

**BLOG ENTRIES AND NEWS ITEMS, 2008 - 2024**



*nian*

# INTRODUCTION

Between 2008 and 2015 I blogged about (upcoming) releases on my website. These blogs contain lots of technical details about recording my music, and occasionally some more personal notes. In 2011 I also started posting news on my Facebook pages. This document contains all blogs and news items from my website, as well as relevant Facebook posts.

Perhaps the information is a bit technical, but I think it's an interesting document showing my progression from amateur to (semi?) professional artist. Apart from that, some background information on the lyrics is provided.

My ramblings about politics and environmental issues have not been included. You can check my personal Facebook page for those.

I'm updating this document every once in a while. Enjoy!

Kind regards,

*nion*

## Notes

Some redactions have been made, explanations or updates, they've been marked with [Red.]. I've also corrected some spelling errors.

Lengthy hyperlinks in Facebook posts have been converted to true hyperlinks. Other hyperlinks may lead to page errors, due to website revisions. I've corrected the ones I thought important by using web dns links. Videolinks can be clicked!

Blog items are marked by 'BLOG'. Items from the former News pages are included as well, and marked by 'NEWS'. Facebook items are marked by 'FB'

Double postings have been removed. The domain [www.nion.me](http://www.nion.me) has been corrected to [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu).

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2008

## **BLOG: July 2, 2008: work starts on a new album**

So, it's time for a new album. Work started early this year, as the dust from moving to a new house settled down, and now eight songs have been chosen.

As with the previous album, the ideas for them date back to the 1980's. Most songs deal with personal experiences from 1990-1998 (I guess it just takes me a while to convert my thoughts and emotions to music...).

The album will also include three bonus tracks, different versions from some of the main eight songs, altogether a bit more up-tempo. More alternative versions will be featured on single releases.

The first track on the album is called 'Never Forget' and is extremely different from the music on the first album. It's an experimental dance/techno track, and I am almost tempted to let you hear it, because I am so pleased with it. But I should keep it veiled for a little longer :) It will be the first single, though.

Most of the music is quite finished, but no vocals have been recorded yet, except for a few demo's for personal use. Which is mainly to find out if harmonies are working out, and if the melodies are not too far out of range for my rather smoky voice :).

I'm currently experimenting with more dance oriented rhythm tracks, although the album features several ballads as well, including a ten minute song called The Void, which will probably be the title track, as it sums up most emotions of the other songs (in a rather dramatic finale).

## **BLOG: July 10, 2008: selecting instruments**

I've spent most of last week selecting more instruments and fine tuning settings for them.

Added some sound effects to some of the songs, like birds and traffic. Recorded with a microphone hanging out the window here on the second floor :)

Some of the songs were written a long time ago, and some demos were recorded around 2000. I've re-added the vocals to the instrumental tracks as a guideline, and some are actually quite good. So they might survive in the final recordings.

Finally, I've started working on the remix versions which will feature on the single releases, and I'm trying to make something special out of them, instead of just repeating parts and rhythm build ups one so often hears in modern dance music.

That's about it for this week. Next step: recording vocals. Which is the hardest part, but I can't postpone that indefinitely :)

### **BLOG: July 17, 2008: deafened by Deborah**

Well, we went to see Blondie in Paradiso Amsterdam last night, and as a result I'm quite deaf now. Which means I can't much work on the album and definitely not on the vocals. It was a great show, though!

So apart from improving some instruments and toying with ideas for the album artwork I didn't do much this week. Instead, I recorded a cover of Atomic (check out my MySpace page). Not to be taken too seriously.

So, I've just got to work a little harder next week :)

### **BLOG: July 24, 2008: recording vocals**

I've had to buy a new soundcard because the latency on the old one was making it very hard to record properly. Quite happy with the new one!

This week I recorded most of the vocals for the first track on the album. I will be adding some more later, but at least I now have a version to work with. Next step is listening to it over and over, whilst fine tuning vocals and instrument settings. As I said before, this song is radically different from the songs on the first album, so it's quite a challenge to get this



right. I'm tempted to upload an excerpt but that would really spoil the surprise :)

I'm aiming for September, maybe October for the release of the first single from the new album, and it will be this track, so I'm quite happy it's now at a stage where all that's left to do is some fine tuning and mastering. Although I want the vocals to sound very layered, so I'll probably have to record some more :)

So I might as well lift part of the veil... The track is called Never Forget and the single will contain three versions: a single edit, an extended version and a slow version. The main track is (at the moment) 7:02 (yes, it's an edit!), and it's a rather experimental dance track. It has very few words, the idea is more to let the voices encourage the listener to join me on a voyage through my memories.

**Album tracks so far:**

Never Forget

**Single extras:**

Never Forget (Single Edit)

Never Forget (Ballad)

Never Forget (Extended)

**BLOG: July 31, 2008: recording more vocals**

I've recorded vocals for one of the slower tracks on the album, called Barricades. It has a relaxed latin feel about it, even though the song does not exactly tell a happy tale. Most of the new songs don't, actually. The album tells tales from a rather dark period in my life (quite a while ago!).

There's also a dance version of this song, which will be added as a bonus track. It doubles the rhythm of the 'Latin' version so it's relatively fast, 130 bpm.

Apart from Barricades, I've re-recorded some of the vocal parts in Never Forget, and added some more, including one sequence in which I

managed to hit a high 'A' (to my surprise). This part is featured exclusively in the extended version, which has an extra chorus. I've also managed to cut the single mix down to 6 minutes.

In between these sessions I've done the vocals for the ballad version of Never Forget, but that took only a few hours - it has very few vocals, and lots of strings :)

On my first album most songs have a clear leading vocal, with two to four backing vocals. On this new album there seems to be a tendency to let that rather classic approach go. Like last weeks' song, Barricades has a lot of vocals, double tracked leads, leads with backing, and even a choral bit.

This approach seems to work for me at this point, although, with the recording progressing, it's hard to say if it will work for any of the other songs, as they haven't been recorded yet. Some of them are quite full of instruments, so adding many vocals might be over the top. Which is always a problem when you're doing everything yourself - composing, arranging, instruments, vocals, producing, mixing, mastering and promoting :)

I'm ahead of my schedule (which was to do the vocals - and some early mixing - for one song each week), so I have some time left to experiment with a track that's very orchestral and will feature a choral segment in four part harmony. Quite a challenge to get that right... so if you can't find it anywhere on the album in a few months you'll know I've failed :)

**Album tracks so far:**

Never Forget

Barricades

Barricades (Dance Mix)

**Single extras:**

Never Forget (Single Edit)

Never Forget (Ballad)

Never Forget (Extended)

Barricades (Extended Dance Mix)

## **BLOG: August 7, 2008: vocals and harmonies**

I've been rather busy this week :) Recorded vocals for almost all remaining tracks, see track listing below.

Recording the vocals for the track The Void was something I have been postponing for a long time because this, in my opinion, is the most difficult song on the album, as it is so personal. There's a lot of pain behind that one. But they've been recorded this morning at last, and they are stunning. My best performance ever.

The four part harmony I mentioned last week has also been recorded and I've added a men's choir sound to it. I'm not really sure about this segment yet, as my voice doesn't really fit in. Chances are it will be deleted :)

So, two more songs to record and then it's time for listening, listening and more listening. After that, replace off-key vocals, mixing and mastering. And designing the artwork for the album and singles.

### **Album tracks so far:**

Never Forget  
Remembering  
Barricades  
Azure Eyes  
I Still Care  
Enlighten Me  
The Void  
Barricades (Dance Mix)  
Azure Eyes (Dance Mix)  
Enlighten Me (Extended)

### **Single extras:**

Never Forget (Single Mix)  
Never Forget (Ballad)  
Never Forget (Extended)  
Barricades (Extended Dance Mix)  
Azure Eyes (Ballad)  
The Void (Single Edit)

## **BLOG: August 14, 2008: finalizing vocals, developing artwork**

This week I've recorded the vocals for the final two tracks, Eighteen Days, and a variation on that song called Requiem For Melissa.

So the track listing is now complete, and I'm on to the next stage, replacing some of the less successful vocal parts.

I'm also developing ideas for the artwork, which has to symbolize the album title somehow (The Void). So I'm taking pictures of the sky hoping for a cloud configuration that can be edited into a void :) Not quite sure if I should include pictures of myself, it doesn't seem to go with the theme.

### **Album tracks:**

Never Forget  
Remembering  
Eighteen Days  
Barricades  
Azure Eyes  
I Still Care  
Enlighten Me  
The Void  
Barricades (Dance Mix)  
Azure Eyes (Dance Mix)  
Enlighten Me (Extended)

### **Single extras:**

Never Forget (Single Mix)  
Never Forget (Ballad)  
Never Forget (Extended)  
Requiem For Melissa  
Barricades (Extended Dance Mix)  
Azure Eyes (Ballad)  
The Void (Single Edit)

## **BLOG: September 30, 2008: postponing the release**

I'm really sad to have to announce that a 2008 release of both the first single and the album have become highly unlikely at this point.

I had been hoping to release the single at October 1st, but there's just too much still to be done. The early mixes didn't feel right, so I've gone back a step to work on the instruments and vocals some more before starting the mixing, and later the mastering process again.

The same goes for several tracks on the album. The main problem is that I'm exploring uncharted territory with several of the songs, as they are so radically different from my earlier work, even rather experimental at some points. So it simply takes more time to recreate the music I hear in my head into music everyone can listen to!

So now I'm aiming for an early 2009 release. I do have a Christmas surprise though, this year, and expect to be more specific about that soon :)

## NEWS: November 2008 – December Dreams

I am wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Meanwhile, I am happy to announce the release of my single December Dreams, which contains the first all new track since the release of my album Lost In Love (not counting alternative versions and remixes), and a new version of the track Christmas Calling, with additional verse and new vocals.



The songs can be purchased from [Soundclick](#). I am currently offering a discount on all tracks.

2009

## **BLOG: January 29, 2009: initializing a third album**

I'm sorry to say the delay on the new album has not been resolved yet, due to mixing and mastering problems. I am now aiming for release close to the summer (perhaps earlier).

However, on the bright side, I have been composing twelve new tracks for a possible third album. These songs are more in the classical style, with sparse accompaniment, mainly piano. They have been inspired by British poetry from the sixteenth century onward.

As you might know, work on the first two albums started in the early nineties of the previous century. I am extremely positive about this first completely new work in the current century.

This third album may see the light of day near the end of this year, and will be called 'Times Go By Turns'<sup>1</sup>, after a poem by Saint Sir Robert Southwell.

I will try and keep you informed about the progress on the new songs, as well as the continuing work on 'The Void'.

## **BLOG: February 25, 2009: opening a shop**

I have decided to start offering CD's through mail order<sup>2</sup>, as the quality of both iTunes and Soundclick downloads is quite bad. I've expanded the original Lost In Love album to two CD's, the second containing all single extras and a previously unreleased mix of The Hunger, which I think is quite nice. I could have made this a single, but I'm really ready for closure on this album, and heading for the next one.

I hope the pricing is not to extreme, but as one has to pay 0.99 per track on iTunes, 15.00 for 22 tracks seems quite reasonable.

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<sup>1</sup> Red.: As of April 24, 2009, the project is called *Thy Delightful Shade*.

<sup>2</sup> Red.: Mail order option has since been discontinued.



I've also done some mixing on the tracks from The Void, so now I hope the album will be ready before the summer, maybe sooner.

Still have to take some nice pictures of myself though, although on the album and single covers, as mentioned before, images of clouds are much more prominent. But maybe a small picture of me can be fitted in :)

And, I have now written 14 new songs for the poetry album. 13 of these are originals, and no. 14 is inspired by a traditional tune. Which happened in a strange way, as I heard the traditional AFTER I'd written the song. I suppose the words have their own melody? It's a rather well know poem by Felicia Hemans, called The Rock of Cader Idris. I hope my pronunciation of the Welsh 'Cader Idris' is correct :)

I'm writing the 15th song as we speak, and the total running time is approaching 100 minutes. Which is too much for a CD...

Finally, there is one song I am particularly pleased with, a piano/vocal rendition of Tennyson's Deserted House. I have put an early demo of this on the [samples](#) page.

### **BLOG: March 5, 2009: replacing a song**

I've recorded the vocals for the song Azure Eyes again, as the previous version just didn't sound right. And, I've replaced a song. The track I Still Care has been shelved for future use, it didn't really fit in with the other tracks, featuring a rather orchestral arrangement and the five part choirs I mentioned before. It's odd, because when working on the previous album I also aborted a track in the final stages, which also had a quite orchestral arrangement. I'll end up making a symphonic album eventually :) (at this rate, in about ten years).

I Still Care has been replaced with a song called So Insecure, a piano based ballad, with atmospheric sound effects from seagulls and the seashore. Most songs on The Void start and end with sound effects, to create an atmosphere, and can be segued into another. The tracks on

iTunes will be separate, but on the CD the songs will be mixed. With I Still Care there was quite of a radical change in style (and, looking back, it has rather dreadful lyrics), which now has been corrected.

I expect to finish mixing and then mastering in the course of the next few months and release the album subsequently. The main barrier still is the boxed-in sound of the vocals, but by experimenting and reading a lot of literature on the subject I hope to get this right eventually.

### **The track listing now becomes as follows:**

Never Forget  
Remembering  
Eighteen Days  
Barricades  
Azure Eyes  
So Insecure  
Enlighten Me  
The Void

### **Bonus tracks**

Barricades (Dance Mix)  
Azure Eyes (Dance Mix)  
Enlighten Me (Extended)

### **BLOG: March 11, 2009: solving problems**

I've finally found the solution to the boxed-in sound of the vocals. It turns out to be a combination of bad equalizing and the use of gated reverbs. The plug-in I use for compressing the vocals appears to have a build in EQ, which gives quite a boost to the 200 Hz range, and that's one range one shouldn't boost on my voice :) Unfortunately, I'd frozen the compression on the vocal tracks, so for a moment I thought I would have to redo all of them. That's one mistake I won't make again. Better to keep all rough edits, I'd rather buy an extra hard disk instead of having to redo a great performance. Fortunately, with negative equalizing (making an exact mirror copy of the graph) I've managed to un-boost the 200 Hz area without any audible quality loss.

The second mistake was the use of gated reverb on vocals, which sounds great on a headphone, but on monitor speakers messes the sound up quite badly. And the build in plug-in I used for reverb wasn't so great in the first place. So I've removed all reverb settings and am now replacing them by a different reverb, which can be tweaked much more.

Another odd thing, moving my speakers to a different location made quite a difference as well. My recording room has rather impossible measurements: one of the walls is 4 meters high, with the opposite one barely 2 meters. And it's not a square floor plan either, one of the other walls is angled at about 120 degrees. Recording isn't the problem, but mixing is really difficult here. I should probably invest in some sound improving materials.

Anyway, as soon as I'm finished (which I expect to be quite soon), I'll do another mixing session on the computer in the living room, to compare and tweak some more. Somehow the Lost In Love album sounds more sparkling, so I guess I'll have to do some overall equalizing to brighten it up, or replace some of the duller sounds. Perhaps it's the rather dark feel of the album that made me chose mainly dark sounds in the first place :)

After that I expect to be ready to release the album! With the waiting time for the online stores it will be available somewhere in May, with a single release preceding it to fill the gap :)

### **BLOG: March 18, 2009: mixing, artwork and sheet music**

Another busy week! I've made corrections to all cover artwork (I discovered the cd covers were 12x12cm, while the proper size is 13x13cm, a rather silly mistake...). And I've corrected some other mistakes on the fly. Artwork for The Void is as good as finished, though I have to check the lyrics for typos. Which is rather dull work, so I keep postponing it.

Secondly, sheet music is now available for all singles (check the [discography page](#)). I'm also working on a sheet music book to accompany the Lost In Love album. This book will feature more complicated arrangements than the standard piano/vocal, and, as it involves a lot of work to make those, it will only be available for sale, like the [Sonnets](#) book. The sheet music to the singles is free, by the way. Would be nice to hear your interpretations!

This week, most time went into further mixing of the new album. All songs but two are now as good as finished, but the remaining two (Azure Eyes & The Void) are not working out as yet. I've gone so far as considering replacement songs, but with the song The Void that would mean a completely different approach to the album, as it is the title track. So for now, replacing it with another song is not an option.

Odd thing is that it's not so much the mixing that causes the problems, but the vocals itself. I am going to re-do those on Azure Eyes tomorrow, but with The Void I am not quite sure what to do. Some parts of the song have really great vocals, so perhaps I'll just replace the bad parts. Which sometimes means just one or two bars. The wonders of modern technology...

But this means the album is yet another step closer to completion, and that certainly makes me happy. It's almost a year now since I started the work, and I'm not even counting the demo tracks I used as base tracks, for some date back as far as 1989 or so.

Hardly any new developments on the poetry album, I've recorded a small choir and some additional piano for the Bronte song (the middle bit was too much just a chord progression so it needed a little more action). But this project does not have a deadline (yet). Tomorrow night I'll be attending the Grace Jones concert in Paradiso, I'm quite looking forward to it, although I hope it won't be as loud as Blondie last year :)

## **BLOG: April 2, 2009: more mixing**

Grace Jones was great, a bit loud though. I'll be wearing earplugs to Kim Wilde next Monday in the same venue!

Last week I continued mixing the album, and I'm pleased to say I'm almost finished. I did some new vocals (yet again) for Azure Eyes, and the ballad parts are okay now. I'll have to do a few lines from the up-tempo sections again. It's puzzling me why this song is so hard to sing, because the melody is not complicated at all.

The other song causing problems, The Void, is also as good as finished.

And I've added a verse to the extended dance mix of Barricades, where I'm actually hitting a high B-flat, which is a semitone higher than my previous highest note ever (the A in Never Forget). Still below the regular high C of a tenor, though, but I now seem to have a vocal range of two and a half octave, which is almost an octave more than fifteen years ago :)

All that's left now is a few rounds of listening carefully to all tracks and make some final adjustments. I've done some reading on mastering and I'm considering grouping the instruments, as it is a process that appeals to me. It's easier (I think) than mastering the entire song in one go as I used to do in the past.

So, after almost a year, the second album will be released!

Oh, and I've done some more work on the sheet music book of Lost In Love, which is now a hundred pages, with about five songs yet to be done. I think it will be a very nice book.

## **BLOG: April 8, 2009: Lost In Love sheet music**

Sadly, we never made it to Kim Wilde.

This week I'm finishing the sheet music book to accompany the Lost In Love album (about 125 pages, full instrumental scores), and continue mixing the new album. I'm also designing the website for The Void, although I will keep the current website as the main portal to my music.

I've finished designing the cover art for the album and several singles, and have included some photographs of myself as well, after all. This one is on the first single, Never Forget.



As you can see, instead of the pink flavour that goes with the Lost In Love project, I've chosen brown and red shades to go with the music (which is much darker than the first album). With some editing the 'clouds' theme is reflected in the pictures, as it is in the other artwork for this project.

So, I've almost finished mixing! I'm aiming for a single release in May, and the album will be available through mail order in June and probably from iTunes around the same time.

And I've joined Twitter, so if you like regular short updates...  
[http://twitter.com/nion\\_](http://twitter.com/nion_) (mind the underscore!). Stay tuned!

## **BLOG: April 14, 2009: almost there**

Almost there! I now have rough mixes of all the songs, and all artwork is finished, including some additional artwork for the website.

I swapped the album version of Azure Eyes (the song that caused so much trouble) with the ballad version. I don't give up easily, but the original concept just wouldn't work. I kept the dance mixes though! I might release the original later as a bonus track on a single, but most of the vocals will have to be done again.

As I have three days off from my other job (the one that brings in the money...) I hope to finish mixing and mastering this week, release the single and upload the album to iTunes.

Oh, and I released the Lost In Love songbook, which includes full instrumental arrangements and vocals for all album tracks and some of the single tracks. It has become a very nice book!

You can order it [here](#).

## **BLOG: April 23, 2009: my own domain and new songs**

Finally my own domain! Most non-dot-somethings were unavailable so I had to settle for Montenegro (.me). But that's good enough.

So I've mainly been busy setting up this website, and since I can't do two things at the same time, I haven't mixed much. Which will once again cause a delay... I shouldn't be promising release dates anymore because they change all the time. I would like to finish before June though, which means two years since the previous album.

I have added a new song to the album, between Barricades and Azure Eyes, providing a bit of a break. Almost all songs are now ballads, apart from of Never Forget and Enlighten Me, so I added a reprise version of Never Forget to speed things up a bit in the middle.

In the process of doing this I made some mistakes copying the vocal tracks of some of the other songs, which is a bit of a set back, but I'm positive I can resolve it quickly using the backups I made early in April. And if not... much more delay...

I hope you like the website; I have copied most of the old one, and will be adding more. I've also improved the rather bad quality pictures of the Lost In Love project a bit, changing the colors and backgrounds to be more compatible with this website. They're accompanying the blog pages. A few days off my other job are coming up, so there's enough time.

### **BLOG: April 25: correcting a stupid mistake**

I've restored the wrongly copied tracks. It turns out the software took a wave file with the same name from a different directory. But in the process of this I found out much of the mixer settings for the song The Void have reverted to a previous take. And that will take some more time to correct.

I've also found a new EQ plug in which is much, much better than the program's build in one I used to use. This improves vocal clarity extremely. And next week I will try and remix one of the songs from the bottom up. I've read an article advising to start with bass and drums, then mix in the vocals, and only after that the rest of the instruments, which is a different approach I'd like to try. So far, I used to categorize instruments into groups, and mixing them as single entities (before fine tuning) but I'd like to try a different method. Problem is, this seems a great approach for rhythmic tracks, and the song that needs mixing the most (The Void) isn't...

