



CIKADA

## A concert with Cikada:

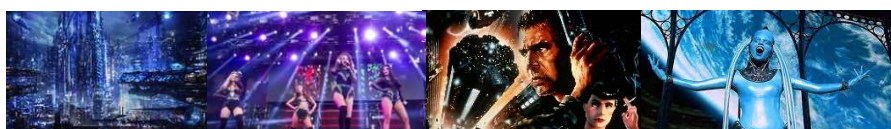
World premiere - Jon Øivind Ness

John Øyvind Ness is writing a full-length piece for Cikada ensemble inspired by - and as a challenge to - the relatively new genre "pop contemporary music". This will be contemporary music with references to *Tunes of two Cities*, *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* and films like *Blade Runner* and *Fifth Element*. Ness himself describes his project thus:

"In my new piece for Cikada, I want to create 'pop music' from a completely different basis - from fictive cultures, from cultures that merge diverging musical styles, 'future's music'. The inspiration has been The Residents' albums *Eskimo* and *Tunes of two Cities* as well as the sound tracks of *Blade Runner*, *Fifth Element* and *Starship Troopers*. On *Tunes of two Cities* we hear the music of two rivalling groups, where the apparently kind ones - with their lively cocktail jazz - turn out to be the bad ones, while the ugly and gloomy people living underground turn out to be sensitive and serious.

The 'future's music' we hear in *Blade Runner* actually became a real genre today, a sort of electro-arab dance pop. In *Fifth Element* they tried inventing something new, that ended up sounding pretty tacky, while in *Starship Troopers* they didn't even try, something I interpret as a humoristic statement.

I have talked to my colleague Lars Skoglund about making up a game where we put notes with names of musical genres in a hat, like country, heavy metal, chewing gum pop etc., and then pulling out two notes and combining the two genres. It's silly, but I think it can be funny. As an example, Byrne/ Eno's *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* was, when it came out in 1981, almost without precedents in the combining of sampled speech with technological rhythms and 'ethnic' music. I think new combinations made in a creative and thorough way end up surpassing the combination itself. Kendrick Lamar's integration of jazz in his hip hop, is so thorough and seamless that it's neither jazz nor hip hop, but perhaps something completely new. I think this is a big and unexplored field."



**Cikada**

c/o Sentralen, Øvre Slottsgate 3, postboks 183, N-0102 Oslo



**Jon Øivind Ness** (1968) is one of Norway's most recognised and performed composers. He got his break through as composer with the work *Schatten* for 23 musicians, that received the distinction "work of the Year" from the Norwegian Society of Composers in 1993. Ness has twice won the Edvard-award in the category for contemporary music for the works *Cascading Ordure* in 1997 and *Dangerous Kitten* in 2000.

**Cikada:** Since its 1989 formation in Oslo, the Cikada Ensemble has developed a refined and highly acclaimed profile on the international contemporary music scene. From the very beginning, Cikada has consisted of flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, string quintet and conductor Christian Eggen. All ten are equal, permanent members, and the ensemble has become synonymous with *the Oslo Sound* of fresh, vibrant, warm and virtuosic interpretations of consciously selected, contemporary repertoire.

In concerts at major international festivals and on numerous albums, Cikada's distinct ensemble profile manifests itself in strong programming. Integral to this work is a wish to develop long-term collaborations with composers and to build composer portraits with commissioned works over time.

The nine musicians also form various formations within the group: Cikada String Quartet and Cikada Trio (flute, clarinet, piano) and Piano Trio work as independent Cikada units, adding to the ensemble's international identity.

Cikada was awarded the prestigious Nordic Music Prize in 2005.

[www.cikada.no](http://www.cikada.no)

Kontakt: Cecilie L. M. Stensrud | [cecilie@cikos.no](mailto:cecilie@cikos.no) | + 47 907 07 472



**Cikada**

c/o Sentralen, Øvre Slottsgate 3, postboks 183, N-0102 Oslo

