her work is rooted in ecoscenography and zero-waste production, and she has three Gríman nominations.

Her installations have been shown at Reykjavík Arts Festival, Vetrarhátíð and List í Ljósi. Her architectural lighting for Hallgrímskirkja and Freyjugarður has won IES, Mondo DR, LIT and German Design Awards. She performs the live visuals in Reykjavík.

Merle Karp



Petri Kuljuntausta. Photo Jani Laukkanen, CC BY-SA 3.0

Leija Lautamaja

Katerina Blahutova. Photo Národní divadlo

ÍRIS THORARINS
Composer and musician
Iceland
iristhorarins.com

Íris Hrund Þórarinsdóttir is a composer, vocalist and electronic artist in Reykjavík. She combines organic instrumentation, guzheng, violin, harp and voice, with atmospheric synthesis and sound design.

She began on the violin and went on to study vocal performance and music production, and has released several albums alone and with others.

She writes for virtual reality, video games, theatre, audio poetry, art installations and short film.

Íris Hrund Þórarinsdóttir

BERGRÚN SNÆBJÖRNSDÓTTIR
Composer
Iceland
bergrun.com

Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir is a composer and performer in Reykjavík, working with acoustic instruments and electronics.

INTRALOPER was nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize in 2026, and the album SKINWEEPER came out on Smekkleysa the same year.

She has written for VIIBRA, Yarn/Wire, Trondheim Sinfonietta and CAPUT, and been played at Dark Music Days, Borealis, Only Connect, Moers and Reykjavík Arts Festival.

Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir. Photo Camille Blake

ARENDSE NORDTORP PEDERSEN
Violinist
Denmark
rytmiskcenter.dk

Arendse Nordtorp Pedersen is a violinist in Copenhagen. She plays folk, indie pop, rock and cross-over, acoustic and through pedals, on small stages and large ones.

She started out on classical music and holds a bachelor's degree in violin from the Malmö Academy of Music.

She has recorded with Søn and Blaue Blume, plays in the folk group Mads Hansens Kapel, and teaches violin at Rytmisk Center in Copenhagen.

Arendse Nordtorp Pedersen

FREYA SIF HESTNES
Scenography and video · Live visuals
Denmark
freyasifhestnes.com

Freya Sif Hestnes is a visual and performing artist in Copenhagen, artistic director of Hestnes / Popović and house artist at TOASTER.

Her scenography and video design has been seen at the Royal Danish Theatre Playhouse, Republique, Aalborg Teater and Husets Teater. She received the Reumert for Best Musical Theatre Performance in 2020.

Her fine art work in video, photography and sculpture has been shown at Röda Sten Konsthall, Kristiansand Kunsthall and Nikolaj Kunsthal. She performs the live visuals in Copenhagen.

Freya Sif Hestnes. Photo Åsmund Sollighøgda

SIGNS OF PRESENCE TOUR visits Stockholm,
Helsinki, Reykjavík and Copenhagen
in autumn 2027. We are applying for the
funding to realise it through 2026 and 2027.
jns.johansson@gmail.com