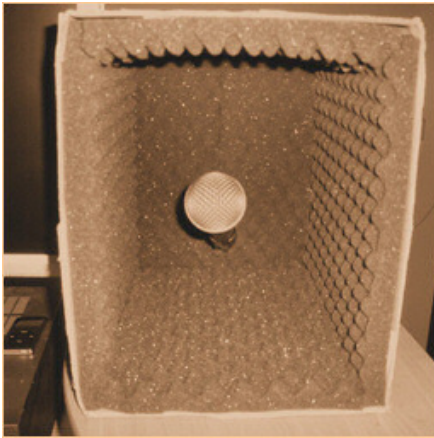


## BLOG: May 2, 2009: the funny box

I've been busy adding things to the website, like the lyrics to the Lost In Love album, and I'm preparing the pages for the next one, The Void.

Not much mixing during the last week, but I plan to do a lot next Monday until Thursday. Four days off from my other job, so I should be able to concentrate on (nearly) finishing at least the first single and the album. The other singles and remixes can wait, as I'm not planning to release a second single for about three months. Just hope I won't catch the swine flu in the meantime...

And, I've build a funny box to eliminate the ambiance sound when I'm singing. The principle is explained in detail here<sup>3</sup> (skip the add, and the page takes a while to load). I'm not really sure if it works, I've only made one test recording so far. My voice sounds different so I suppose it works<sup>4</sup>.



On the picture, in the middle of the box is my trusted Sure SM58 mike, which I've had for over fifteen years. And now has a home of its own :)

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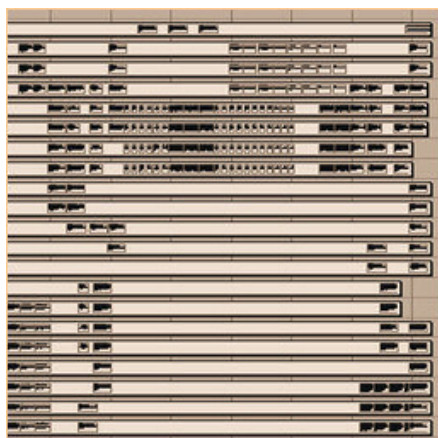
<sup>3</sup> January 1, 2010, update: this page doesn't exist anymore!

<sup>4</sup> February 2, 2010, update: after some experimenting, the box has been categorised as unsatisfying.

The main problem with the vocals on The Void was the ambient sound caused by the room ('boom'), and that seems to disappear when I record with the box. It took hours and hours to eliminate the boom from the vocals, and I'm still not completely satisfied. So instead of sound isolating the entire room, which would have been quite expensive, this box might do the trick. Total costs: less than ten euros!

Apart from all this, I'm making some progress on the third album, which now has the working title Thy Delightful Shade. Which means I will have to acquire a picture of myself sitting beneath a tree for the front cover :)

### **BLOG: May 6, 2009: first two singles ready**



I've finished mixing 'Never Forget' and 'Barricades', both the album and the alternative versions. Quite happy about that! With a little luck I'll finish some more songs this week, I really have to finish this project soon.

Perhaps one of the problems is that I want it to sound better than the first album, and another problem are the choral vocal arrangements. Whereas the first album had three vocal lines at most (except for the choir in 'Waiting'), with this new album I've been experimenting with layers and layers of vocals. 'Never Forget' has more than 15 voices singing at the same time (see picture below), and it's very hard to mix

them together without losing the balance with the rest of the instruments.

Fun thing with having my own domain is that I can see where my visitors are coming from. So that's how I found out that one of you has been so kind to mention me on the [Bronte-blog](#). Thanks! The mention is in the section concerning 'singing Emily's poetry', just below the beautiful Anois cd that was just released. It's very odd to see myself mentioned on such a serious website!

By the way, it will be quite a while before '[Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee](#)' will be released - first I need to finish 'The Void'. And by now it's quite obvious it takes me at least two years to finish a project. '[Thy Delightful Shade](#)' will be even harder to record, one reason being that it's mainly piano/vocal, which means my singing has to be absolutely perfect. With 'pop' songs it's easy to hide the odd mistake, but with just piano, you can hear every detail... Still, I can hardly wait to start working on the project again. Such beautiful poetry! It has inspired me to write the best music I've ever written.

### **BLOG: May 7, 2009: almost there**

I've finished mixing almost all songs (except Azure Eyes and The Void, as usual), and will start mastering tomorrow.

I've also added samples of the '[Lost In Love](#)' album to this website, and found a very nice mp3-player-script, with just one small play/stop button. The player comes from <http://delicious.com/>. I made some modifications...

Have to check that site out some more for added functionality!

Update May 9: I've added an entire [new section](#) to the website, describing future plans and looking back on the past with samples of unreleased work (which is unreleased for a very good reason!).

## **BLOG: May 28, 2009: adding one more song**

Final changes! I've added a finale to Never Forget as the ninth track on the album, and swapped the 7th and 8th track, in order to make the storyline more logical.

I was forced to leave the bonus track Enlighten Me (Extended Mix) off, in order to keep everything under 74 minutes. The extended Enlighten Me is shelved for now but I'll include it as a bonus track somewhere, in the future.

Next week I have planned three days to do the final mixing and hopefully the online stores will place the single and the album online before spring ends :)

## NEWS: June 2009 – Never Forget



With great pleasure I announce the release of Never Forget, the first single from my forthcoming album The Void.

The song is a radical change of style as compared to my first album, Lost In Love. It's an up-tempo dance track, with choirs weaving in and out. Centred around a thumping bass drone it intends to entrance the listeners, urging them to remember the past, forever.

As the opening track on the forthcoming album The Void the aim is to prepare the listener for a journey through the past, with songs of loves lost and memories of those, both happy and sad. The haunting theme of the song returns several times throughout the album, bridging the other songs.

Never Forget is currently available through Amazon and several other online stores as a one track single.

The three track single is available from Soundclick and contains different versions of the song: a single mix, a slow orchestral interpretation and an extended dance mix.

## NEWS: July 2009 – The Void



I am very pleased to announce the release of my new album The Void, two years after the release of my first album Lost In Love.

The album features ten new tracks, and two bonus remixes.

It has been a very difficult album to make, as it is mostly autobiographical, dealing with events from my past, centred around relationships that have been complicated. With the album now finished I find it hard to write any further about the subject matter, as it is so personal. I'd rather advice you to listen; the tales told in these tracks should speak for themselves.

The Void is currently available through Amazon (220 kbps) and mail order<sup>5</sup>. The album will soon be available on iTunes.

The original press release announcing The Void can be found here.

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<sup>5</sup> Red.: Mail order option has since been discontinued.

**BLOG: July 6, 2009, press release: The Void album released**



Two years after the release of his first album *Lost In Love*, Dutch artist nion returns with his second album, *The Void*.

*"This album intends to take the listener on a trip through the past,"* says nion of his new recording. *"Memories of love, often complicated, stories without happy endings. A very personal, largely autobiographical album, telling tales of days and loves long passed."*

The album opens with *Never Forget*, which is also the first single, where vocal choirs weave an entrancing web over a thumping bass drone and a dark techno beat. The haunting theme of the song returns twice, dividing the three main storylines. *"Never Forget is very different from my earlier work, I needed a song to bridge the stories, and it had to be a clear divider. And I've wanted to do something with contemporary dance music for quite a while."* Be that as it is, the resulting tracks are quite different from the average trance song one hears on the radio.

The other songs are more like the first album, but musically more complex: for instance, 15/8 and 9/8 meter in *Eighteen Days*, elaborate vocal harmonies throughout the album).

*"Experimenting with vocal harmonies has been a learning process, but the results are quite like what I had in mind. The first album basically has*

*a lead vocal with two supporting backing vocals, whereas The Void sometimes has over fifteen voices singing, often in three and four part harmonies. These walls of voices suit the music and subject matter very well. I am particularly pleased with the harmonies in So Insecure and the choir in Azure Eyes."*

The songs are also bridged by sound effects, reflecting the feel of the subject matter, for instance: the rain bridging Remembering and Eighteen Days , the seagulls and waves in SoInsecure. The title track ends the album, a ten minute epic, slowly building up tension, and ending in a desperate cry: "How can I bear a life without you? See me fall into the void...", thus voicing the pain and desolation of an impossible love, which is also a recurring theme throughout the album.

*"I had to record this album to honor friends and memories from my past", nion says, "it brings closure. Some of these songs date back nearly as far as two decennia, and it was time to get them out of my system. Although now I lead a very happy life, it hasn't always been that way, and this album reflects those dark days. I am very happy to have finished these songs, and to be able to move on."*

### **The website**

On [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu), on the album page of the discography, you can click the songs from The Void to listen to samples. The song So Insecure is offered as a free download.

The Void CD can be ordered [directly](#) from the website, but is also available as a digital download from several stores, notably [Amazon](#). The website features the complete cover art in high quality PDF-files for those that prefer digitally downloaded music.

The single mix of Never Forget is available as a digital download from [Amazon](#) and several other stores.



## **BLOG: August 21, 2009: Remixing the second single**

First, I would like to thank everyone for the positive (and sometimes critical) feedback about the album so far!

This is just a short message to let you know I've started working on the remix(es?) for the second single from The Void. I will not tell you which song it will be (yet). The release date will be somewhere close to October 1st, and the single will feature at least three mixes. I am developing some ideas for a fourth mix, but can't say if this one will work out. It should be a 'back tot basics' trance version, and I have a tendency to 'over-instrumentalise'.

Then, I've started experimenting with video. There are two short advertisements for the albums and a demo video of the demo song The Deserted House on the new video page. Obviously there's a lot to be learned about this medium<sup>6</sup> :)

Finally, I am considering a (very) early release of one of the songs from the poetry project (The Deserted House), by popular demand. People really like this new musical style! But I'm not sure if this is not too confusing, with the second album only just having been released.

## **BLOG: September 10, 2009: short update**

The fourth mix for the second single has been aborted, the song is simply not suited for a trance version (unless I remove all characteristics, but that would violate my artistic integrity too much!). So, the single will feature the album version, an up-tempo mix and an extended up-tempo mix only. I've set the release date for October 1st. The songs are basically finished, except for some fine tuning of the extended version. And I still won't tell you which song it is :)

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<sup>6</sup> Red.: I've learned, and I've decided I'm not good at it.

## NEWS: October 2009 - Barricades



I'd like to announce the release of my new single, Barricades, the second single from my album The Void. The single features three tracks, one never before released: the extended dance mix of the song.

Barricades is one of my favourite tracks on the album, both the 'Latin feel' slow mix as the up tempo version. I am really pleased with the extended version. Contrary to many extended mixes of songs, this mix adds many new elements to the song, instead of just building up drum tracks and repeating parts. Also, new vocals have been recorded for the quieter middle part. And I'm still quite proud of the high b-flat I'm hitting near the end (but that was already featured on the album).

I really hope you like the songs! All three tracks on the single are currently available through Soundclick, and other online stores.

## **BLOG: October 28, 2009: short update**

I'm working on a single mix for one of the future singles, recording some extra backing vocals (a small eerie choir).

Also working on some videos, including an old one I made for the single Voices from the previous album. I'm not sure whether to put it on the website, as I discarded it in 2007 with good reasons to do so...

On the [video page](#) a live recording of Caravans (originally by Mike Batt/Barbara Dickson)<sup>7</sup>. Recorded live at the piano, with very little post editing, my voice is a bit rough but a nice performance anyway.

The poetry project is shelved at the moment due to total lack of inspiration, but I expect to start working on it again as the days are getting longer :)

## **BLOG: November 4, 2009: short update**

I really should start/continue song writing but I'm having fun making videos... I've placed a simple video of me recording the vocal for a cover of And Dream Of Sheep, originally by Kate Bush on the [video page](#).<sup>8</sup>

Maybe tomorrow I'll do something about the poetry project, or at least listen to the songs as they are at the moment, and start imagining new musical arrangements.

I've finally bought closed-back headphones, so no more leakage through the microphone (saves a lot of post editing...). It's an AKG K271 MkII, and it wasn't even that expensive! I'm wearing it in the video mentioned above :)

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<sup>7</sup> Red.: I've deleted this. Got seasick from my head bobbing all the time.

<sup>8</sup> Red.: I've deleted this, it was quite dreadful.

## **BLOG: December 26, 2009: short update**

I've recorded a Christmas Carol as a gift to my friends and acquaintances for this year's Christmas. It is available as a free download from the [homepage](#), and a [video](#)<sup>9</sup> can be seen on [YouTube](#). The song, Minuit Chrétiens, was written in the nineteenth century by Adolphe Adam, and I took the liberty to omit the third stanza and a bit of the first as well. Otherwise the song would have become almost seven minutes and that tends to get boring. The video mix is even shorter...

Meanwhile, I've finished the mix for the third single from The Void, which will be released in January through all the usual channels. Keep checking this blog! The single features two tracks, a remixed version of one of the album tracks (with some added harmonies), and an alternative version, which actually predates the song. I won't say which song, yet :)

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<sup>9</sup> Red.: I've deleted this, it was horrible.

2010

# Eighteen Days

## NEWS: January 2010 – Eighteen Days



I am pleased to announce the release of a new single, Eighteen Days, the third single from my album The Void. The single features three tracks, two never before released: the single mix of the song, with added harmonies, and an alternative version, *Requiem for Melissa*, which actually predates the title track.

This last one is mostly instrumental with a chorus featuring part of the Introitus for a requiem mass. Note: this last track is not linked in any way to my *Missa pro defunctis*, which is still unfinished (and will be for some time!).

I'm finishing the cover art at the moment, due to a family matter this has been delayed a few days.

All three tracks on the single are currently available through Soundclick, and will soon be available in other online stores.

## **BLOG: January 4, 2010: update**



I've finished the cover art and published the song in several online stores. I'm not completely happy about the picture (I seem to have a double chin) but it's the music that matters anyway :)

## **BLOG: January 27, 2010: New album**

I've started working on a third album, under the working title 'No Regrets'. So far, I have selected eight songs (and several alternative versions of them). Most of these songs find their origins in the last decade of the twentieth century, as was the case with the previous two albums. Some of the songs have been recorded before (like 'Estranged' and 'No Regrets', which were published on Soundclock as demos, in 2006). But they need quite a bit of re-working, new vocals, different instruments and arrangements, and in some cases new lyrics (not my 'forte!').

I will develop this album whilst continuing the work on the 'Delightful Shade' project, so it's difficult to say when it will be finished. Knowing myself it will take more time than expected, and at the moment I'm expecting it to take at least a year... so, please be patient :)

Contrary to the 'Delightful Shade' project, this album will be one of popular music, and perhaps more like 'Lost In Love' than 'The Void'. Although I'm still very pleased with 'The Void', it is a very dark album, and rather personal. The new songs are less private, rather more like short stories involving other people or phenomena.

In the meantime, I'm planning to release at least one, and maybe two singles from The Void, and I'm trying to make a video clip for one of them. I'm aiming at a release date in March or April this year. The single will feature alternative versions as usual.

I am also still considering a commercial release of 'The Deserted House', perhaps as a one track single, as the songs from 'Thy Delightful Shade' are so different from each other it seems (at this point in time) impossible to combine them into an album. But who knows what will happen while the project is developing!

Work on the 'Missa pro defunctis' is not going well at all, and I've already re-used one of the movements for 'Thy Delightful Shade'. I'm considering to do the same to another part, which leaves little of the Mass (as it is so far) intact. Three of the movements are really very beautiful, but the libretto of a Requiem mass is causing serious problems with the compositions. So I might abandon the project altogether, or start completely afresh with it?

Obviously, it's a time of radical changes, at the moment! Bear with me and keep visiting the blogs. By the way, with this particular winter it's hard to play anything at all (frozen fingers).

### **BLOG: February 4, 2010: New lyrics**

I've rewritten the entire lyric for the song 'No Remorse', as the previous version was quite silly - it was written in the mid-1980's and I think I've matured a bit since then :) Several other lyrics will need re-writing, some more than others. Especially one very old track originally about gay liberation. A rather dated subject (in the western world!), but the music of the song is one of my favourites so I want to include it on the album.



Then, I've added drums, percussion and an eerie voice synth to a track with a slight celtic feel (it's a story about a ghostly apparition).

Finally, I've added a ninth track, of which there is also a version in French. At the moment, I prefer the latter.

I'm also moving this website to another provider which gives me much more space for files so I can start offering high quality mp3's for the free songs. I have no idea what can go wrong during this transition, so please be patient if the website is offline for a day or so.

### **BLOG: February 11, 2010: Selecting instruments**

I've selected several instruments for the 'french' track. Also still working on the 'celtic' track, trying to add longer instrumental parts to it, but as of yet this doesn't really work out. I have the music in my head, but the problem is getting it into the computer :)

There's still a long way to go, even though most of the music has been recorded, I spent loads of time on selecting the proper instruments. The trouble with 1.5 terabytes of sample material is finding the one instrument that sounds best. Although I'm very satisfied with the Kontakt 4 library, I don't want to use it exclusively because then everything just sounds alike. So I'm using lots of sounds I compiled and synthesized myself. I'm having a bit of trouble with drums because they often consist of just one sample, making the drum tracks sound rather mechanical. But by combining samples and playing with filters I'll eventually find the sounds I want. It's just that so early in the project, the bulk of work still to be done is hanging over me like a thundercloud, and it feels like this will take years to finish.

I seem to have found a solution for the problem I had with my keyboard: through USB Windows doesn't recognise it most of the time, so I have to restart Cubase, or the entire computer, which is really annoying. So now I've connected it the old fashioned way, through a midi cable directly on the soundcard, and this works so far.

Finally, as I have moved this site to a different provider with more options and more space I've added a gallery (just the pictures already at the site, for now), and I will upgrade all MP3's to 192 kbps in the coming weeks.

### **BLOG: February 18, 2010: taking a break**

Taking a break this week from the album, and recording cover versions of Amanda Lear's 'Follow Me' and 'The Sphinx'. Great fun! For 'Follow Me' I'm combining the single version and the album reprise, with drums, bass, arpeggios, half the strings and synths, and half of the vocals done. Really cool backing vocals! Perhaps a video someday, me dressed in leather? Sure :-P

The cover of 'The Sphinx' is turning out to be pretty stunning. Some final mixing this weekend, and then I'll post it on the website.

I've also added this blog to the website. Great advantage of the blog is that readers can post comments. I'm currently moving all entries from the blog on my website to the blog here, so some pages might look a bit odd for a few days!

Finally, I've posted a few personal pictures from the past to the gallery (at [gallery.nion.eu](http://gallery.nion.eu)).

### **BLOG: February 19, 2010: The Sphinx**

I'm quite happy with my cover version of 'The Sphinx', originally by Amanda Lear.

Free download (192 kbps):

[The Sphinx \(single version\) 4.22](#)

[The Sphinx \(extended version\) 7.20](#)

The song was written by Anthony Monn and Amanda Lear, and of course they own the copyrights. I won't sell this song, it's intended for studying purposes.

For my version, I've mainly used Kontakt 4 preset instruments and some sounds from different sources, like the balalaika and the koto.

Vocals are fairly ok - I'd already noticed (who hasn't) that Amanda's voice is quite deep, but she's almost a baritone! I actually had some trouble reaching the low notes :)

The backing choir is synthesized, apart from the 'I can't even cry' part, which I sung in three part harmony and deliberately kept (quite) a bit off pitch.

The extended version has longer instrumental parts and some creative repositioning of melody lines and instruments. It's my favourite (but perhaps a bit lengthy). Enjoy!

### **BLOG: February 24, 2010: Vocals**

Recording guiding vocals for some of the tracks at the moment. Of course they're not likely to make it to the final product, but they allow me to listen to the music at this stage, and delete or add instruments and melody lines that are conflicting with the vocals.

Several songs already have their final vocals, as I've been working on them during the recording of my previous albums. They'll need some tweaking though. There are three ballads with nearly finished vocals: Estranged (which I originally intended to put on my first album), I Still Care (deleted from the second album) and The Midnight Hour (of which I also have a version in German, 'Mitternacht'). As I abandoned the first two songs before, this might happen again :) But I'm very pleased with The Midnight Hour, it's rather 'noire' and has a haunting theme played by a sheng.

This new album seems to get rather international - Celtic themes, French and German vocals, Asian instruments... so far it sounds quite different from the previous one!

By the way, the translation for Mitternacht was done by a long lost penfriend of mine, Michael Fink from Bavaria. If someone knows how to contact him, I'd be thankful!

See the 'Other stuff' first entry for a rather nice cover of The Sphinx, posted last week. I've done some new mastering this morning to make the tracks sparkle a bit more. I'm not likely to post the cover of Follow Me as I'm not very pleased with it. Maybe somewhere in the future :)

### **BLOG: March 4, 2010: 'De Scriptorist'**

Just bought 'De Scriptorist', a book by Paul Evanby, a friend from the past. So if your Dutch is any good, buy it from [here](#). Or buy it anyway and learn the language. Or buy it to support us struggling artists (did I ever mention I have two albums for sale?).

Recorded a cover of 'Sunset People' yesterday (Donna Summer song) but it's not good enough to post. But good practise anyway :) If you want to hear a reasonably good cover version, check the previous page in the 'other stuff' category for 'The Sphinx'.

[edit] Or this one, [Situation](#), originally by Yazoo. Lowered a few notes though :) [/edit]

Now, first get some sleep, then continue with the third album. Maybe some more blogging later! (I really should avoid using exclamation marks all the time.)

## **BLOG: March 10, 2010: 4th single and more**

Well I've had my fun with the Yazoo & Amanda Lear covers (see previous post) but it's time to finalize a fourth single from The Void.

Only two tracks on the album remain suitable (in my opinion) and it's time for an up-tempo track. So obviously this will be Azure Eyes, of which a dance mix is already included on the album as a bonus track. I'm currently finishing an extended dance mix, and a sort of hybrid version that combines parts of the ballad and the up-tempo version, with some melodic changes and a few different and altered instruments.

If all goes well (it appears so, at the moment) I'm aiming at a release date early April.

Then, a fifth single (perhaps a bit overdone, as the singles don't really sell), but I have two remixes left (which I prepared last year) and the costs of single releases are minimal anyway.

