

# ERIK MIKAEL KARLSSON & JENS HEDMAN: ANCHORINGS/ARROWS (1992)

The new electroacoustic work by Karlsson & Hedman begins with three enormous attacks leading to a powerful, almost orchestral, attack with a mezzosoprano singing in despair, creating a fantastic electroacoustic mechanism that deals with gestures and form as much as with acoustics.

The soundworld of Karlsson & Hedman makes it still possible to distinguish between the "foreground" and the "background": the latter with its softer nuances and timbres, makes the foreground stand out in relief which gives it light and shade according to the shifting musical and acoustical image.

As a result the form of the work is much simpler to perceive than in their previous works.

If imposing pillars of concrete sounds occupy a leading role in Anchorings/Arrows, it is offset by a skillfully handled, constantly shifting instrumental texture, to which the well balanced concrete soundworld and the dominant attacks give backbone and strength.

The impression of the work is at the same time predictable in its regularity and slightly threatening in its aggressiveness.

It is always a pleasure in listening to the works of Karlsson & Hedman; as in their previous works Anchorings/Arrows is distinguished by craftsmanship - The elegant but still demanding soundworld, statements existing together in gestural integration or disintegration.

Anchorings/Arrows mark the continuation of the collaboration between composers Erik Mikael Karlsson and Jens Hedman. A collaboration which is characterized by a strong emotional output and of a musical craftsmanship by two of the leading Swedish composers of electroacoustic music.

The work was realised at DIEM (Danish Institute for Electroacoustic Music) in Aarhus and at EMS (Institute for Electroacoustic Music in Sweden) in Stockholm during 1992.

Equipment used: AudioFrame Digital Workstation, Studer Dyaxis, VAX-11/750, MacIIfx with Soundtools.