I also recorded clips for a video of The Void (the song) but I'm not much of a video editor, so this project will probably be shelved.

After that, on to a new album or a possible release of The Deserted House first, as I have nearly finished a proper recording of this, and due to the requests for this song. Release of a third album will probably not happen this year, as only a few of the songs have been recorded properly and I haven't even made a final selection of songs (see the 'No Remorse' category).

Finally, I plan to release an extended edition of the second album featuring all remixes and an extra track, like I did with the first album. This will be somewhere at the end of summer - I like to plan ahead :)

## **BLOG: March 19, 2010: New song**

This week I've been working on a completely new song for the 'No Remorse' album. It's turning out to be such a beautiful song that I'm considering this to be the leading track (which would mean changing the album title).

So far, I've written most of the lyrics and the basic chords. When I started singing the song over the chords, suddenly all sorts of harmonies appeared in my head, and so far I have a six part harmony in the chorus.

The song has a distinct 'Enya' feel at the moment, but that is probably because of the lack of instrumentation. It's very serene and choral, I don't think I will add many instruments. Perhaps a few soft synth pad sounds to embellish the basic chords I have now. And, as always, my songs tend to change quite a bit over time.

It's odd, because all songs I have recorded so far for my three albums have their roots in the past, some were written nearly twenty years ago, and now this completely new song appears out of nowhere (well, not counting the Delightful Shade poetry project, which is completely new. But that is based on existing poetry by other people).

I still have to write some of the bridge parts, but, so far, I'm really very pleased with this song! I was getting a bit stuck with the album, but now it all seems to take a new and exiting direction. Work will continue in a much faster pace :)

I've replaced all song samples from Lost In Love & The Void by better quality (192kbps) versions.

## **BLOG: March 26, 2010: Update**



I'm still working on the new song. The song structure is now finished, but I'm adding harmonies and instruments. Singing it is the most difficult part, as I want the choral bits to sound really clean, so I have to treat the vocal quite a bit (I'm not very good at singing straight notes, too much vibrato in my voice...)

## NEWS: April 2010 – Azure Eyes



I'd like to announce the release of the fourth single from the album The Void: Azure Eyes.

Contrary to the rather gloomy mood of the album, this is a rather cheerful song, dealing with the start of a relationship.

The album already contained the original track - a ballad, and an up tempo dance mix as a bonus. The single contains these, and two additional mixes: an extended dance mix and a 'hybrid' version.

The extended mix has some nice a cappella parts, longer instrumental parts and other things you might expect from an extended version. The 'hybrid' version, which is also the lead track on the single, is a mix of the ballad and the up tempo versions, but with different instrumentation.

The single is available through the regular channels. The extra tracks will also be included on a companion album to The Void, containing all remixes and bonus tracks, scheduled for release later this year.



## **BLOG: May 17, 2010: Silence**

Sorry about the silence in the last few weeks. I haven't done much, due to an aching back and the holidays. I did start on a website update though, to be published together with the new album (hopefully near the end of the year, but you know how things always take much more time than expected...).

I've also started on the artwork for the new album (I really should finish the music first...), and it's going to look very good. I did do some work on the songs, mainly new instrumental parts. Among them a rather stunning slow part on the piano with eerie vocals. And I've almost decided on the album title (but not quite).

Next is the final single release from The Void, after that the companion bonus tracks album, and then it will be quiet again I'm afraid, until the new album is finished.

In between possibly a release from Thy Delightful Shade, the poetry project, if I can get the vocals right. As mentioned before (I think) this will not be a regular album with several singles, it will be just singles, to give each song specific attention, and probably over the course of several years.

Finally, I've made a website, to be published in the event of my death. You can never be too early with that! A bit morbid though... So, enough work to do... check for news in June!

## **BLOG: May 27, 2010: Drums, drums, drums**

This week I've been quite busy selecting drums (as you might have guessed from the title). Even though only half of the tracks on the new album actually have full drum kits it was still a lot of work selecting the right sounds, and compiling new sounds from different sources. To make the drums sound less sequenced and synthesized, I'm using sounds with a lot of velocity layers (with different sounding samples for each layer)

and later on I will un-quantize the drum tracks and correct notes that are too much off beat. This is going to take even more time :)

So, I've selected the sounds for three of the tracks, and three or four other tracks still have unfinished drum tracks which I will do next week. Two of the tracks will have mostly electronic drums, and the other acoustic sounding drums. And there are some orchestral bass and snare drums I haven't even started on.

Apart from that I've selected most percussion sounds, I will add a few (oriental) gongs later. A bit of a headache now...

Finally, I've done most of the vocals for a track called The Prophecy, which has a rather odd lyric about the search for a prophecy that will bring the world truth. I'm not sure if I will keep this lyric, or change (parts of) it. It's a bit weird :)

## NEWS: July 2010 – The Void



The fifth (and last) single release from the album The Void is the title track, shortened quite a bit. With the elaborations from the album version left out, the song is more of a regular pop ballad, which has its qualities as well. The single also includes the full ten minute album version.

As the project The Void draws to its close, it's a good time to look back on it, and revisit the songs once more. To a whole, the album is very personal, and rather dark, save for some of the tracks. Still, it has been great to be able to put these emotions to rest in this form, and, more than a year after the first single release, I am still very happy about the project.

The single is available through several online stores, and the edited version will be included on a companion album to The Void, to be released soon, featuring the complete set of bonus tracks. This album will not be available as a download.

## NEWS: August 2010 – The Void (The Singles)



With the release of The Void (the singles), the project comes to a close. The album contains all bonus tracks from the five singles that were released from the album The Void. A total of ten tracks - single mixes, extended versions and alternative interpretations. And, a previously unreleased extended mix of the track Enlighten Me, the song that should have been released as a single, according to some.

The Void has been a difficult project, as the subject matter of the songs is so very personal. Still, I am very pleased with it, and it brings closure to release this companion album to The Void.

The album is exclusively available through mail order<sup>10</sup>, bundled with the original.

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<sup>10</sup> Red.: Mail order option has since been discontinued.

## **BLOG: August 26, 2010: Finishing two songs**

It's taken quite a while, but I'm finally really getting somewhere with the new album. During the last few months I've worked on two songs mainly (although I did some work on the other album tracks as well).

The first one is a ballad that was rejected for my first album, because I couldn't get the vocals right at the time. But, after much practise and many deleted recordings, this finally worked out. The melody isn't that complicated, but it took me quite a while to get the emotion in the vocal the way I wanted it.

I think the track, 'Estranged', has been published briefly in a demo version on Soundclick in 2006. This new version is a bit longer, and I've redone most of the instruments. For instance, the bass was really simple and sounded rather automatic. I've written a more complex bass melody that sounds rather vintage 70's, and it really livens up the song.

Also, I'm experimenting with not quantizing the midi data, or at least quantizing less than perfect to avoid the somewhat robotic character of some of my earlier work. Also, my sincere thanks to Kontakt for 'round robin' :)

There's an alternative version for this song which is a bit shorter, and a probable future single.

The second song, 'The Midnight Hour', was basically recorded between my two albums, and I've considered releasing it last year for Christmas. It's a dark song about insecurity and religion, it was actually sung by candlelight with the monitors off. Which is perhaps an idea for an accompanying video, if I get round to that.

I'm quite glad I didn't release it last year, eventually, because the reworked track sounds quite different. I've added vocals and more embellishments on the instrumental parts.

There's an alternative version for this song sung in a different language :)

(So actually I've nearly finished four tracks.)

I think however all tracks need some final editing. And then, there's the rest of the album... Like last time, everything takes so much more time than expected, and I suppose I've set my standards a bit higher as well. So, an album release somewhere in the middle of 2011 is the earliest I dare to consider. Which makes the gaps between albums now officially two years (which is still a lot faster than Kate Bush).

Please have patience! I'm considering more than one single release before the album, to fill the waiting period a bit.

### **BLOG: October 7, 2010: More songs reaching completion**

Sorry for being quiet for so long (again), but I've been rather busy with the songs for the new album, and making great progress.

They're all almost finished! I will have to do some of the vocals again, but the instruments are as good as done, and I should stop adding and changing melodies. So the next few weeks it's time for vocals. Most have already been recorded, but a lot of parts don't sound the way I want them to. After that, mixing and mastering (the toughest part).

Apart from the songs mentioned before, *Estranged & The Midnight Hour*, there are 7 more tracks nearing completion. A short description:

**Quest** - starting with a lengthy solo piano part and transforming into an electronic waltz.

**Exchange The Experience** - of which the French lyric version is actually the original composition. A ballad with nice dramatic build ups.

**Our Destiny Revealed** - a rather serene choral piece (of which I've spoken before).

**The Prophecy** - a rather odd lyric but the sound is very 'ethnic'. I might change the lyric (again...).

**Wail Of The Banshee** - the 'Celtic' song I've mentioned before, rather dreamy.

**No Remorse** - quite orchestral, needs some work though.

**The Anguish** - very orchestral, very, very dramatic. Nearly nine minutes, the three minute intro in E-minor was written very recently whilst the rest of the song (in G major/E major) is almost twenty years old.

Most songs are over six minutes, with The Anguish peaking at nearly nine, and a few just a little shorter, around five minutes. So, together with one bonus track, the album reaches over sixty minutes, which will have to do.

I have about forty minutes of bonus material for singles: a few shortened (remixed) versions, and several songs in French and German, as I wrote before.

The idea is to release the latter on a few singles first, and then the album, so the wait will soon be over, and I'll have some additional time for mastering the album in between singles.

### **BLOG: October 28, 2010: De-noise, de-hum, de-es**

Rather boring work these last days, the only analog part of my music are the vocals and the microphone picks up all sorts of unwanted noises. So post production included removing as much noise as possible without altering the voice (all sorts of user friendly plugins for that). And after that, removing the extremely annoying hum my computer makes no matter how careful I record. And finally, reducing the sibilant 's' sounds I seem to produce with my throat, which is the most difficult of all to remove. And it takes some much time... Post production of vocals is the most time consuming part of making music, for someone who's not an excellent singer! But it's unavoidable.

Apart from all that I've recorded some new vocals when the original takes were just too bad to maintain. And a piano-only version of the first track, Quest, including a very nice warm choir - I've reached a low

F#1<sup>11</sup>, it was very early in the morning :) Lowest note ever! It's a bit odd, apparently I should record low vocal parts early in the day and the higher parts in the afternoon to produce the best results.

So slowly but surely the songs are reaching their final shape and I'm very happy about it. Still, I'll have to start mixing (although I've done quite a bit of that during recording) and after that, the most dreaded task of all: the mastering. Obviously, when I listen to my previous albums, especially the first one, I wasn't very good at that at the time. I might remaster it someday.

I'm still aiming at a release date this year, of at least a single!

These last weeks I've mainly been working on the vocals, removing noise, compressing, gating, equalizing. I'm not happy with the sound so far, it sounds a bit harsh, perhaps too much emphasis on the higher frequencies?

I've started out using the same EQ settings as I used on the second album, but I think my voice has changed over the last two years. So, time to try a new approach I guess!

### **BLOG: December 2, 2010: De Vloedvormer**

I'd like to draw your attention to the recent release of the second novel by Paul Evanby, 'De Vloedvormer'. It's in Dutch but well worth reading if you speak the language :) Available from [www.bol.com](http://www.bol.com) both on paper and as a digital download.

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<sup>11</sup> November 6, update: I've reached Eb1 :) Just a little lower and I've got a three octave range (not counting falsetto).

November 16, update: the Eb1 won't be on the album, though, it didn't match with the song after all...



Not much news about me, by the way, I'm still mixing the third album and I've taken off a few weeks from my other job to (hopefully) finish it before the new year.

### **BLOG: December 20, 2010: Holidays at last**

At last, my holiday has begun (from my office job). Three whole weeks! The idea is to finish the third album, but at the moment I'm just plain lazy :)

### **BLOG: December 23, 2010: Update**

I've finished mixing eighteen songs on my headphones, which was my goal for this week. Next week, mixing on the loudspeakers (which is really the hardest part). After that, I will continue working on the artwork, and not listen to the songs for a while, so I can listen fairly 'fresh' and make the final mixes. Not a Christmas release, obviously, but somewhere early next year should be possible!

2011

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## **BLOG: January 17, 2011: Pneumonia**

Well, best wishes for 2011! A bit late...

I've just spend a week in hospital with a rather serious attack of pneumonia. I'm back at home now, and recovering.

Good news is that I've stopped smoking (although it's pretty difficult at times). Bad news (apart from the pneumonia itself) is that I've weakened quite a bit, and further work on my third album will go a lot slower than planned.

## **BLOG: February 1, 2011**

I've also contracted have an ear inflammation... And the recovery from pneumonia is not at all going well, I'm still extremely tired. Mainly because of the ear problem I am unable to work on the new album. I hope all this improves quickly!

## **BLOG: February 24, 2011**

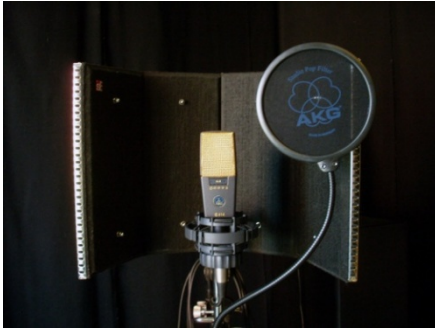
Getting a little better. Hopefully I can continue work on the album next week, but getting it finished before the summer is becoming rather unlikely, unfortunately.

## **BLOG: March 15, 2011: upgrading the studio**

I'm feeling better, after the pneumonia, at last, and have started working again. I've started upgrading the studio - the latest additions:

- [RME Fireface 400 audio interface](#)
- [AKG C414 XLII microphone](#)
- [SE Reflection filter pro](#)

These three devices are an enormous improvement, especially for vocal recording! I'm very happy with them.



Apart from that, I've added acoustic dampers to the walls, to get rid of the 'boxed in' sound of a small studio. Together with the reflexion filter it enables me to make nice clean vocal recordings, which will save many, many hours of post production. And, the insulation material on the walls makes it a lot easier to mix tracks. I've covered everything in black curtain material, so the studio looks rather gothic right now :)

And, I've started mixing the third album again, at last. Unfortunately, I don't expect to finish it before the summer, due to the delay my illness caused, and also because I want to do all vocals again (using the C414). But, I think recording them the second time will be easier, and much faster.

I'm working on the poetry project Thy Delightful Shade as well, also re-recording vocals. Last week I recorded The Deserted House, and, thanks to the C414 again, it went perfectly in one go. So, once again, I'm considering to release this as a single 'in between'. I've also found the perfect deserted house for the single cover :)

## **BLOG: April 1, 2011: update**

After lots and lots of problems I finally have my machines working again, and I can finally start recording... Very, very annoying when things don't work the way you expect them to!

## **BLOG: April 13, 2011: (Re)doing vocals**

At last, all problems with my studio have been solved. It's almost totally quiet now, no more dreadful noises or high pitched fans. I am extremely happy!

So, I've started recording the vocals for the third album (again) and in two days I've done most lead vocals. The quality of the recordings ranges from excellent to horrible, so I will have to do quite a bit again. Unfortunately, I've started smoking again, which has a definite effect on my voice. I'm trying to smoke as little as possible on 'studio days', but I really should quit smoking again.

I've finished most of the cover art for the album, and the songs I intend to release as singles. I'm rather pleased with the photographs, they're rather dreamy (after some editing), which goes very well with the musical content.

Also, I'm working on some of the poems I've set to music, 'The Deserted House' and 'Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee?'. Mainly because I like to do something completely different in between the songs for the third album, but also because I would like to have some of these songs ready for release, in case the album takes longer than expected (which it always does).

'The Deserted House' is pretty difficult to sing, not because of the melody, but because of the emotion. My demo version had a pretty good vocal, and sometimes I'm afraid I can never match that performance. But the demo vocal was recorded by my old Shure microphone, and the new AKG just sounds so much better (see previous post).

A lot to do, the coming weeks! I'm trying to take some days off my other job, around Easter, in order to speed up the recording, mixing and mastering.

Apart from all that: waiting for Kate Bush! May 16, I've already pre-ordered the three CD set :) The single, Deeper Understanding, took some getting used to, but I think it's a rather beautiful song. She could have left out her auto-tuned son though!

### **BLOG: April 19, 2011: The Void video**

I've uploaded the (previously unreleased) promotional video for the single version of The Void to my YouTube channel.

Originally filmed in the autumn of 2009, with further editing done in the spring of 2010. I decided at the time not to release it. But now it seems a waste of the effort I put in, and it's not so bad after all. Obviously, I'm not a film director, but it's a curiosity from the period The Void was conceived, recorded and released.

It's here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV-45BJc0Us><sup>12</sup>

And, as I have been extremely quiet for far too long, it's perhaps nice to see something no one (but me) has ever seen before.

The video is basically me singing, with moving versions of the art I made for The Void as picture-in-picture. I must warn you, the larger moving clouds on the top and bottom of the screen might make you a bit seasick (or actually, airsick).

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<sup>12</sup> May 10, 2013, update: I've removed the video, it's just not good enough.

## **BLOG: May 4, 2011: finishing vocals**

I've re-done all vocals for the third album, and most recordings are good enough to keep. So now it's up to post-processing, mainly volume & EQ issues. Post-processing takes a lot less time with my new microphone, and I think my singing has improved anyway. Adding some reverb, correcting some notes that are off pitch... And equalizing, which is difficult because I haven't done that before with recordings made by my new microphone - basically, there's a little too much of the 250 Hz area, and strangely enough, a little above 2 kHz as well. Which makes the voice sound rather weird. But I'll get the hang of it by practising I guess.

After that, I think I'm nearly done recording and mixing, so it's time for mastering, and the finishing touch on the artwork.

No idea how long this will take... I've got quite a lot of spare time, but after 8 hours of working on the music in a day I've had quite enough :)

Still two weeks to go before the (relatively) new Kate Bush<sup>13</sup> will be released!

## **BLOG: May 16, 2011: update**

Taking a pause from mixing and working on a revised website, to be launched when the album's finished (or should I say, IF the album's ever finished...).

## **BLOG: June 3, 2011: Final mixing**

Really final! Balancing the instruments and voices, adding some reverb and choral effects. Just did a final backing vocal for one of the songs.

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<sup>13</sup> May 13, 2011, update: I've just heard the new Kate Bush album and I'm rather disappointed. Ow well, let's just wait for the next album :)

There are a few things left to correct: one long high note at the end of a refrain keeps sounding horrible<sup>14</sup>, so I'm considering replacing it with a lower note and a slightly different melody. Or I might harmonize it, to disguise it :) Lots of tricks I can use but I can't seem to decide which one...

After this: adding mastering plugins and making the final master. I expect to finish that in two or three weeks (when a mix sounds good, mastering isn't that difficult, I've noticed). The hardest part for me is always the mixing - getting rid of unwanted harmonics in the lead vocal being the most difficult task. Which is fairly logical, because the lead vocal is the sound that's most prominent.

So, with a little luck, a single release this month, and the album a month later.

Oh, the album title is Quest, by the way. I will elaborate on that next time :)

### **BLOG: June 10, 2011: update**

The new project is going so well, I'm thinking about changing the release schedule and release it before Quest... I'll have to think about it.

### **BLOG: June 15, 2011: An hour to hour account**

Ok, I'm getting there at last! Let's see how far we can get today and tomorrow. I'll update this blog page inbetween finishing songs. I'm finishing them in the order they will appear on the album (except for the last song).

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<sup>14</sup> June 7, 2011, update: I've disguised the horrible note with a flanger :) I've started working on a new project but I'm trying not to, as the Quest album is more important to finish right now. But in between songs, I like to do something different, to 'refresh my ears'.



### **June 15, 2011, 9.45 AM: Quest**

*"An ancient tale... a mystery... a quest to find the truth - lost in time"*

I've just finished the opening track 'Quest' and the closing track 'Quest (Piano Version)'. The first track starts with a gentle piano intro, but quickly evolves into a total over the top waltz, very electronic with an insane refrain. The last track being a piano version (who would have thought), rather ethereal, inducing a state of tranquility as the journey (the album) comes to an end.

### **June 15, 2011, 10.58 AM: The Midnight Hour**

*"Here in these words I find redemption; hoping for release in the midnight hour"*

It just got quite dark outside and it's raining, thus creating a rather suitable atmosphere to finish this song. The song itself is a dark ballad, mostly about desperation (and religion, I think?). Low ambient synthesizers and eerie choirs.

### **June 15, 2011, 1.23 PM: Exchange The Experience**

*"It's been a while, the day I lost my innocence"*

Really a sweet love song but also dealing with insecurities within a relationship. A moderate beat, beatbox-style, with lush strings on top and a smooth electric piano to hold it together. Unfortunately, still some problems with the vocal during the refrains - perhaps too much strings behind it. To be solved later.

### **June 15, 2011, 2.32 PM: Estranged**

*"This is the moment we've dreaded for years: releasing our fears, moving on"*

Drums, bass, guitars: a jazzy rock ballad trying to blow up your speakers. Especially the bass arrangement is stunning. The song deals with ending a relation. It was published as a demo six years ago, but this version is totally different (and much improved, if I may say so): altered and

added lyrics, new instrumental parts - including a solo, expanding the song to over seven minutes. One of my favourites on the album.

### **June 15, 2011, 4.00-6.00 PM: an interlude**

I've listened to the songs on my iPad and returned to the computer to make several adjustments. I think I've solved the problem with 'Exchange The Experience' by reducing the volume during the refrains.

One thing I can't seem to get right is EQ-ing the lead vocals. Too much high harmonic frequencies, that I know, but which of them are making that awful sound I can't seem to get rid of? This will need serious experimenting (and I've been trying to solve this for weeks now). But once I've found the solution, it can be applied almost equally to all songs.

### **June 15, 2011, 7.09 PM: Our Destiny Revealed**

*"We require shelter from the storm... protection from the envy and malignance..."*

This is the most recent song written for this album. The idea was to write lyrics that would glue the separate stories in the other songs together. Not a concept album, but an album with several recurring themes. The song turned out to be quite spectacular, with a six part harmony in the backing vocals (6 x 4 = 24 overdubs + 1 lead vocal!). Needless to say, this was a difficult one to sing. It's the slowest song on the album at 42 beats per minute and it's very, ehm, solemn, I think.

### **June 15, 2011, 7.10 PM: another interlude**

I'm getting quite tired and need to do something different, so I'm taking some hours off to play a game on my iPad. Perhaps I'll finish one or two more songs later on. The intention is to finish this marathon session tomorrow and I have only four songs left (not counting alternative versions and remixes).

### **June 15, 2011, 10.53 PM: The Prophecy**

*"And finally this prophecy, concealed for an eternity, becomes a universal good..."*

Couldn't resist to finish some more today. This song was written a very long time ago, but I've never liked its original lyrics. Still, the music is really cool, lots of percussive ethnic sounds and a nice bass. So, when I needed another song for this album, I decided to write a new lyric, to tie it in with the general theme of the album. It's become a rather odd lyric about ancient beliefs and neo religions, I'm not sure what to think of it myself. But that goes for a lot of the lyrics on this album...

### **June 15, 2011, 11.20 PM: No Remorse**

*"A master, indeed, you take what you need - you just don't care at all"*

This song is actually preceded by another on the album, but it took so little effort to finish it, I decided to do this one first. It's another ballad, very orchestral, with some more traditional pop instruments and drums during the refrains. The subject matter is abuse and betrayal, but (but?) it also refers to servile relationships.

### **June 15, 2011, 11.30 PM: extended interlude**

Which actually means: I'll be asleep until sunrise :)

Two songs left for tomorrow, but they're both over seven minutes, and probably the most difficult to finish. After that, I have to solve the problem with the lead vocals, which might take some time.

### **June 16, 2011, 8.10 AM: Wail Of The Banshee**

*"Slowly I ascend, I know death is not the end"*

For a while I'd wanted to do something 'celtic', and when I came up with the lyrics for this song, an Irish feel was the obvious choice for instrumentation. The original song was about four minutes, but a few years later I wrote the instrumental intro and intermezzo, and came up

with a different ending. Of course, the original idea has changed quite a bit over the years, but some of the celtic elements have survived.

### **June 16, 2011, 9.20 AM: The Anguish**

*"Life reaches for the end, easily slips away - Death, on the hunt: you're the prey"*

Like 'The Void', this album ends (apart from the second version of the title track) with a rather dramatic orchestral finish. A song about love defying death. The first draft sounded a lot like Enya's slow songs, but quickly instruments (and drama) were added. More than a decade later, an even more dramatic intro was written, which eventually became the same length as the original: a two part drama. The first part sounds really very sad, dark orchestration, woeful voices, while the second part turns to major and brings new hope.

### **June 16, 2011, 9.30 AM: finale**

So, that's it (apart from the EQ problem). Now, I have to be cruel to those that are waiting for the album. In order to make the mastertracks I have to set the project aside for a while, and come back to it with 'fresh ears'. A few weeks?

### **BLOG: July 14, 2011: Almost...**

Can't believe it's been a month since my last post, time flies...

I've solved the problem with the lead vocals, mostly. Turns out I had to add higher frequencies instead of cutting them. Odd!

So, now I'm mastering twenty songs (ten for the album and ten alternative versions for singles). After that, I will have to listen a lot, on different sound systems and then produce a final master. I'm favouring two songs as I want the first single to be ready as soon as possible.

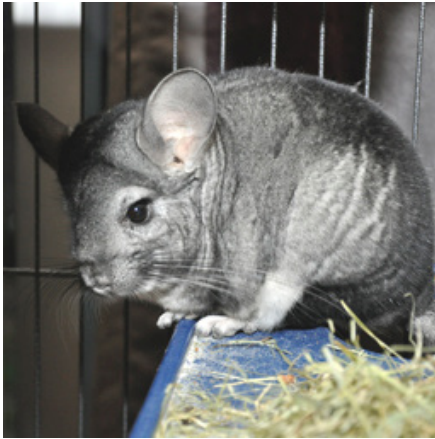
As I released the first single from Lost In Love in June 2007, and from The Void in June 2009, I've missed my deadline, but not by much! Whilst

working on the lead vocals, for a moment I thought I would never solve the problem. Which would mean recording most leads again, and that would have set me back months. So I'm rather pleased now :)

Artwork is finished for all future releases in this project, and it looks very good. I've decided on very pale colours and very little detail. Rather extreme Photoshopping, especially my face, but I wanted the covers to have a very dreamy (washed out? no: ghostly!) look. Ah well, everybody does it nowadays. For the fourth album I might go for something really raw, Anton Corbijn style. We'll see (not for another two years probably...).

Bear with me for a while and the single will appear!

### **BLOG: August 12, 2011: a new furry friend**



His name's Gizmo and he's about one year old. He's faster than the speed of light: so far, all attempts to film him have failed :)

But he can live up to twenty years, so I guess I'm capture him on video, eventually. My husband's Nikon caught him though.

**BLOG: August 21, 2011: We've found Gizmo a friend, Azrael<sup>15</sup>**



They're not getting along, as of yet. But I'm told it's a slow process before they accept each other.

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<sup>15</sup> Red.: Video [here](#).

## **NEWS: September 2011 – Auf Deutsch/En Français**

As a prelude to my new album 'Quest' I have just released two singles: 'Auf Deutsch' and 'En Français'.

I am very pleased with these releases, even though they took a little longer than expected, due to various circumstances.

This occasion also marks a complete redesign of my website.

These two singles contain songs from the forthcoming album, but they are sung in German and French (as one might expect from their titles).



'Auf Deutsch' contains 'Mitternacht' and 'Schicksal entdeckt'.

'Mitternacht' is a gloomy song dealing with self reflection, insecurity, loneliness, and has some religious overtones.

'Schicksal entdeckt', a choral fantasy, preludes the overall album subject: the quest to find the right path in life, a hidden truth one should always endeavour to find.



'En Français' contains 'Changer à l'autre' and 'l'Angoisse'. 'Changer à l'autre' is a song about the desire to see a relationship through the partner's eyes in order to find out why things aren't as you want them to be.

'l'Angoisse' is a sad but hopeful song about a relationship which has ended with the death of a loved one, and the longing to be reunited.

Both singles are available from [Soundclick](#) and several other online stores. The album 'Quest' will be released later this year.



## **BLOG: October 1, 2011: Preview of the album**

I've just published a complete track (The Prophecy) from the forthcoming album Quest on my [website](#) (free download!). It's an early master but close enough to what the final mix will sound like. Some keywords: bouncy, ethnic sounds, '80's, weird lyrics :)

The album's track listing is as follows:

1. Quest (7.25)
2. The Midnight Hour (5.15) \*
3. Exchange The Experience (4.54) \*\*
4. Estranged (7.24)
5. Our Destiny Revealed (5.46) \*
6. The Prophecy (4.47)
7. Wail Of The Banshee (6.26)
8. No Remorse (5.18)
9. The Anguish (8.44) \*\*
10. Quest (piano version) (5.20)

I'm expecting to release the album early December.

## **FB: Saturday, October 1, 2011**

**10:22 AM:** I've just uploaded a [free complete song](#) from the forthcoming album Quest.

## **FB: Monday, October 31, 2011**

**4:09 PM:** I've just released my new single Quest. It contains two versions of the song: an edited (and slightly different) version (as compared to the album version) and a piano version. Check out my official website at <http://www.nion.eu>.

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\* Currently available on the single [Auf Deutsch](#) (but sung in German).

\*\* Currently available on the single [En Français](#) (but sung in French).

**FB: Monday, November 7, 2011**

**4:03 PM:** The Quest album is ready for release.

## NEWS: November 2011 - Quest



From the forthcoming album Quest, this is the third single release, after the double single release of Auf Deutsch and En Français in September 2011. The album will be released in December 2011.

The single features an edited single mix and the piano version from the album; it's available in several online stores.

The song Quest deals with various subjects, which return in most songs on the album: love reaching over death, a quest to find true fulfilment in life.

### **BLOG: November 16, 2011**

With the new album finished, I'm working on a short semi-classical piece featuring a rather 'renaissance' choral arrangement.

### **BLOG: November 22, 2011**

I've just published a video for the song Quest (piano version) on [YouTube](#). It's a still video (mostly) <sup>18</sup>.

I keep forgetting to add the chinchillas are getting along just fine. Somewhere early in October they gave up fighting and cuddled together. Which was really the best options for all parties involved (including us). And saves a lot of space, with one less cage in the living room :)

### **FB: Tuesday, November 29, 2011**

**3:03 PM:** The album Quest has been submitted to iTunes, Amazon (and other stores) and will go live in about 72 hours!

### **FB: Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**12:15 PM:** The album Quest is available from iTunes (a day early... oh well...).

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<sup>18</sup> Red.: I removed the video.

## NEWS: December 2011 - Quest



With great pleasure I'd like to announce the release of my third album Quest.

The album contains ten songs dealing with themes like ancient beliefs, neo religions, searching for truth and the meaning of life. But also about love reaching out beyond death, trying to defeat it.

It took more than two years to write, record and produce this album. It has been very difficult to bring the sounds and visions I had to life, and many, many times I wondered if it would ever get good enough to release the album at all.

But, looking back on these two years, and listening to the final product, I am very glad I didn't give up on it. The end result is more than worth it, it's definitely my best work to date. The themes on the album, as mentioned above, have been brought to life through music and voices, and even the (rather ghostly) artwork perfectly represents the feelings I want to communicate with this album.

The album is available on [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and several other online [stores](#) and of course through mail order<sup>19</sup> as a physical CD.

Excerpts from the songs can be heard on the [album page](#), as well as a free download of the song Quest (piano version). Although I have to say it's better to listen to the entire album!

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<sup>19</sup> *Red.:* Mail order option has since been discontinued.

## **BLOG: December 21, 2011**

Started a fourth album, or EP I think it will be as I only plan to do 5 short songs sharing the same theme. Sung in Latin :) No idea how long it will take to finish (as usual) but hoping within a year!<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Red.: *Well, that didn't work out... it's 2016 by now.*

2012



## **BLOG: January 25, 2012**

Work on the EP is going very well, I'm finishing the piano arrangements of 4 songs. I've made several arrangements for the fifth song and they're not working out yet. And there might be a sixth song :) I'm not getting into details about the subject matter apart from the fact that it's very, very different from my previous work. Just piano and voices, lyrics in Latin.

## **BLOG: February 7, 2012: new single in March**

Just a short note to let you know I'm finishing a remix for a new single from the album Quest, to be released in March.

It will be a shortened version of one of the longer songs on the album, with slightly different accents and altered melodies in some of the instruments.

Apart from this, I'm finishing a new virtual instrument, a grand piano, which I intend to sell from this website. At a very reasonable price. In quality, it can easily be compared to the Galaxy or Native Instruments pianos (but much cheaper!).

# Estranged

## NEWS: March 2012 - Estranged



From the album Quest, this is the fourth single release, the track Estranged.

The single features an edited single mix and the album version from the album; it's available in several online stores.

The song Estranged is a guitar/drum based ballad, and deals with the end of a relationship.

The single mix is a shortened version of the album version (which is also featured on the single) and has some different instrumental parts.

## **BLOG: April 23, 2012**

Work on the new project featuring piano-only songs with Latin lyrics is going very well. Another project, songs based on English poetry<sup>21</sup>, has been revived. A single from the Quest album will be released in May or June, featuring a new (single) remix of one of the songs<sup>22</sup>.

## **BLOG: May 10, 2012**

The EP I mentioned before (containing songs sung in Latin) has become a full length album, now featuring eight songs (and a bonus track).

Work on the piano arrangements is going very well. The vocal scores have been written and I'm recording demo versions (which will be made available to a select group of people, in order to get some feedback). If anyone would like to be one of these 'beta-testers', please send me a message!<sup>23</sup>

All in all, I am very, very pleased with this project so far, it's absolutely the best I've ever done. It's absolutely non-commercial, just piano and voice and of some the piano arrangements are pretty complicated! It feels like I've matured :)

## **BLOG: May 29, 2012**

I've just finished the basic melody and chords for the last song of the new 'Latin' project, thus completing eight songs, about fifty minutes of music. Even though I'm recording test vocals, most songs need a lot of work on the arrangements still, so I'm not going to predict a release date...

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<sup>21</sup> Red.: *Thy Delightful Shade*.

<sup>22</sup> Red.: *Wail Of The Banshee*, released June 1<sup>st</sup>.

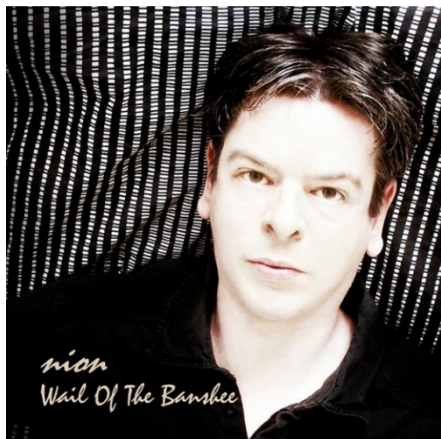
<sup>23</sup> Red.: *Beta testing has been completed for now*.

**FB: Friday, June 8, 2012**

**11:53 AM:** I've just released the fifth (and final) single from my album Quest: Wail Of The Banshee (a special single remix). Check out <http://www.nion.eu> for details and song samples.

# Wail Of The Banshee

## NEWS: June 2012 – Wail Of The Banshee



From the album Quest, this is the fifth single release, the track Wail Of The Banshee.

The single features an edited single mix and the album version from the album; it's available in several online stores.

Wail Of The Banshee is the last single from the album. It has a distinct celtic 'feel', and deals with the supernatural.

**BLOG: July 31, 2012**

I'm taking a break<sup>24</sup> from the 'Latin' project (I need to 'reset' my ears). In the mean time, I'm remastering my first two albums.

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<sup>24</sup> Red.: *That break lasted almost a year!*

**NEWS: August 2012 – Quest (Bonus Tracks)**

With the release of Quest (Bonus Tracks) the project has been completed. This album contains all bonus tracks from the five singles that were released from the album Quest. A total of ten tracks: single mixes and alternative interpretations. And, three previously unreleased tracks.

The three unreleased tracks are:

Prelude: No Remorse

Intermezzo: The Anguish

Finale: Quest

These tracks are (mostly) instrumental versions of these songs, but different in structure and instrumentation. The album is currently available from several online shops, including iTunes and Amazon. It's also available through mail order<sup>25</sup>, bundled with the original album.

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<sup>25</sup> Red.: Mail order option has since been discontinued.

## **FB: Thursday, August 2, 2012**

**9:11 AM:** I've just released the album Quest (Bonus Tracks), a companion album to Quest, containing all single versions and three previously unreleased alternative versions. The album is available from iTunes and will soon be available from Amazon.

## **FB: Friday, August 3, 2012**

**6:59 AM:** The new album is available from Amazon now.

## **BLOG: August 10, 2012: Remasters**

In 2007, and 2009, I released the albums Lost In Love and The Void. Because my software & hardware have been upgraded quite a bit since them, and as the publishing contract for these albums is expiring it seemed like a good time to revisit this material, and modernise it for re-release.

I'm re-releasing both albums: Lost In Love later this year, and possibly The Void as well (maybe next year). With these, I'm also releasing both bonus tracks companion albums to online stores like iTunes and Amazon. The bonus tracks albums will include a few extra tracks, like the 2008 experimental hypnotrance track, Opera Gig.

Last week, I've started remastering Lost In Love, and preliminary results are quite good!

I'm doing a little more besides remastering, and improvements include:

- Improving volume balance and panning between instruments.
- Removing a lot of reverb, especially on drums and vocals, which makes the sound much less muddy.



- Retuning vocals<sup>26</sup>
- Correcting velocity errors.
- Correcting a few timing errors in the vocals.
- Maximizing overall volume levels and applying several post processing filters to make the sound 'snappier'.

So far, I've finished most of the uptempo songs (Lost In Love, Voices, Tenderly, The Hunger) and I'm very pleased with the results.

So, to anyone considering buying these albums right now: I'd advise you to wait a few months until the remasters are released<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>26</sup> I'm not afraid to admit I'm using an equivalent of Autotune (Cubase VariAudio, actually). I've never claimed to be a pitch-perfect singer and occasionally some of the notes are really quite wrong on the original releases.

<sup>27</sup> August 16, 2012, update: I've finished all songs from both Lost In Love albums, they're ready for the final mastering. After that, I'll start on The Void. September 25, 2012, update: New single release coming up very soon: Tenderly (2012 Remix).

# TENDERLY

**NEWS: October 2012 - Tenderly**



I've just released two new mixes of Tenderly, a song from my debut album Lost In Love, as a prelude to the re-release of this album (and its companion CD, containing all bonus tracks from the singles). The Lost In Love albums have been remastered extensively, and will be released later this year. After that, the original releases will no longer be available.

Tenderly has been remixed totally: melodies and instruments have been altered and new instruments have been added. Also, the original vocals have been improved (including re-tuning).

The single contains two versions: the remixed album version and an extended version which is quite different from the original extended mix.

Needless to say, I'm quite happy with these songs!

**BLOG: October 11, 2012: Tristan**



We've acquired a new chinchilla, and his name is Tristan. He's currently going through the process of being accepted by Gizmo and Azrael, which is always a bit difficult with these animals...

Number: MC-12-05; color: beige violet velvet male; born: July 4, 2012; parents: Viola (violet) & Scooby (brown velvet)

Photo/supplier: Marleen van Andel

**FB: Friday, November 2, 2012**

**6:05 AM:** I'm finishing the Lost In Love remasters today (hopefully), after which both albums will be offered to iTunes, Amazon and several other stores. They'll go live within one or two weeks, I'll keep you updated through Facebook, Twitter and my own website.

# LOST IN LOVE

EXTENDED EDITION

## NEWS: November 2012 – Lost In Love (Remasters)



Lost In Love, my debut album from 2007, has been remastered, and has just been released together with its companion album, containing all bonus tracks, including the 2012 remixes of Tenderly. The albums are available from iTunes ([CD1](#) - [CD2](#)) and Amazon ([CD1](#) - [CD2](#)).

Listening to these songs again, five years after their original release, and comparing their sound to the music I'm currently working on, I realised that several improvements and modernisations could be made without altering the original atmosphere too much.

I've started this process in June this year, and eventually I did a little more than just remastering. I've retuned vocals and instruments, reduced excessive reverb, improved dynamics, instrument panning, EQ, and much more. The music now sounds much 'cleaner'. Also, sounds that had been mixed almost into oblivion at the time have been

restored - you'll notice instrumental parts and vocal sounds that were almost inaudible on the original version.



I haven't made any new recordings (apart from the Tenderly remixes), everything you hear was on the 2007 versions, only, radically improved.

All in all, I'm very pleased with this new version! The original versions are no longer available.

2013

**FB: Friday, January 11, 2013**

**12:06 PM:** Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee, Emily Brontë. Set to music by /me (2009), and after 4 years I've finally recorded the perfect vocal :)

**FB: Wednesday, January 16, 2013**

**1:40 PM:** So, this will be a year of several single releases... The poetry project 'Thy Delightful Shade' is really taking off. I'm hoping to release the first single shortly. The 'Latin' project has been shelved (for now).

**FB: Monday, February 25, 2013**

**10:52 PM:** Sorry, I've been rather busy doing other things... Hopefully I can find time in March/April to finish a few songs!

**FB: Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**6:54 AM:** Really busy at my 'other' job, but finding a little time in between tasks to work on music. I've composed and recorded an Ave Maria in honour of my mother's 70th birthday. It will also be published on iTunes, eventually, but I haven't decided when.

**FB: Tuesday, April 16, 2013**

**1:45 PM:** I'm sorry to say there will be no new releases this month or next. I'm very busy doing other things (which are fun as well). But, I'm planning to take a lengthy break from that this summer and concentrate on my music. There's a lot of material that's almost finished!

## **FB: Thursday, May 2, 2013**

**8:57 AM:** Having some time off :) I've started remastering my second album (The Void), and I'm also working on the poetry project (Thy Delightful Shade). Hoping to finish at least one song of the latter these next two weeks, but it's always hard to predict when something's really finished...

## **FB: Friday, May 3, 2013**

**10:39 AM:** Preview: Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee? The first 25 seconds: <http://www.nion.eu/SENMITintro.mp3><sup>28</sup> I think it's ready for release, but I'll sleep on it a few more nights...

## **BLOG: May 4, 2013: remasters**

I've started remastering The Void, as I did with Lost In Love last year. After four years, I think this album needs an update as well. It'll probably take a while to finish, as I'm also working on new material. The remastering is a nice diversion in between new songs.

I'll use this blogpage as a progress report, for those interested in how a remaster is done :)

**January-April 2013:** added low and high pass filters to most instruments to give them more definition and to 'unmuddle' the mixes. Reduced reverb on drums. Basic retuning of all vocals, in order to start fine tuning them later. Some of the vocals will need quite a bit of work, and as this album was recorded with my previous microphone (which is not as professional as my current AKG), some serious filtering will have to be done later on to remove unwanted noises. I'm afraid this album will take more work than Lost In Love, which was a relatively 'easy' remaster, as it contains less vocals and instruments.

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<sup>28</sup> Red.: No longer available.



Looking back, The Void is a bit overproduced with way too many sounds at the same time in several tracks. It will be hard to find the proper balance without deleting entire parts (which would be unacceptable, for the idea behind this project is to create a remaster, not a remake). So, as I said, this project will take quite a while to finish, and I expect there will be times of almost giving up and reconsidering. Why do I put myself through this, I wonder... :)

**May 1-6, 2013:** finished retuning the vocals of all versions of Never Forget, replaced the reverb on the vocals by a Lexicon plugin (instead of Steinberg's built-in Roomworks reverb, which I now consider to be too 'fuzzy'). Also, adjusted the balance between instruments & drums, reduced reverb on them, and added some multiband compression. Increased the overall volume to somewhere between -2 and -1 dB and balanced left and right channels of the entire mixes where there was too much difference in dB. Basically, the Never Forget variations sound reasonably okay now, but more work will have to be done to make them 'splash' out of the speakers.

**May 7, 2013:** worked on both versions of Eighteen Days and on Requiem for Melissa. Retuning vocals, replacing reverb, adjusting instruments/drums volume/reverb and adding compression. Reduced the amount of artificially generated choral harmonies.

**May 8, 2013:** So Insecure: retuning vocals, adjusting instrument volume, panning and high/lowpass filters, replacing reverb.

**May 9, 2013:** Enlighten Me (both versions): as with So Insecure. At this rate, I'll finish the basic improvements by the end of next week! But I'm dreading 'Barricades', as I know the vocals are quite a mess...

**May 10, 2013:** Added more LP/HP filters to the songs mentioned above. Corrected a looping error in the lead instrument on Never Forget which was causing digital clicks. Retuned the vocals for The Void (single mix).

**May 11, 2013:** working on the vocals for The Void (album version) and instrument levels on both versions. This is a really great song, but it'll need quite a lot of fine tuning.

### **FB: Saturday, May 4, 2013**

**8:32 AM:** I've decided the song is ready for release. I'm offering it to iTunes, etc. after I've finished the artwork, which will take about a day.

**9:42 AM:** Sneak preview of the new single and its artwork at <http://www.nion.eu>.

### **BLOG: May 7, 2013**

I haven't posted anything about this project<sup>29</sup> for a while, but earlier this year I have been recording and revising vocals. Several songs have reached their final shape/sequence. This project is really very different. I've probably written this earlier, but the songs don't have a regular structure of couplets and refrains<sup>30</sup>, the poetry on which they are based demands a completely different approach.

Of course, there are repetitions of, and variations on melodic lines, but totally unlike contemporary popular music. One would expect it would make the music difficult to listen to, but this is not the case. This absence of refrains and couplets also means I can't copy/re-use vocal parts or harmonies. I have to sing each single word, each single note, and it has to be perfectly done because with the sparse instrumentation you can hear every little mistake. And I'm just an average singer. Again I need a break from this project. At this speed, it might take years before I can release anything but so be it!

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<sup>29</sup> Red.: *The Latin project.*

<sup>30</sup> Red.: *Which probably means it won't be a hit record, ah well...*

**FB: Tuesday, May 7, 2013**

**10:12 AM:** I've just approved Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee for digital distribution! The track should appear in digital shops in the next few days. As soon as it's on iTunes or Amazon, the webpage for the song will go online on my website.

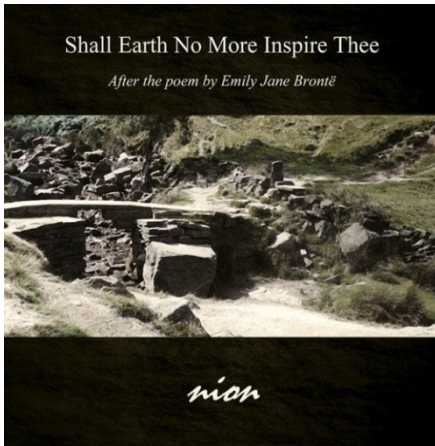
**FB: Tuesday, May 7, 2013**

**11:02 AM:** We're live!

With great pleasure I'd like to announce the release of my new single, Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee, based on the poem by Emily Bronte. At the moment, it's available from iTunes; other online stores will follow shortly.



## NEWS: May 2013 – Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee



Thy Delightful Shade<sup>31</sup>, the project in which I'm setting English poetry to music, has seen its first release this month:

Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee, based on an originally untitled poem by Emily Jane Brontë.

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<sup>31</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).

Some early reviews from listeners:

*"This is beautiful, I loved it, the colours, the simplicity of the visuals, the lovely piano and the wonderful poetry make for a very hauntingly beautiful piece of work."*

*"This is truly beautiful. I am moved to, by your wonderful interpretation of Emily's poetry."*

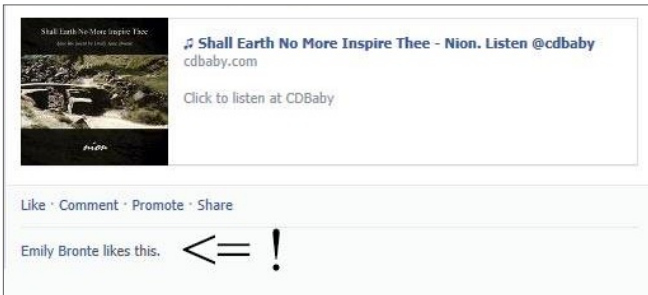
*"This is a beautiful piece and I shall listen to it often."*

*"I just HAD to let you know that these two songs<sup>32</sup> are simply beautiful, haunting in fact, I haven't really heard your other music, except maybe your collaborations with Kyla<sup>33</sup>. More please of similar! I can imagine a piece of film working beautifully with those two tracks."*

*"I just wanted to let you know, this music is just stunning!"*

Also, a mention on the Brontë Blog.

And, the best compliment one can imagine :)



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<sup>32</sup> Referring to another upcoming release as well, I can't go into details just yet.

<sup>33</sup> Kyla Clay Fox, check out her beautiful voice and music!

## **FB: Friday, May 10, 2013**

**4:22 AM:** Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee is now available from CD Baby, this download includes a .flac file (lossless), no extra charge!

## **BLOG: May 12, 2013: remasters, part 2**

As you can read in the previous post, I'm remastering The Void, my second album from 2009, because I think it could do with a tune up, just like my first album Lost In Love, which I remastered last year. On this blog I'm writing about the progress, which is rather technical, but I think it's interesting :)

**May 12, 2013:** discovered missing notes on the vibraphone and the english horn in the Void (and restored them). Removed digital clicks from one of the synth sounds. Added LP/HP filters to the instruments of both versions. Replaced and reduced reverb on the vocals.

**May 13, 2013:** vocals, reverb, filters on instruments on Remembering. Remaining songs Barricades and Azure Eyes will be finished this week (I hope). After that, basic remixing and remastering is done, and I can start to work on the really fine tuning (which will take much more time).

**May 14, 2013:** Barricades & Azure Eyes: adjusted instrument volume and added HP/LP filters. Improved vocals on Azure Eyes.

**May 15, 2013:** further improvements on the vocals of Azure Eyes.

**May 16, 2013:** finalizing the vocals on Azure Eyes and replacing the reverb. Just one song left: Barricades.

**May 17, 2013:** working on the vocals on Barricades.

**May 18, 2013:** finished the vocals on Barricades, they were less messy than I expected. I still really like the extended dance mix, with its extra vocal parts!

**May 19, 2013:** replaced reverbs on Barricades, which concludes the initial remixing and remastering. Not bad, in under three weeks! The previous remaster, the Lost In Love Album, took much more time. But, the next step is fine tuning, and I have no idea how much time will go into that :) Apart from that, I think I need to take a step back from this project and do something else for a while. My next single is nearly ready, so perhaps the Latin project again? Apparently, working on several projects simultaneously is the best way to work for me, but it does have its consequences for new releases: they take longer to finish...

**FB: Sunday, May 19, 2013**

**6:30 AM:** And, at last, the new single is available from Amazon.

**BLOG: May 21, 2013: remasters, part 3**

As you can read in the previous post, I'm remastering The Void, my second album from 2009, because I think it could do with a tune up, just like my first album Lost In Love, which I remastered last year. On this blog I'm writing about the progress, which is rather technical, but I think it's interesting :)

**May 21, 2013:** hmm, taking a step back lasted just one day... I'm fine tuning of the vocals on Barricades, Azure Eyes and Enlighten Me (all versions), and making some adjustments to instrument volumes. I really like Enlighten Me - retro disco with a twist :)

**May 22, 2013:** working on the vocals of So Insecure and Remembering, and some more work on Azure Eyes: I moved the flanger effect on the backing vocals from inserts to sends. I revived the original full length ballad version (which I never released), but I'm not sure if I'll include this one as a bonus track - it includes the ballad part of the hybrid mix and this makes the song about seven minutes (which is why I discarded it back in 2009...). Also, I rearranged the tracks on the second cd and swapped the extended dance mixes of Azure Eyes and Barricades with

the edited dance mixes, making room for a second bonus track on the second cd (the first one being the experimental hypnotrance track Opera Gig - I've made a slightly extended and remixed version of the [free download](#) on my website).

**May 23, 2013:** working on the vocals of The Void (both versions) and noticing the instrument balance needs a lot of work. The wind instruments in the album version sort of clash, and as this is a remaster instead of a remake, I can't delete anything. So I need to invent something to make this sound better... Also, I've made some minor adjustments to the hihat and snare drum volume in Never Forget (all uptempo versions). I've also done some work on the vocal of Eighteen Days & Requiem for Melissa, which concludes this aspect of the remastering.

All vocals have been corrected (quite fast, in less than three days!), and the next step is to improve filter settings like de-essing, compression, eq, et cetera, if needed. But I need a little break again...

And, in between, I'm working on a song by a long lost (but recently found) friend, who's asked me to do some instrumental and vocal additions. Which makes a nice change to the remastering, as my ears are getting a bit tired from hearing the same songs all the time :)

**May 24, 2013:** improved the volume balance between instruments, drums and vocals on The Void (both versions), Remembering, Eighteen Days and So Insecure.

**May 25, 2013:** improvements on Azure Eyes (all versions) - I accidentally doubled the drums earlier this week, which has now been corrected...

**May 29, 2013:** ah, back on track after a few days rest. I've added basic EQ, basic compression, and a dynamic EQ setting for de-essing, to all tracks/all vocals, starting out with the settings I used on Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee (because I'm really satisfied with the vocal sound on that song). It's amazing how much vocal clarity one can achieve with just a little EQ-ing and compression! The next step is to make custom settings for each song, because of course there is no setting that works on everything in music :) This is quite a lot of work, as I have to customize



settings for 24 songs (although the Never Forget mixes can take basically the same settings for each version).

By the way, my favourite song this week is So Insecure, it's so relaxed and calm, and the lead vocal is really good :) The original version's a free download on the album page of The Void (just wait until the remaster is released! wow!).

**May 31, 2013:** busy doing other things (answering 144 questions from the city council about air quality), but today I'm working on the songs again. I've finished the vocal filters for So Insecure and Remembering (it's odd, but a female de-esser preset works best for my voice - with some fine tuning).

### **FB: Thursday, May 23, 2013**

**9:53 AM:** Ever wondered what my songs look like in a digital audio workstation? Here's a look behind the scenes: 11 voices, 2 synthesized choirs and a piano  
<http://www.nion.eu/Media/images/ThyDelightfulShade/BehindTheScenes.jpg><sup>34</sup>.

### **BLOG: May 25, 2013: Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee**

Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee is my latest release, here are some useful links:

Shops: [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#) / [CDBaby](#)

Information: The [webpage](#) (with a song sample) / the [newspage](#) (including some early reviews).

Weirdness: Emily's [opinion](#)<sup>35</sup> :) / DAW [screenshot](#)<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Red.: No longer available.

<sup>35</sup> Red.: See the picture a few pages back.

<sup>36</sup> Red.: No longer available.

## **FB: Saturday, June 1, 2013**

**8:37 AM:** Many thanks to everyone for the positive feedback on Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee (my song based on the poem by Emily Bronte)! At the moment I'm working on the remasters of my second album The Void. And, a new single from the poetry project Thy Delightful Shade will be released soon (July or August, I haven't decided yet, and I will have to choose between two songs...).

## **BLOG: June 1, 2013: remasters, part 4**

As you can read in the previous post, I'm remastering The Void, my second album from 2009, because I think it could do with a tune up, just like my first album Lost In Love, which I remastered last year. On this blog I'm writing about the progress, which is rather technical, but I think it's interesting :)

**June 1, 2013:** added filters (EQ, compression and de-essers) to the vocals on the ballad versions of Barricades and Azure Eyes. I think these are really cool songs, quite relaxed, although Barricades is rather sad and Azure Eyes is quite the opposite, well, the lyrics anyway.

**June 2, 2013:** added filters the vocals on The Void (both versions). My voice on this song, especially the full length version, is actually pretty good :) I remember my throat quite hurting a bit, after the recording this song, especially the finale, which was sung almost screaming and had to be done several times until it was just right.

**June 3, 2013:** added vocal filters to Eighteen Days (both versions) and Requiem for Melissa. I've almost finished all ballads, apart from Never Forget, but today I have to go to the office, so I won't be able to do any more until tomorrow.

**June 4, 2013:** vocal filters on Never Forget (ballad), Azure Eyes (hybrid mix and dance mixes), Barricades (dance mixes) and Enlighten Me (both mixes), which concludes the basic vocal filtering. The Never Forget

uptempo mixes don't need any additional filtering, they're mostly choral arrangements that sound just fine already :)

Next step: listening, listening and more listening, in order to make final adjustments. Looks like I'll be able to finish the remasters this month, which is much faster than the Lost In Love remasters (that took at least six months). Then again, I've learned a lot of technical stuff since then :)

**June 11, 2013:** final tweaks to the vocals on all songs. Just finished listening on the monitor speakers to the first five songs (I keep thinking of them as 'side A' of the album, which of course is rather silly with compact discs or digital downloads. The sound is pretty good but some additional improvements will have to be made.

**June 12, 2013:** listening to 'side B' (tracks 6-10). Sounds ok, except for The Void, which has a lot of dynamic changes, and it's really hard to get this right. Needs some work... Furthermore, I listened to the extended versions, they sound just fine :) Just added a few more HP filters to some of the bass instruments. Also, working on a compilation album, not sure when this will surface though!

**June 13, 2013:** listening to the remaining tracks, they're all mixed properly (I made some minor adjustments to the volume of several drums). So I guess this is it, basically, except for the full length version of The Void. After finishing that song I'm going to master the full songs, which is not that difficult, using compression, limiting and equalizing. With a little luck, the project will be finished before my contract on the original albums expires (at the end of July), and I can replace the albums on iTunes and other stores.

**June 18, 2013:** still listening and fine tuning. I'm doing really minor adjustments now, so I think I'm almost done. Except for The Void (still). I'll dedicate a few hours to that tomorrow.

**July 3, 2013:** working on the extended versions, the remaster project is on hold for a few weeks, but I'll finish it during this month. The original versions of The Void will be deleted from the stores at the end of the month (contract expires).

**July 23, 2013:** as the remix project (Extended Remixes 2013) has been finished, and will be released shortly through iTunes and other online stores, I'm back to remastering The Void. As mentioned above, the original version will disappear from online stores at the end of the month, but I'm not sure if I can finish the remaster soon enough to avoid a gap. It's not really a problem though.

Apart from this, I'm working on some of the ballads from my third album Quest, considering a future project containing some alternative versions.

As I don't have to work at my other job (the one that pays my mortgage) for several weeks, I hope to finish a lot of material this summer, including new songs. It may seem I'm mostly working on old material, but really I'm not. I just like to keep the new stuff under wraps :)

**FB: Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

**10:41 AM:** I'm working on a 'new' project, a compilation album of all extended (dance) mixes from my first two albums. Nothing really new, but I thought it would be nice to combine them on one release. Which will feature four of the unreleased remasters from The Void, and I'm considering adding a slightly different version of 'Enlighten Me'!

**FB: Tuesday, June 25, 2013**

**10:33 AM:** Let's start the buzz: new release imminent! Now, what could this symbol mean... :)



**FB: Friday, June 28, 2013**

**12:51 PM:** Compilation news: eight tracks have been remixed this week, one song to go! I decided to do a little more than overall mastering :)

**BLOG: July 2, 2013, 'compilation' album**

At the moment, I'm finishing a compilation album (sort of). The initial idea was to combine the extended remixes from my first two albums (Lost In Love and The Void) into a compilation album of uptempo dance tracks. Which would need a little remastering to make the songs sound good together.

As usual, during the work, I decided to do a little more than remastering, and at the moment I've remixed eight (out of nine) tracks into new versions. Some slightly different and some radically different from their originals.

The tracks from The Void have been based on their remastered versions, from the forthcoming re-release of this album, which is a bit odd. It would have been more logical to first release The Void again, and after that this 'compilation'. But as the work for this compilation is almost done, I decided to reverse the order.

I expect to be finished within two weeks, and will release the album immediately after that through iTunes, Amazon, et cetera. My [Facebook page](#) will have teasers and updates, so keep checking that!

Next project: the remasters of The Void. I'm aiming at an August/September release date. After that: not sure. The second track from the poetry project Thy Delightful Shade is almost finished... And there's the 'Latin album', but that will take quite a lot of work still - so I don't expect to finish it this year.

## **BLOG: July 5, 2013, update**

I've finished remixing and rearranging segments! Now, I have to listen to the entire album several times, to do some fine tuning and overall mastering. Time to set a release date (otherwise I won't be able to stop fine tuning...).

## **FB: Tuesday, July 9, 2013**

**9:24 AM:** The new remix of Never Forget is really good :) With a little luck, the compilation album will be ready this week!

## **FB: Saturday, July 13, 2013**

**7:59 AM:** The album title will be 'Extended Remixes 2013', which has now become obvious from the banner above :) All tracks but one have been remixed and remastered, and they're almost ready for release.

## **FB: Tuesday, July 16, 2013**

**10:50 AM:** A slight delay after installing a new operating system (not the brightest idea when one is finishing a project), but back on track by now. The album will be finished this week.

## **FB: Thursday, July 18, 2013**

**11:54 AM:** With a little luck the new album will be on iTunes (and other shops) early next week. This weekend I'll reveal the full cover artwork :)

**FB: Sunday, July 21, 2013**

**7:00 AM:** Extended Remixes 2013, cover art. Album release: somewhere next week!



**FB: Monday, July 22, 2013**

**1:22 PM:** The new album has been offered to iTunes (and other stores) and will go live shortly!

**BLOG: July 23, 2013, update**

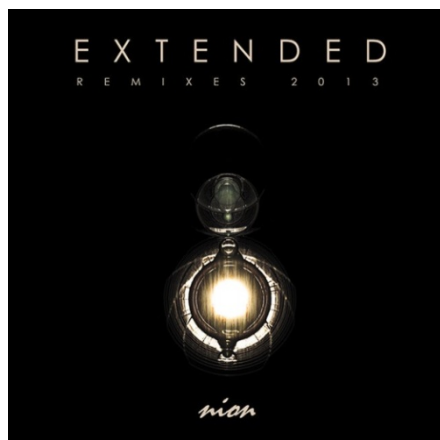
The album is finished and has been offered to iTunes and other online stores, and will be available soon! (Later that day: it's available from iTunes and Amazon!). Check out [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu) for 'official' information!

# EXTENDED

REMIXES 2013



## NEWS: July 2013 – Extended Remixes 2013



I'm quite happy to announce the release of [Extended Remixes 2013](#)<sup>37</sup>, a compilation album featuring new remixes of songs from my first two albums, [Lost In Love](#) (2007/2012) and [The Void](#) (2009).

In between recording new material I wanted to do something different, and combine these songs, all up-tempo dance tracks, into one album. The resulting mixes are quite different from their original (extended) versions.

Initially, I intended to do some basic overall remastering, but whilst listening to the tracks I felt it would be nice to do a little more than that.

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<sup>37</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).



And once I started adding instrumental bits and swapping parts, it become quite a bit more than I planned... So, this album contains eight completely new remixes, and as a bonus I added the 2012 remix of Tenderly, ending up with almost eighty minutes of music.

I'm really happy with this fresh approach to these tracks and the way they go together, while each song still has its own distinctive new 'feel'.

The album is available from [iTunes](#) and other online [stores](#)..

The songs from The Void have been remixed using the material from the forthcoming remastered version of this album, to be released later this year.

### **FB: Tuesday, July 23, 2013**

**10:28 AM:** I am very pleased to announce that the album Extended Remixes 2013 has just been released through iTunes. It can be purchased from [here](#). More info on my website: <http://www.nion.eu>

### **FB: Wednesday, July 24, 2013**

**12:40 AM:** The new album, Extended Remixes 2013, is now available from Amazon.

### **FB: Wednesday, August 14, 2013**

**12:12 AM:** Just wrote a song on consumerism and plutocracy (= modern western society), called 'Sheep' - including a classical men's choir singing the word 'sheep', repetitively :) Whether this song will ever get any further than my studio remains to be seen... and if it does it has to be a free download, with a subject like that!

**9:35 AM:** Ah well it was fun while it lasted. Definitely not a future release. Here's a small part of the refrain with the choir singing 'sheep, sheep, sheep, sheep'<sup>38</sup>:

### **FB: Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

**6:37 AM:** The two main project I'm working on at the moment are the remastered version of my second album The Void, and a new project, to be released at the end of the year. In between those I'm still working on songs from the poetry project Thy Delightful Shade, and the Latin project. I'm trying to focus on The Void, as I want to finish that one first!

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<sup>38</sup> Red.: No longer available.

## **BLOG: August 22, 2013: remasters, part 5**

These next weeks I will finish the remastered albums. After taking a break to 'refresh my ears' there will be a final listening session, testing the remasters once more, through headphones and through speakers. I'm planning to do four to five tracks a day, which means I might be able to finish the project this month.

**August 22, 2013:** I've finished the song Never Forget (all versions).

**August 24, 2013:** Finalizing Azure Eyes (all versions). I prefer the ballad versions, but the dance mixes are nice as well. Lead vocal sounds a bit harsh, but I can't get it any better unless I re-record it and that's not the idea behind a remaster...

**August 27, 2013:** Barricades and Enlighten Me (all versions) have been completed. Only eight songs to go and the remasters are ready for release!

**August 28, 2013:** I've finished Eighteen Days (both versions), Requiem for Melissa, Remembering & So Insecure. Two songs left (The Void), maybe tomorrow<sup>39</sup>. Possible release date with a little luck early in September.

## **BLOG: September, 2013: update**

Some try outs with a maximizer which took quite a lot of time and didn't have the result I was hoping for... It's only just now that I notice this took an entire month!

## **FB: Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

**10:29 PM:** I've created additional CD artwork for the Extended Remixes album, including lyrics and a recent photograph.

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<sup>39</sup> Update: Just finished the final songs (The Void). So, I'm done :)

**FB: Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

**8:53 AM:** The Void Remasters, I can't decide, should I use some maximizer or not? I overused it on the original but it does add some sparkle... Anyway, no release date until I decide...

**FB: Monday, September 23, 2013**

**7:54 AM:** To be delivered at my studio :)



**9:00 PM:** The remasters for The Void are almost finished, and I hope I can meet the September 30 deadline...

**FB: Tuesday, October 1, 2013**

**12:18 PM:** I'm uploading the 24 songs from The Void (2013 Remasters) to my publisher (1 day after the deadline, not too bad...) and I expect the albums to go live on iTunes (and other stores) near the end of this week. I'm very happy with the results, even though it took a little longer than expected to finish this project (which is usually the case with my projects...).

**FB: Thursday, October 3, 2013**

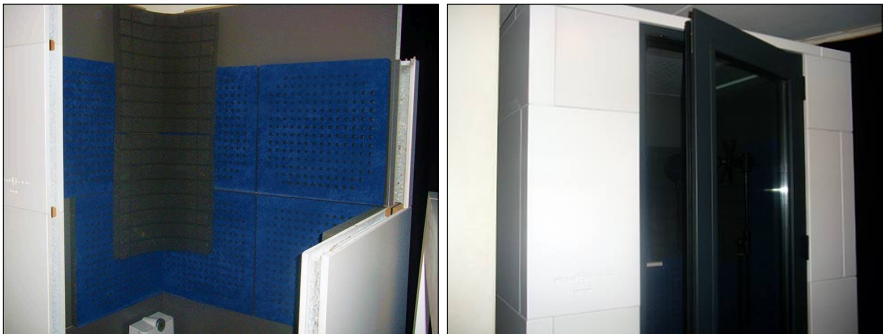
**1:19 AM:** I've approved the release of The Void (Remasters) and the albums will appear in iTunes (and other stores) soon, probably today! My website will be updated as soon as the albums are available.

**11:18 PM:** The Void (2013 Remaster) and The Void (The Singles) (2013 Remaster) are available on iTunes.

More information and samples on my website at <http://www.nion.eu> (work in progress!)

**FB: Saturday, October 5, 2013**

**3:49 AM:** The Studiobricks vocal booth has arrived and this is what it looks like right now. Unfortunately, the door is really, really heavy, and we haven't managed to move it to the first floor, yet... Trying to find a solution (without the door it's fairly useless...).



*nion*  
**The Void**  
*Remasters 2013*

**NEWS: October 2013 – The Void (Remasters)**



My second album The Void was released in 2009, and has now been remastered. It has been released together with its companion album, containing all bonus tracks from the singles I released at the time. Also included is a previously unreleased version of Azure Eyes (full length ballad version), the 2010 bonus track Enlighten Me (extended mix) and a new mix of Opera Gig, the experimental track from 2008 that has been available as a free download from this website.

This 2 CD collection contains all recordings I made after the Lost In Love album and before Quest<sup>40</sup>.



As with the 2012 remaster of Lost In Love, I felt much had changed since I recorded The Void four years ago, and using modern technologies I refreshed this project considerably. New filters were added, and existing filters were improved or replaced, and the somewhat muddy sound of the original recordings has been clarified so that each voice and instrument now has its proper place in the mix. Vocals have been retuned, and repositioned when needed. All in all, these remasters are much closer to what I intended with this project than the original releases. A detailed log of the improvements can be read on the [blog](#) for The Void.

The full length ballad version of Azure Eyes and the new and slightly longer mix of Opera Gig have been added as an extra bonus. The original albums are no longer available.

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<sup>40</sup> Except for Minuit Chrétiens, a cover version that doesn't really fit in this project. This song is still available as a free download [here](#).

**FB: Sunday, October 6, 2013**

**11:13 PM:** My Studiobricks ONE, finished! Most of the work was done by my husband :) Full gallery at <http://gallery.nion.eu/#!album-5><sup>41</sup>

Good news is that I have four brand new songs to try this out, which means lots of singing the coming weeks and, if all goes well, a new release at the end of the year (apart from all the other projects I'm working on - they are long term, I'm not expecting to finish them before the end of next year).



**FB: Tuesday, October 8, 2013**

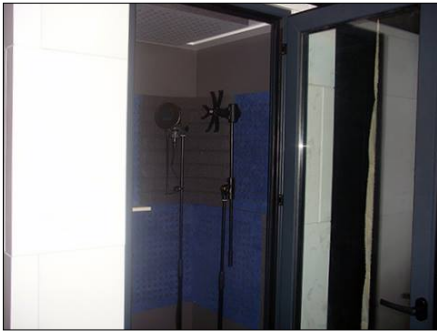
**12:42 PM:** Getting to know my Studiobricks :) It's amazing how, when you eliminate all (well, almost all) ambient sound, you get to hear the amount of noise a microphone makes by itself. Which is considerable... I used to boost the mike input signal in the past, but clearly one should

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<sup>41</sup> Red.: No longer available.



not do that, or as little as possible. Even with the pre amp off there's still noise, and it's not like it's a cheap mike... (<http://www.nion.eu/2011/EngineRoom.htm><sup>42</sup>).



And, apart from that: dynamics. I seem to produce quite a lot of dB when I sing. I wonder how the neighbours have put up with that, all these years! In a vocal booth, the waves can't travel very far, and when I look at the meters they're really spiking. So, I need to learn a radically different way to record and keep my vocal levels out of the red.

### **FB: Friday, October 18, 2013**

**1:18 PM:** I'm working on several new songs at the moment, and I'm very pleased with my vocal booth. I've solved all problems with distortion, and the recordings sound very good. Whilst recording in a really silent environment, you can also hear every other sound, like when I swallow or breath just a little too loud, or the clicking of the plastic things on my glasses, but fortunately they are easy to remove. Much easier than a passing bus :)

With a little luck, these new songs will be finished near the end of the year, and a new album will be released. The project I'm working on is a combination of several 'old' songs, remixed, and four or five completely new songs. This way I'm releasing the last bunch of the 'popular music' I

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<sup>42</sup> Red.: No longer available.

had 'stocked'. In 2014 I'll be working on the more 'classical' piano/vocal stuff (several projects I've been working on during the last three years).

**FB: Saturday, October 19, 2013**

**6:11 AM:** One of my best songs now on Jango Radio: Estranged, from the album Quest. Full album version!

**FB: Sunday, November 3, 2013**

**10:56 AM:** With a little luck, a new single will be released before christmas, if i can make a choice between two songs. It will be a ballad, and a prequel to an album of new songs and alternative versions of some old songs. More news soon!

**FB: Tuesday, November 5, 2013**

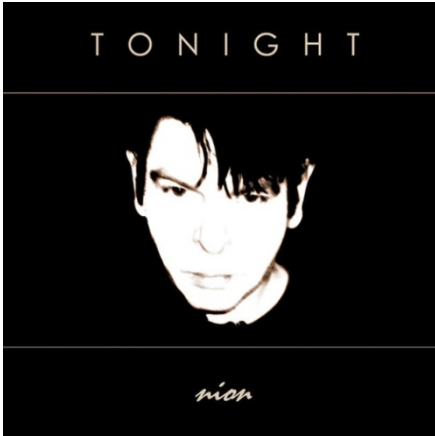
**10:37 AM:** The choice has been made, the new single is almost ready. The song is called 'Tonight' and I hope to release it this month, after some final mixing & mastering.

**FB: Wednesday, November 20, 2013**

**5:13 AM:** I've encountered some mastering problems, delaying the release of Tonight... Hope to solve them soon!

**FB: Tuesday, December 3, 2013**

**10:48 AM:** It looks like there will be a release shortly after all, I've just finished the master for 'Tonight'. Here's a preview of the cover art:

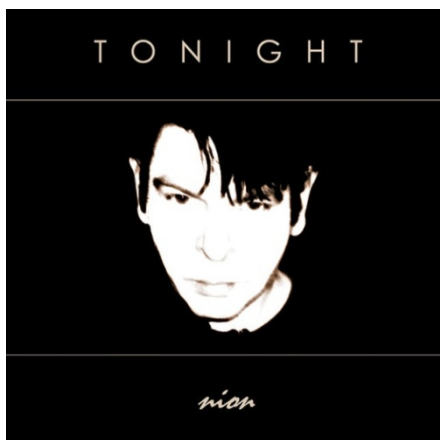


# TONIGHT

NEW SINGLE RELEASE DECEMBER 2013

*nion*

## NEWS: December 2013 - Tonight



I'm happy to announce the release of a new recording: Tonight, from the forthcoming album Ballads 2007-2014. Although this song was written in the nineties, it was revised extensively in 2013, to fit in with this album of ballads from my previous albums as well as some new songs.

As this will be a compilation album, of sorts, there's also a link with my album Extended Remixes 2013 and another forthcoming album featuring all single releases, to be released in 2014. The artwork for these albums is similar.

### FB: Saturday, December 7, 2013

**3:07 PM:** 'Tonight', the new single, is available from iTunes. More information on my website: <http://www.nion.eu><sup>43</sup>

The direct link to [iTunes](#).

The song sample on my website includes the refrain!

### FB: Tuesday, December 17, 2013

**3:44 PM:** Exclusive end-of-year offer on my [U-220 Kontakt sample collection](#): 99 euros only!<sup>44</sup>



### FB: Thursday, December 19, 2013

**1:26 PM:** Tonight (Instrumental Intermezzo) is now playing on the startpage of my website at <http://www.nion.eu>. The forthcoming album, featuring the single Tonight (amongst other new songs), is scheduled for release in January.

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<sup>43</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).

<sup>44</sup> Red.: Much cheaper, nowadays!

2014



*nion*

**NEWS: January 2014 – Ballads 2007-2014**



My latest release is [Ballads 2007-2014](#)<sup>45</sup>, a compilation of ballads from my previous albums and four new songs, including the recent single Tonight.

I wanted to revive some of my best work, ballads from the past, and include some early compositions that didn't really fit in anywhere. I've selected several songs from my first three albums, and made some changes to them. Some are subtle, some are radically different. All songs have been remastered as well.

The 'new' songs were actually written between 1992-1998, and have not been released before. 'Tonight' has been rewritten extensively. 'The

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<sup>45</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).

Phoenix' is close to the original composition, and was planned for the Lost In Love album (but it wasn't finished on time). 'I Still Care' was to be included on the album 'The Void', but didn't make it to the final selection, as it was too different from the other tracks. 'Astray' was based on a poem from a friend, but I've written new lyrics to this song.

About the 'old' songs, 'Fading Away' is a new recording of the song, both piano and vocal. 'Estranged' and 'The Void' are the single mixes with parts from the full length version mixed in. 'Azure Eyes' is an edit from the full length ballad version. 'Eighteen Days', slightly shortened single mix with a short new choral intro. 'Losing Again' is also shortened and has (rather stunning) new backing vocals. 'The Anguish': the second part of the long version, containing less instruments. 'No Remorse': extended using parts from 'Prelude: No Remorse'. 'Quest' has been compiled from the album's piano intro and the piano version. 'Wail Of The Banshee' has the intermezzo moved towards the intro.

All in all, it was good to hear these songs again, change them a bit, and make a theme album out of them. And I'm really glad I finally recorded some of my oldest material. There's lots of that left, by the way, I've written hundreds of songs, from 1984 and onwards... (most of it is dreadful, but there are some gems left). Many, many projects still to be finished and released!

Finally, my website has been redesigned. Much less pages!



## **FB: Thursday, January 2, 2014**

**8:41 AM:** New album release and redesigned website!

## **BLOG: January 29, 2014**

I've been recording final (I hope) vocals for the project this week. I'm happy with the recordings so far, but of course I will have to listen to them to find out if they're any good. After the previous post I've rewritten some parts and added more vocal harmonies (especially in the higher register). I'm not sure if they'll all survive! Most songs have a six part choir now, ranging between 1,5 and 2 octaves, so I can choose which combination sounds best. Originally, all harmonies were below the lead vocal, and I think some of the songs need harmonies above. Some of the original harmonies were really low (bass voice) and my voice sounds pretty raw when I'm singing that low - unsuitable for this particular project, I think. I'll have to experiment!

## **FB: Thursday, January 30, 2014**

**2:49 AM:** I'm recording vocals for the 'Latin' project this week - in my Studiobricks cabin of course :)

**11:58 AM:** I've just recorded the lead vocal for the next single from the project 'Thy Delightful Shade', which I intend to release fairly soon. After about fifteen different takes over the last five years, finally this one is perfect!

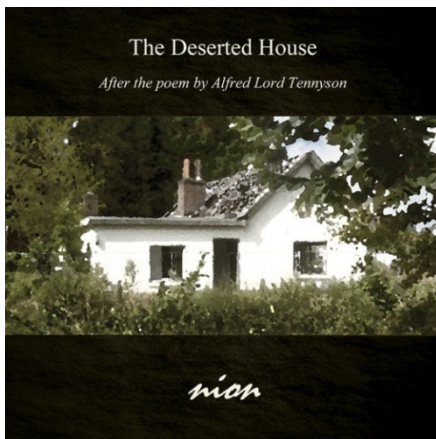
## **FB: Monday, February 10, 2014**

**9:48 PM:** I'm finishing the artwork for the new single (as mentioned below), and fine tuning the mix (minor issues concerning reverb). Release early in March, I think!

**FB: Monday, February 24, 2014**

**2:19 PM:** The new single will be available shortly from iTunes, Amazon, et cetera. It's supposed to go live next Saturday, but one can never be sure with iTunes :) So, keep watching this page and my website at <http://www.nion.eu>!

## NEWS: March 2014 – The Deserted House



In memory of my dear aunt Hennie, who has died on February 6, 2014, I have released this musical rendition of Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem [The Deserted House](#)<sup>46</sup>. It is the second release from the project 'Thy Delightful Shade', a collection of classic English poetry, set to music.

25% of the proceeds of this song will be donated to the [KWF](#), the Dutch Cancer Society, an organization aiming to cut cancer rates and get the disease under control through research and prevention.

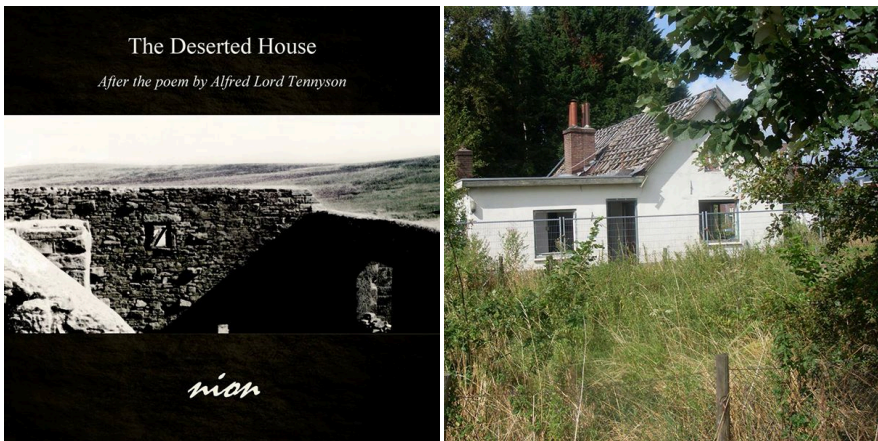
The song is currently available through [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#), and [CD Baby](#).

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<sup>46</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).

An email I received concerning this song:

*"There is precious little sweetness or beauty in my life, but I want to tell you that your voice, and of course Tennyson's words, brought tears to my eyes. My God, I feel like I have been caressed by angels. Keep up the good work. Such sensitivity is rare these days."*



Red.: Unused cover (left) and single cover source photograph, before retouching (right).

**FB: Saturday, March 29, 2014**

**2:15 AM:** Two Steps On The Water (Hounds Of Love Trance Mix - New Edit): <http://www.nion.eu/TSOTW.mp3><sup>47</sup> with Michaela Clay (Kate Bush cover, non profit!) Too much reverb but never mind :)

**FB: Saturday, April 5, 2014**

**9:49 AM:** Excellent Roland U-110/U-220 sample collection for Native Instruments Kontakt. Complete set: only 99 euros<sup>48</sup> (9GB, hundreds of instruments). Also available in separate modules!



**FB: Friday, April 11, 2014**

**7:14 AM:** Anne Clark last night, Melkweg Amsterdam. Excellent performance!

**FB: Saturday, April 12, 2014**

**10:27 AM:** NEW: U-220 basics. This sample library for Native Instruments Kontakt contains all 128 factory preset tones (3GB). Special offer: 33 euros only! [More information](#).

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<sup>47</sup> Red.: No longer available.

<sup>48</sup> Red.: Much cheaper, nowadays!

**FB: Friday, April 18, 2014**

**2:48 PM:** My 2013 sampler album, now also available from Bandcamp! First 500 downloads will be free, but paying for the music is also allowed :)



**FB: Sunday, April 20, 2014**

**12:51 PM:** I'm mastering the next song from the project Thy Delightful Shade and I'm expecting to release it within two months. It's a nine minute ode to nature. More details will be revealed, but here's part of the cover artwork<sup>49</sup>.

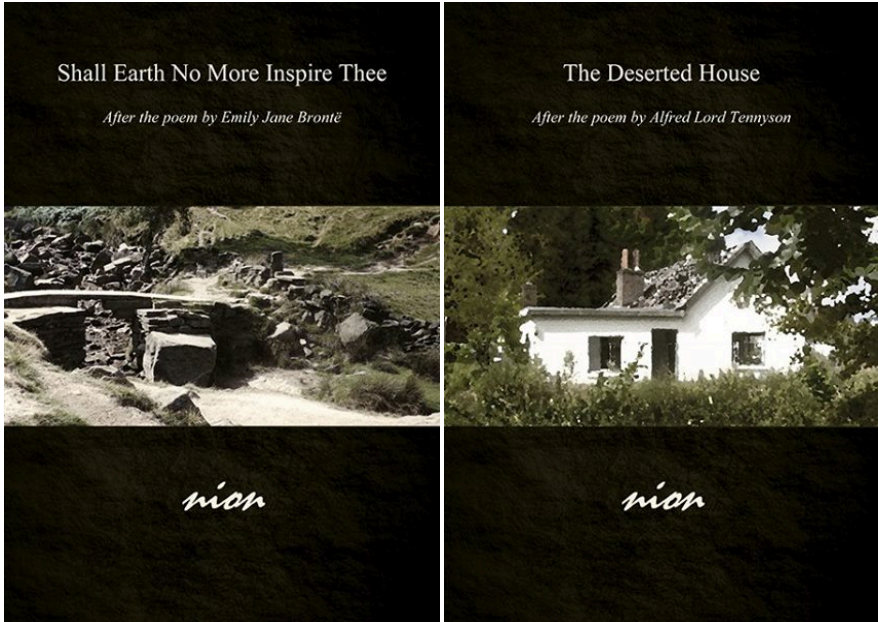


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<sup>49</sup> Red.: *The final release has a completely different cover.*

**FB: Saturday, April 26, 2014**

**3:27 PM:** The sheet music for The Deserted House & Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee is now available from my website! 1.99 euros<sup>50</sup> only per book, piano/vocals.



**FB: Saturday, May 3, 2014**

**10:03 AM:** Free sheet music (vocals/piano/bass) to my 2013 single Tonight.

**FB: Saturday, May 10, 2014**

**2:11 PM:** Hmmm teaser: je viens comme un chat....unexpected release imminent :)

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<sup>50</sup> Red.: That didn't sell at all. I'm offering it for free nowadays.

**FB: Monday, May 12, 2014**

**9:06 PM:** Whilst finishing the next single from Thy Delightful Shade, I made this little song, a cover of Ne t'enfuis pas by Kate Bush. [Free download](#) (to avoid copyright issues...)!<sup>51</sup>



**FB: Saturday, May 24, 2014**

**11:14 AM:** There's a slight delay in finishing the next single from Thy Delightful Shade... I'm expecting to finish it in June, perhaps July.

**FB: Saturday, June 7, 2014**

**1:17 AM:** "- I ran into Claudia [Schiffer] at a restaurant," [Amanda] Lear recalls." - She said, 'I love your book! Who wrote it for you?' I said, 'I did, darling. Who read it to you?' So that was the end of that. They never made the movie."

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<sup>51</sup> Red.: Photo animal Spookie; sadly, he died in 2015.



### **FB: Saturday, July 5, 2014**

**2:18 AM:** Just something in between, as my next 'official' single isn't finished yet. I'm quite happy with this cover version, although my voice is a bit raw on the high F#'s... The original version was written by Gary Brooker, Keith Reid & Matthew Fisher and was released the year I was born :)

### **BLOG: July 21, 2014: Muses and Visions**

I've published three of my earliest projects, composed between 1985 and 1990. My early years, when I still had a LOT to learn about music theory, which becomes quite obvious when listening to these short pieces. Still, they're snapshots of my past and I'd like to allow for a sneak view of that.

'The Muses' consists of nine pieces, they are variations on a theme. 'Visions' consists of six pieces, not related to one another. 'Missa ex Anima' is a complete (although, short) mass. More information [here](#).

### **FB: Tuesday, July 29, 2014**

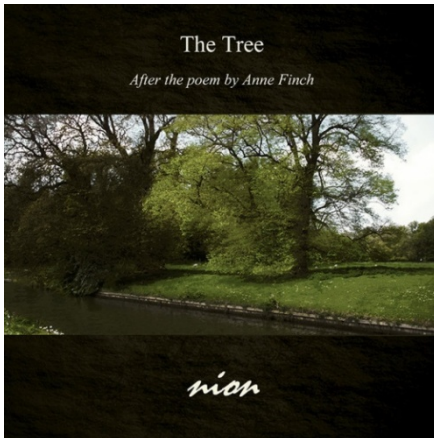
**10:21 AM:** I've just offered my next single to my distributor. I'm expecting a release at the end of the week. As stated on my artist page, it's the third song from the project 'Thy Delightful Shade', the song The Tree, based on a poem by Anne Finch (read it below).

**FB: Tuesday, July 29, 2014**

**12:13 AM:** The Tree by Anne Finch

Fair tree! for thy delightful shade  
'Tis just that some return be made;  
Sure some return is due from me  
To thy cool shadows, and to thee.  
When thou to birds dost shelter give,  
Thou music dost from them receive;  
If travellers beneath thee stay  
Till storms have worn themselves away,  
That time in praising thee they spend  
And thy protecting pow'r commend.  
The shepherd here, from scorching freed,  
Tunes to thy dancing leaves his reed;  
Whilst his lov'd nymph, in thanks, bestows  
Her flow'ry chaplets on thy boughs.  
Shall I then only silent be,  
And no return be made by me,  
No; let this wish upon thee wait,  
And still to flourish be thy fate.  
To future ages may'st thou stand  
Untouch'd by the rash workman's hand,  
Till that large stock of sap is spent,  
Which gives thy summer's ornament;  
Till the fierce winds, that vainly strive  
To shock thy greatness whilst alive,  
Shall on thy lifeless hour attend,  
Prevent the axe, and grace thy end;  
Their scatter'd strength together call  
And to the clouds proclaim thy fall;  
Who then their ev'ning dews may spare  
When thou no longer art their care,  
But shalt, like ancient heroes, burn,  
And some bright hearth be made thy urn.

**NEWS: August 2014 – The Tree**



I've just released the third single from the project Thy Delightful Shade, based on the beautiful poem by Anne Finch: The Tree<sup>52</sup>.

A nine minute ode to nature, vocal, piano, woodwinds and brass. I've dedicated this song to my father, for his love of nature and gardening. The song is currently available through [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and [CDBaby](#).

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<sup>52</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).

### **FB: Friday, August 1, 2014**

**9:28 AM:** Today, my new single has been released: The Tree, based on a poem by Anne Finch. This release is the third single from my poetry project Thy Delightful Shade. The song is a nine minute ode to nature, voice, piano and orchestra.

More information [here](#).

Available from iTunes [here](#).

### **FB: Thursday, August 7, 2014**

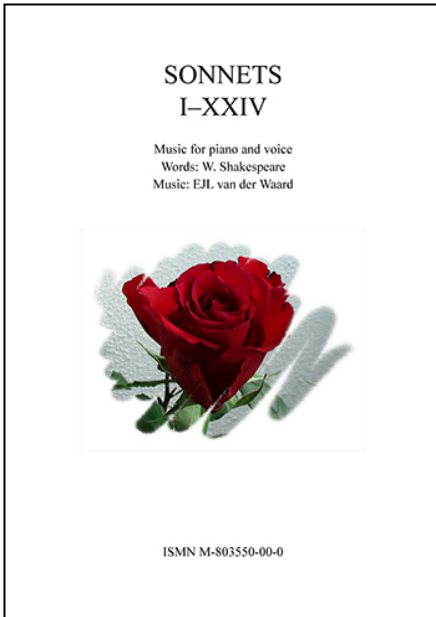
**11:14 AM:** 'The Tree', my new single (see below) is now available from Amazon.com.

### **BLOG: August 18, 2014: New Sonnets**

In 2007 I published a sheet music book containing musical versions of William Shakespeare's first 24 Sonnets, for voice & piano. Sonnets 1-18 were composed in the nineties of the previous century, and between 2000 and 2002 I composed Sonnets 19-24.

These last few weeks I've written music to Sonnets 25-30, and I'm planning to complete a new cycle up to Sonnet 48 before 2020. I must say I'm quite pleased with these new compositions, they're a logical sequel to the first 24 in style, although they're more mature (I seem to have learned a few things over the last 20 years...).

A date of publication can not be set of course, I've only completed 25% of the work, and many, many revisions will have to be made. The first book took over 15 years to complete, I'm hoping the second one will be ready a bit quicker :)



Information about the first book can be found [here](#). I'm currently working on the release of the demo recordings as a free download, and will publish them before the end of the year.

**FB: Monday, August 18, 2014**

**11:39 AM:** Two new blog posts about projects under development:

The 'Latin project': <http://mmdblog.nion.eu/#post0><sup>53</sup>

A follow-up to my 'Sonnets project': <http://otherblog.nion.eu/#post17><sup>54</sup>

And, I'm recording a new song from 'Thy Delightful Shade', which will be (probably) released this autumn.

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<sup>53</sup> Red.: No longer available.

<sup>54</sup> Red.: No longer available.

### **BLOG: August 21, 2014: update (Sonnets)**

I've added two more Sonnets (31 & 32), which means I've finished 1/3 of the second volume. At this rate, I might finish it much faster than expected!

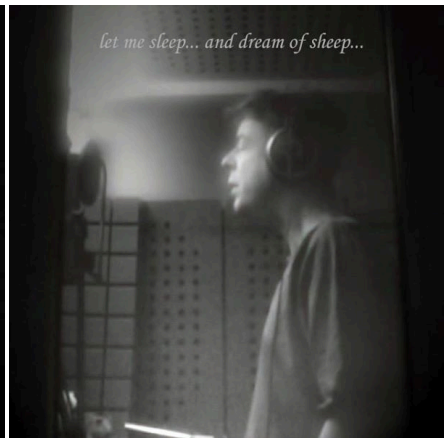
### **BLOG: August 26, 2014: update (Sonnets)**

Sonnets 33 & 34 have been conceived. This is going really fast :)

### **FB: Friday, August 29, 2014**

**10:15 AM:** This is what it looks like when I sing. Must admit I don't look my best at 8.15 AM :) (I'm performing 'And Dream Of Sheep', originally by Kate Bush).

I've just finished the recording/mixing: [www.nion.eu/ADOSUI.mp3](http://www.nion.eu/ADOSUI.mp3)<sup>55</sup> (And Dream Of Sheep + Under Ice). Note: it's just a demo!



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<sup>55</sup> Red.: No longer available.

## **BLOG: September 16, 2014: update (Sonnets)**

I've finished 36 Sonnets so far. Due to other commitments, I have to pause this project for a few months. At the moment I'm thinking of releasing the 36 Sonnets in one book, as a new edition of the book that's currently available, and on two CD's. If you buy the book from 2007 now, you'll get the updated release for free. Next update: 2015, I think!

## **FB: Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

**10:32 AM:** The next single from 'Thy Delightful Shade' is almost ready for release!

## **FB: Thursday, September 25, 2014**

**12:26 AM:** Almost forgotten about my new single release next week, ouch. But the song is finished. Just the artwork, website and promo stuff remains :)

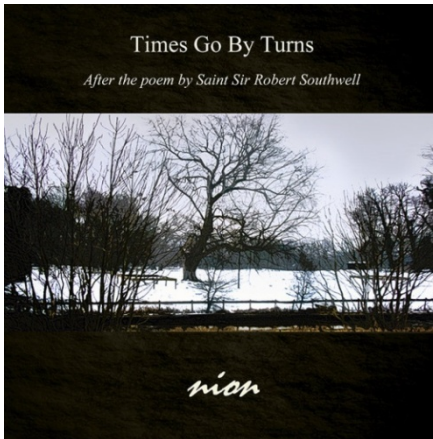
## **FB: Friday, September 26, 2014**

**12:31 PM:** The new single has been offered to my distributor. It will be available shortly from iTunes and other online shops. The banner on top of this Facebookpage contains part of the single artwork (as you might have guessed). More news soon, here and on <https://www.facebook.com/nionartist> (and <http://www.nion.eu> of course)!

## **FB: Sunday, September 28, 2014**

**9:47 AM:** My new single Times Go By Turns, after the poem by Saint Sir Robert Southwell has just been released on [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and CD Baby. <http://thydelightfulshade.nion.eu>

**NEWS: October 2014 – Times Go By Turns**



The fourth single from the project *Thy Delightful Shade* is based on the poem *Times Go By Turns*, by Saint Sir Robert Southwell.

When I read about the horrible, horrible execution of Sir Southwell, and read his poems, I immediately wanted to set one of them to music. I decided on *Times Go By Turns* because it's such a melancholic poem. The music and vocals are very beautiful, and really sad. I've also tried to express this feeling through the cover art. The song is a bit long for a single (a little over 8 minutes in length) but I didn't want to edit anything out.

The song is currently available through [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and [CDBaby](#).



**FB: Thursday, October 2, 2014**

**11:00 PM:** Times Go By Turns, by Saint Sir Robert Southwell

The lopped tree in time may grow again,  
Most naked plants renew both fruit and flower;  
The sorest wight may find release of pain,  
The driest soil suck in some moist'ning shower;  
Times go by turns and chances change by course,  
From foul to fair, from better hap to worse.

The sea of Fortune doth not ever flow,  
She draws her favours to the lowest ebb;  
Her tides hath equal times to come and go,  
Her loom doth weave the fine and coarsest web;  
No joy so great but runneth to an end,  
No hap so hard but may in fine amend.

Not always fall of leaf nor ever spring,  
No endless night yet not eternal day;  
The saddest birds a season find to sing,  
The roughest storm a calm may soon allay:  
Thus with succeeding turns God tempereth all,  
That man may hope to rise, yet fear to fall.

A chance may win that by mischance was lost;  
The net that holds no great, takes little fish;  
In some things all, in all things none are crost,  
Few all they need, but none have all they wish;  
Unmeddled joys here to no man befall:  
Who least, hath some; who most, hath never all.

FB: Saturday, October 4, 2014

12:02 AM: First twelve bars of 'Times Go By Turns'.

The image displays a musical score for the first twelve bars of the piece 'Times Go By Turns'. The score is arranged in four systems, each containing piano accompaniment and vocal parts. The piano part is written in the bass clef with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The tempo is marked '♩ = 57'. The vocal parts are written in the treble clef. The lyrics are: 'The lip-pod tree in time may grow a - gain, Most na-ked plants re-new both fruit and flower, The so-rest wight may find re- lease of pain, The di-est soil suck in some moist-ning shower,'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The vocal lines consist of eighth-note patterns with some triplets and ties.

## **BLOG: October 6, 2014: 'Latin project' news roundup**

Amazing, I've been working on this project for almost three years now. How time flies! I've re-recorded vocals for all songs but one (which I intend to do this week), as, in retrospect, the recordings from earlier this year were not good enough. I've also rewritten most harmony vocals during the last few months, as stated below, and I'm quite happy now with the arrangements. Most six part choirs have been reduced to 2 or 3 part harmonies, which sounds much better. This means I can finalize the work fairly soon (in my case this usually means: within a year...), and start considering a release date. Probably somewhere in 2015, as I have a few other releases planned for 2014.

During the summer I re-recorded all vocals, and I think the project is getting its final shape. I've chosen the best combinations from the six part harmonies I wrote earlier this year, and reduced them to two or three voices max. One of the songs doesn't seem to fit in: elaborate (double, sometimes triple) choirs remain, whilst all the others have two/three part harmonies now. I'm not sure what to do, either completely rewrite the song or try and delete some of the voices and see what happens. I think I will postpone this to next year, as I have several other projects to finish this year. Artwork has been completed and it's very, very beautiful. I've used 17th century paintings and it's all very tasteful.

### **FB: Sunday, October 12, 2014**

**4:46 AM:** Short [video add](#)<sup>56</sup> for the single!

### **FB: Friday, October 24, 2014**

**10:19 AM:** Short [video add](#) for the single (improved version, I've corrected the rendering mistake).

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<sup>56</sup> Red.: And another one [here](#).

**10:20 AM:** Same tree as on the Times Go By Turns cd cover. But: different season<sup>57</sup>, different point of view, different song :)



**FB: Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

**2:59 PM:** New single almost finished. Quite different from this year's other singles :) Sneak preview below<sup>58</sup>.



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<sup>57</sup> Red.: Strange remark. Both taken during the winter. What was I thinking?

<sup>58</sup> Red.: And here.

**FB: Friday, November 21, 2014**

**12:09 AM:** I've just finished the 10 minute extended remix for the new single. I'm very pleased with it :) Release date: December 5th if all goes well.



**FB: Tuesday, November 25, 2014**

**11:48 AM:** I've just offered the new single (and then some) to my digital distributor. Release date December 5th still stands for the single!



**FB: Wednesday, November 26, 2014**

**12:35 AM:** November 28th: next teaser video add for the new single, revealing the cover art :)



**FB: Thursday, November 27, 2014**

6:58 AM: The new releases have been approved for distribution. Let's hope iTunes (and others) will stick to the release dates I had in mind. One never knows, unfortunately...



**FB: Friday, November 28, 2014**

**5:24 AM:** This short video reveals the cover art from the forthcoming single :)



**FB: Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

**12:05 PM:** The Phoenix single cover art. Release: end of the week!



**BLOG: December 19, 2014: update (Sonnets)**

I've decided not to use the new songs for this Sonnets project, and instead, start a new project using these compositions. More news about this in the future!

### NEWS: December 2014 – The Phoenix



I've just released The Phoenix<sup>59</sup>, a single containing three remixes of the song from the album Ballads 2007-2014. The single is a prelude to the collection albums Singles 2007-2010 and Singles 2011-2014, which will be released in January next year. The albums contain all single releases from Lost In Love, The Void, Quest, Ballads and Thy Delightful Shade.

The lead track from the single is currently available through iTunes. The Extended Dark Trance Mix and the Euro Dance Mix are available as exclusive pre-order tracks if you order the forthcoming albums from iTunes: here and here.

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<sup>59</sup> Red.: Video add here.



**FB: Friday, December 5, 2014**

**10:12 PM:** YES! the new single on [iTunes](#).

And pre-order of the new albums: [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#). Instant download of the remixes :)

**FB: Friday, December 19, 2014**

**1:25 PM:** [Teaser video](#) announcing the release of the double album Singles 2007-2014 on January 1st 2015.

**FB: Thursday, December 25, 2014**

**10:13 AM:** The Deserted House, my single from February 2014, is available from: [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#), [Google Play](#), [CD Baby](#).

**FB: Friday, December 26, 2014**

**10:08 AM:** Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee, my single from May 2013, is still available from [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#), [Google Play](#), [CD Baby](#).

**FB: Saturday, December 27, 2014**

**4:42 AM:** The compilation albums, containing all singles from 2007-2014, and then some - to be released on January 1st! Pre-order from [here](#) and [here](#).

**FB: Tuesday, December 30, 2014**

**12:58 PM:** Singles 2007-2014: front and back covers in a higher resolution. Pre-order from here: [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#).

2015



### NEWS: January 2015 – Singles 2007-2014



The double CD collection '[Singles 2007-2014](#)' has been released!<sup>60</sup>

It contains all single releases from the albums [Lost In Love](#) (2007), [The Void](#) (2009), [Quest](#) (2011), [Ballads](#) (2014), as well as the four singles from [Thy Delightful Shade](#) (2013-2014), and three new mixes of The Phoenix.

The collection has been divided in the periods 2007-2010 (Part One) and 2011-2014 (Part Two).

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<sup>60</sup> Red.: Video add [here](#).



Available from:

iTunes: [Part One](#) / [Part Two](#)

Amazon: [Part One](#) / [Part Two](#)

Google Play: [Part One](#) / [Part Two](#)

CD Baby: [Part One](#) / [Part Two](#)

**FB: Thursday, January 1, 2015**

**12:43 PM:** The double album Singles 2007-2014 is now available from iTunes, Amazon, Google Play and CD Baby. Check out <http://www.nion.eu> for more information!

**12:45 PM:** Happy new year! Check out the post below about the album release.

**FB: Thursday, January 8, 2015**

**1:52 PM:** A second short advertisement for the new compilation albums 'Singles 2007-2014', as well as my back catalogue. Background music: 'Never Forget', from the album 'The Void'.

**FB: Saturday, January 17, 2015**

**7:48 AM:** I've been interviewed by Robex Lundgren. Check out this page, near the bottom: <http://ghgumman.blogg.se/>

**FB: Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

**12:25 AM:** Demos for the second set of 13 songs have been recorded and I'm quite happy with them as well. Now comes the hard part: proper recordings... I'll have to cut down on smoking...

**FB: Friday, March 20, 2015**

**6:13 AM:** The 26 new songs will be divided over two albums, each about 50 minutes (though additional composing might lengthen this a bit).

**FB: Friday, March 27, 2015**

**2:09 PM:** So, I'm going to release two new albums this year! I've started working on the songs early this year, and I'm ready to start recording final vocals. This will take two months at least...

**FB: Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

**5:18 PM:** I've completely revised my U-20/ sample library for Kontakt, and reduced its price significantly! Budget collection: 19.99 euros/USD or 13.49 GBP (100 patches). Complete collection: 49.99 euros/USD or 40.59 GBP (794 patches). More info: <http://vintagesynths.nion.eu>. Available in the near future: D-110 library / FB-01 library.



**FB: Thursday, April 23, 2015**

**11:20 PM:** I've almost finished the D-110 sample collection. 14 more sounds to go! (I should be working on my album.... sigh... not inspired...)

**FB: Sunday, April 26, 2015**

**10:14 AM:** Just released: D-110 Sample collection for Kontakt. 129 factory sounds, only 19.99 euros/dollars (13.49 GBP). Check the [website](#) for details and samples.



**FB: Friday, May 8, 2015**

**1:32 AM:** I've completed a mini-website for my new single & album. It's pretty heavy on graphics, and features really beautiful Javascript slideshows. And really beautiful artwork!!! Unfortunately, I've been having a nasty cold for almost four weeks now, so I can't sing, and thus, I can't finish the album. Hopefully more luck in May/June!

**FB: Monday, May 18, 2015**

**11:20 AM:** Tomorrow: the start of a three day singing/recording session for my new album. My husband's abroad and my workphone's in silent mode :)

**FB: Tuesday, May 19, 2015**



**1:31 PM:** Recording blog :)

**12:18 PM:** I've sung (and recorded) 7 songs (of 26) and my throat hurts a bit... I'm taking a (lunch) break and a cigarette... (very clever, having a soar throat).

**4:04 PM:** I've recorded another 6 songs, so I'm halfway through. I'm quite happy with the results so far, but also rather tired. It takes a lot of energy!

**7:32 PM:** I've recorded 7 more songs, which leaves 6 songs for later or tomorrow. The G4, which is the highest note in the entire project, took a lot of effort, as my range appears to have changed from Baritone (F#2-Bb4) to Bass-baritone (E2-F#4). Perhaps a remnant of my flu... I really don't feel like transposing 26 songs a third down! I'll have to re-record some parts at a later stage.

**9:43 PM:** 26 songs have been recorded today. Quite an achievement, although I know I'll throw away a lot of what I did today, and record them again (that's normal) :) Other achievements today: - smoked 10 cigarettes (instead of 20) - fed the chinchillas - did the laundry (well, the washing machine did most of that) - answered about a 100 work-emails in between recording sessions I think I'll call it a day :)

### **FB: Wednesday, May 20, 2015**

**2:25 PM:** I've just recorded a cover of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina". Highly inappropriate to sing this, for a guy, of course: "All you will see is the girl you once knew" - Evita having a sex change halfway through the musical? I should be working on my own album... Maybe later today...

**8:58 PM:** Second recording session. I'm going to record a second vocal take for all 26 songs.

**9:44 PM:** First four songs finished. I've decided to take breaks every four songs :) My voice sounds amazing, and singing is much easier than yesterday. Could there be a difference between singing during the day and singing in the evening?

**10:49 PM:** I've finished five songs, included the ninth one with the high G4, which went a lot better than yesterday :)

**11:33 PM:** Well, that's the first album of thirteen songs finished. I'm a bit tired now :) There's no rush to get the second album finished soon so I'm not going to overdo it today.



### **FB: Friday, May 22, 2015**

**8:23 AM:** This week I've recorded lead vocals for my two forthcoming albums. My first impression is that at least the session for first album is great, and I will use it to complete the project. The second album probably needs another recording session, but there's no hurry. One album at a time :) Next step: corrections, mixing and mastering. Singing is easy... but post production is really difficult! I'm aiming for a September release.

### **FB: Sunday, May 31, 2015**

**7:38 AM:** I've been a bit busy these last weeks handling other issues... In June I will start mixing the album!

### **FB: Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**8:00 AM:** I've decided to take a different approach to the new album. Which means the vocals I recorded in May will not be used. Although they were excellent, the overall singing style is not what I want. This will mean a delay in the release...

### **FB: Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

**11:55 PM:** I've recorded vocals for four songs, it wasn't easy and it took a lot of re-takes, but they're perfect! Nine songs to go...

### **FB: Monday, June 15, 2015**

**12:14 PM:** Eight songs finished. Though I am considering recording them again, and choose the best of two performances. So far so good!

**FB: Thursday, June 18, 2015**

**6:26 AM:** Thirteen songs finished :)

**FB: Thursday, June 25, 2015**

**1:26 PM:** I'm making minor adjustments to vocal melodies (which means re-recording several songs or at least parts of them). But, all is progressing very well :)

**FB: Tuesday, July 21, 2015**

**2:09 PM:** Aaargh, bad voice day. Everything I sing sounds absolutely horrible. Try again tomorrow or start considering a career in thrash metal music.

*[Red.: Later:]* hmm, not so bad after all, just recorded a relatively fast song, which sounds good :)

**FB: Wednesday, July 22, 2015**

**2:35 PM:** I've recorded two more songs. It looks like I'm finally going to finish the album this summer :)

*[Red.: Later:]* and two more today. Eight songs left to go :) Yes, it's the third time I'm recording 'final' vocals for this album, this year...

**FB: Thursday, July 23, 2015**

Three still photos from a try out video I made today for a song from the new album. It's a rather sad song, as you can see...



**FB: Wednesday, July 29, 2015**

**12:09 PM:** 8 songs finished, 5 to go. CD artwork: almost finished. Video(s): in progress :)

*[Red.: Later:]* 9 songs finished...

**FB: Thursday, July 30, 2015**

**12:31 AM:** Not the brightest idea, installing Windows 10 in the middle of a recording session. But everything appears to be working so far :)

*[Red.: Later:]* except my iLok and Norton :(

*[Red.: Later:]* Everything works, except MS Money, which is quite a problem as I still use this program extensively...

**FB: Monday, August 3, 2015**

**11:50 PM:** 3 songs to go... and a few overdubs... but it looks like we'll have a new album release at the end of this summer... amazing how it takes a complete year to finish...



**FB: Tuesday, August 4, 2015**

**12:04 AM:** One more song :) The most difficult one of course...

**11:27 PM:** All vocals have been recorded. Next: fine tuning, mixing, mastering (the hardest part...).

**FB: Wednesday, August 5, 2015**

**5:24 PM:** A video has been recorded for the forthcoming single.

**FB: August 11, 2015**

Busy compiling and editing the video clip! I'm rather pleased with it, but it wouldn't be the first time I abandoned a video project...

**FB: August 13, 2015**

I've just finished the first attempt at mastering the album, and it sounds really good. My voice is at its best (with a little help from EQ, de-essing and volume control). Wow. Usually mastering is really difficult (for me anyway), but this was done in less than a week!

**FB: Monday, August 17, 2015**

**3:49 AM:** While you're waiting for my new album... my four best songs:  
<http://thydelightfulshade.nion.eu>.

and their short video adds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldMaHHz8AcM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNcHierS4cs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKo0NqXFlaY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fj7RUV5uyml>

**FB: August 19, 2015**

The video for the new single is almost finished. I'm not sure yet if I'll release it, but we'll see :) The video features paintings from the 19th century. Here are four rather vague screenshots. A clue: the song's lyrics compare strong emotions to the forces of nature...

Next, further mastering of the album. My last attempt sounds pretty good, so (hopefully) it's a matter of some tweaks...

### **FB: Friday, August 28, 2015**

**12:49 AM:** Very busy finishing the album, the video, the artwork and the website. Lots of new ideas!

### **FB: Thursday, September 3, 2015**

**1:06 PM:** Why is it so hard to make my voice sound good? (...possibly because I'm not a very good singer...) Anyway, after two weeks of pointless mastering - with dreadful results - I'm back to adjusting plugin settings, after discovering a huge error in the gate settings. But, it looks like I'm getting somewhere at last!

### **FB: Thursday, September 10, 2015**

**10:50 AM:** I've completely redesigned my website, it looks great. It will be published when the album is ready for release (still working on that!).

### **FB: Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

**9:50 AM:** I've been deafened by Marc Almond in Amsterdam last night. That aside, it was actually a good concert. But I won't be able to do anything for my new album until I can hear properly again, I'm afraid...

### **FB: Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

**5:22 PM:** Re-evaluating the video for the first single, and adding extra seawater :)

**6:49 PM:** It's extremely frustrating when a mix doesn't sound the way you want it to. I'm considering starting from scratch and re-record everything. The entire album. Aargh. I know the songs are really good, but I can't seem to get the sound right...

**FB: Thursday, September 17, 2015**

**1:35 AM:** I'm re-recording one song to make a comparison... If it does, and if it's an improvement: re-recording everything would - once again - mean a significant delay (3 to 4 months). I think I started this project in the summer of 2014? Ah... And I haven't even started on the second CD... Everything's ready: video, website, artwork... except for the music... I'm afraid that's a rather essential part :)

**FB: Sunday, September 20, 2015**

**8:54 AM:** I've completely redesigned my website at <http://www.nion.eu>. I've decided on a thematic approach, every section now matches the design of the corresponding album release. Oh, and: click on images! Things happen :) Also, the 'bookflip' effect is rather nice.

**FB: Tuesday, September 22, 2015**

**1:29 AM:** Aargh I'm about to give up on the new album... I'm going to ignore proper microphone techniques and sing really close to the mike...

**FB: Tuesday, September 29, 2015**

**12:32 PM:** I'm taking a break! Just like cheese, the new music/recording needs to rest a bit, I think. In the mean time I'm making some changes to my studio and I'm revisiting another unfinished project: the Latin songs.

**FB: Thursday, October 1, 2015**

**8:08 PM:** Roland D-110 sample collection version 2.0, for Native Instruments Kontakt. This collection contains 193 patches. Every partial and every key has been sampled! Only 29.99 euros/USD (or 19.99 GBP).

[More info.](#)

**FB: Sunday, October 11, 2015**

**9:04 AM:** The 2013 Sampler album<sup>61</sup>, now on Soundcloud! (It's free!)

**FB: Thursday, October 29, 2015**

**11:31 PM:** I've started working on the new album again... it'll take a while.

**FB: Tuesday, November 3, 2015**

**3:39 PM:** Ah! The new album needs a new piano sound so I've just bought the Synthogy Ivory II collection. Not cheap, but a lot cheaper than 'hardware'. Takes up less space as well :)

<https://www.facebook.com/synthogy>

**FB: Monday, November 16, 2015**

**11:55 PM:** I've re-recorded the music for the 26 new songs, and I'm almost ready to start recording the vocals (again...). If it doesn't work out this time, the albums will be shelved indefinitely...

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<sup>61</sup> Red.: Video add [here.](#)



**FB: Saturday, November 21, 2015**

**12:53 AM:** One of my favourite cover songs:  
<http://www.nion.eu/AWhiterShadeOfPale.mp3><sup>62</sup>

Recorded on a rainy afternoon last year :)

**12:54 AM:** Completely free<sup>63</sup>, this weekend only, my two best songs (full versions): <http://www.nion.eu/ShallEarthNoMoreInspireThee.mp3>  
<http://www.nion.eu/TheDesertedHouse.mp3>

From the project 'Thy Delightful Shade'.

**FB: Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

**4:35 PM:** I've finished recording the first song (of 26) (again...). Very happy with the results! So, maybe I get to finish these two new albums after all :)

**FB: Thursday, November 26, 2015**

**8:51 PM:** And I've finished recording the second song :) Some timing issues but that can be solved.

**FB: Monday, November 30, 2015**

**3:49 PM:** And, despite a touch of the flu, I've finished two more songs. 22 to go :)

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<sup>62</sup> Red.: No longer available.

<sup>63</sup> Red.: That weekend has passed :)

**FB: Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

**5:52 PM:** Feeling better, and I've recorded three more songs. 19 to go :)

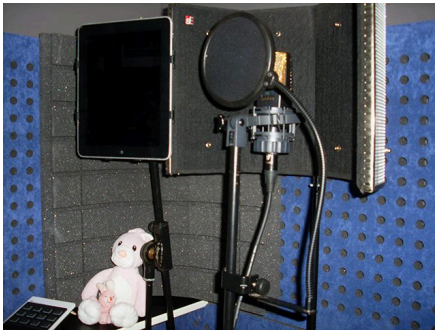
**FB: Wednesday, December 2, 2015**

**2:18 PM:** Bad voice day. But I've recorded two more songs. Probably unusable :)

*[Red.: Later:]* and I've recorded a third song, which took between 15 to 30 takes per stanza...

**FB: Monday, December 14, 2015**

**12:30 AM:** I've recorded all 26 songs (again), music & vocals. Next step: choosing the best recordings, and re-recording the not-so-good ones.



**FB: Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

**2:32 AM:** Most vocal recordings are perfect :) Just a few parts need re-recording.

**FB: Thursday, December 17, 2015**

**4:24 PM:** Three new songs have been mixed! If I manage to finish three each day, I can start mastering the album(s) after Christmas :)

[Red.: Later:] four songs finished :)

[Red.: Later:] six songs

[Red.: Later:] eight...

[Red.: Later:] no more updates until it's finished :)

**FB: Wednesday, December 23, 2015**

**11:13 AM:** Mixing stage one has been finished: vocal 'adjustments' have been made. Several fragments need re-recording, but not much!

**FB: Thursday, December 31, 2015**

**9:02 AM:** I'm working on the album again: optimizing instrument volume and improving reverb settings.

2016

### **FB: Monday, January 4, 2016**

**3:36 PM:** I've listened to all 26 songs on the monitors<sup>64</sup>, and they sound pretty good! The vocals need some additional polishing though. Mainly de-essing and EQ.

### **FB: Tuesday, January 5, 2016**

**12:00 AM:** Sadly, vocal EQ is just about the most difficult thing there is... should I add highs, should I cut highs... (both options sound weird, so far). This will take some time...

**4:42 PM:** Ah! The wonders of modern technology. Dynamic EQ, it's a miracle :)

### **FB: Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

**2:52 PM:** I've just finished listening to the rough premasters of all 26 songs. Sounds promising!

**11:49 PM:** De-essing is an art... aaargh...

*[Red.: Later:]* and the secret is dynamic EQ-ing of the high frequencies. Problem solved :)

### **FB: Thursday, January 7, 2016**

**11:58 PM:** I've been listening to the second premasters and I'm getting quite exited about the overall sound of the album(s). The issues with vocals have been solved (which is always the most difficult part as I don't have an 'easy' voice). I will have to do some tweaks though: blending voice and music a bit more, perhaps some additional overall dynamic processing... But, the mixing stage is definitely over, I'm

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<sup>64</sup> Red: monitor speakers.

mastering now and I'm not looking back :) Should I set a release date? Deadlines are dangerous :) I know I'll have to work on something else for a while, and then listen again, with 'fresh ears', but still... I'm quite happy about the results! Wow. I think I'm actually going to finish this project, within two years, after I started it in the summer of 2014. There were times I thought finishing would take much longer (or not at all)... I'm not giving any details about the music or subject matter... it will be quite a surprise! Perhaps just this: 26 songs, 100 minutes of music :)

### **FB: Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

**2:16 PM:** Maximisers. A necessary evil, but quite an improvement when used with moderation (which is, sadly, not the case in 99% of the current hit songs... :) )

**10:54 PM:** The third premaster has been finished, with better blending of voice and music, and some moderate maximising. Sounds pretty good! I'll have one more go at it next week, let it stew for a few days, and concentrate on finalising the artwork :)

### **FB: Tuesday, January 19, 2016**

**5:31 PM:** Still listening to the recordings and making improvements. Also, finalizing album artwork and photography.

### **FB: Saturday, January 23, 2016**

**12:38 AM:** Portrait photography for the albums and the e-books is ready! I've just finished editing nine portraits, of which I'll use five at least.

### **FB: Monday, January 25, 2016**

**10:54 PM:** All artwork is finished. Now for the final touches to the music...

**FB: Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

**11:09 PM:** Ah, I think I'm getting somewhere... a February release? Probably wishful thinking :)

**12:51 PM:** The 4th pre-master starts to sound like what I had in mind :)

**FB: Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

**4:14 PM:** The first CD is as good as finished :)

**11:24 PM:** And the second CD as well. With a little luck, everything's ready next week. At last :)

**FB: Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

**9:40 AM:** I think I've spent more than 1600 hours on these albums, after starting the project in the summer of 2014... Wow. More than 60 hours per song :)

**10:19 AM:** The first clue!



**FB: Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

**11:57 AM:** I've made some final (I think) tweaks to the albums: boosting instrument volume and toning down the vocal reverb. Now, the big decision: listen some more or release the songs :)

**FB: Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 11:08am**

**11:08 AM:** Well, it appears the window cleaner is the first to hear my new album :) (Double glazing, but not soundproof.)

**11:01 PM:** I have to issue a warning about my singing voice. It's rather different, compared to previous recordings :) Deeper, darker (smokier, mostly). It'll take some getting used to, I think. Ah, I'm still undecided about releasing the album(s)... I'll sleep on it for a week or so...

**FB: Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

**3:10 AM:** Time for more clues about the forthcoming releases! To accompany the new albums, a new & free single will be available from my website. A different song each month, for about six months, I think. The free singles will contain slightly different mixes of album versions. I'm hoping the first one will be released in March :)

**11:49 PM:** I've changed the song order again. Which means changing all artwork & the website. Ah well :)

**FB: Monday, February 22, 2016**

**12:47 AM:** This week, I intend to finish the albums and deliver them to my distributor.

**FB: Wednesday, February 24, 2016**

**1:24 AM:** Ah! Almost finished! I think the albums will be ready Thursday or Friday. With a little luck, I can set a release date early in March.





**FB: Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

**12:26 AM:** A slight delay in finishing the albums, but I'm still expecting a release in March.

**FB: Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

**12:01 AM:** A present! Free sheet music of 'Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee'.

The single itself is available from iTunes (and other online stores).

**FB: Monday, March 7, 2016**

**9:29 AM:** Yes, I took some days off from finishing the albums :) But they will be finished this week, and released before the end of the month.



## a poet, forgotten...

**FB: Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 12:01am**

**12:01 AM:** Almost two years ago I came upon a book of poetry. It was first published two centuries ago, and the author has been forgotten, mostly. I've never been very good at understanding poetry, perhaps it's too compact. Yet, when I read the first poem in this book, I opened my mouth and started singing. An eye-opening experience. Understanding, feeling the power of this poetry, through singing the lines instead of reading.

The beauty, the magic, of these words, these lines... their melodies appeared from nowhere, and I started recording my voice, without any music, wishing to capture these beautiful melodies, hoping to preserve this inspiration.

**5:06 PM:** I've just completed mastering the new albums. Final step: downmixing the 192 kHz studio quality recordings to 44 kHz CD audio quality. Which means a release date within two weeks!



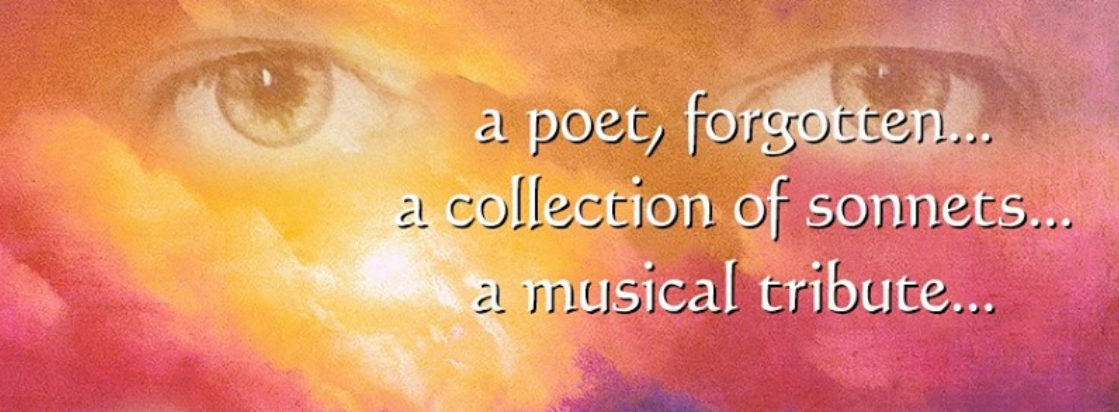
a poet, forgotten...  
a collection of sonnets...

**FB: Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

**8:37 PM:** Little is known about this poet, an internet search revealed almost nothing about her. It's really sad these beautiful poems have mostly been forgotten. So, I decided to record 26 of her poems, as she deserves to be remembered, in her own words, and now, also in my music.

It took less than a month to compose the main vocal melodies, I just sang the lines, recorded them on to fly, and transcribed them into sheet music. After that, finding the proper chords, and writing the accompanying music. It took less than 3 months to complete this, which, as compared to my other projects, is really fast...

The form of a sonnet (14 lines, 140 syllables) is a challenge. Contemporary popular music styles are not suited: no refrain, for instance. So, I wrote two or three main themes for each sonnet, with variations on them, and I applied repetition of short melodic phrases. This may sound rather cold and technical, but to me, creating music is always a blend of emotions, inspiration and technical knowledge.



a poet, forgotten...  
a collection of sonnets...  
a musical tribute...

**FB: Thursday, March 10, 2016**

**9:35 AM:** Aargh. Spotify payout per song: \$0.0000455 (100.000 plays = \$4.55) A year ago, the payout was \$0.004459 per song (100.000 plays = \$455.90). Am I getting ripped off? Yes, I think so... So, please buy my music through iTunes or Amazon...

**11:41 PM:** The albums are almost finished. Really! This Sunday, I think. Other things keep happening that need my attention. Very distracting.

**FB: Saturday, March 12, 2016**

**2:50 AM:** The albums are finished. Recording these songs took a little longer than composing them: about a year... I've re-recorded both vocals and music several times, it took quite a while to create a version good enough to release. Mixing and mastering the final recording sessions wasn't easy either. Although, once the recordings were to my satisfaction, post-production took a little over two months. So, at last, I've finished this project, and it will be offered to my distributor for immediate release through iTunes, Amazon, and other online music shops. Keep watching this page :)

**FB: Monday, March 14, 2016**

**11:19 AM:** After saying 'the albums are almost finished' for about a year, it's nice to be able to say 'the albums are finished'. So I'll say it again :) The albums are finished!

**12:37 PM:** Opening bars of the first song :)



**FB: Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

**9:05 AM:** This will probably get lost in the birthday wishes (for which I'm very grateful!) but the new albums have been offered to my distributor for immediate release.

**FB: Friday, March 18, 2016**

**1:44 AM:** Whilst waiting for confirmation of the release of my new albums I had some time on my hands. So: Version 3.0 of my U-20/220 sample collection for Kontakt has been released! New in this collection: all factory Patches (64) and Timbres (128). Also, some bugs have been resolved. [More information.](#)

**9:49 AM:** Imminent release of the new albums! This is the main promotional photograph. Rather gloomy, to fit in with the music!



**FB: Saturday, March 19, 2016**

**9:59 AM:** Well, I suppose iTunes doesn't publish albums during the weekend. We'll have to wait until next week...

**10:03 AM:** My best selling song at the moment<sup>65</sup>. Odd, because it isn't commercial at all. And 9 minutes in length.

**FB: Tuesday, March 22, 2016**

**9:54 PM:** Now for some good news: I've approved my two new albums for distribution. Usually, it takes very little time before they appear on iTunes. (It seems I missed an email asking for my approval...).

**FB: Wednesday, March 23, 2016**

**1:39 PM:** Waiting for iTunes... won't be long now...

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<sup>65</sup> Red.: *The Tree*.

**10:58 PM:** Well, the iTunes delay gave me some extra time to improve the short promotional video :)

**FB: Thursday, March 24, 2016**

**3:04 AM:** Can't sleep. I keep checking iTunes to see if they published my new albums. Ah well, maybe later today... Next time, I'll set a fixed release date!

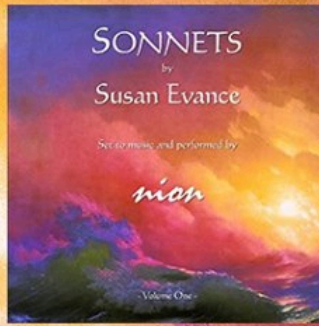
**1:16 PM:** Well, I'm still waiting for the iTunes release of my new albums, so I decided to expand the promotional video to the full single length. The results are very good. Hopefully, I can publish everything, including an updated website, soon!

**FB: Friday, March 25, 2016**

**11:41 AM:** ...iTunes... waiting still... So I've started work on a second video!

**FB: Sunday, March 27, 2016**

**8:02 AM:** It looks like it will be an April release after all. I hope it won't be April 1st...



**NEWS: Sonnets by Susan Evance**

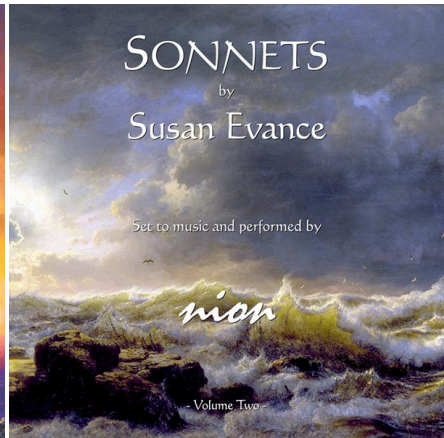
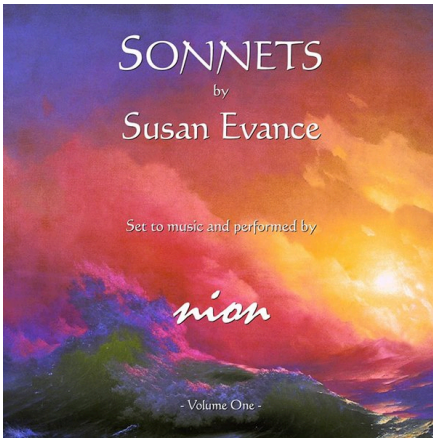
**FB: Monday, March 28, 2016**

**10:32 AM:** With great pleasure, I'd like to announce the release of my new albums, 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', volumes one & two, and the free single 'Why should I fear the spirits of the dead'. More information at my website, <http://www.nion.eu>. Do check out the 'books' page: the e-books are really beautiful!

Now available from iTunes: [Volume One](#); [Volume Two](#).

And, at a discount, from CD Baby: [Volume One](#); [Volume Two](#).

And, Google Play: [Volume One](#); [Volume Two](#).





# Why should I fear the spirits of the dead?

A sonnet by

Susan Evance

**10:34 AM:** Full length video!



## Why should I fear the spirits of the dead single

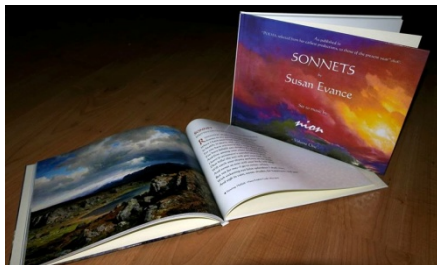
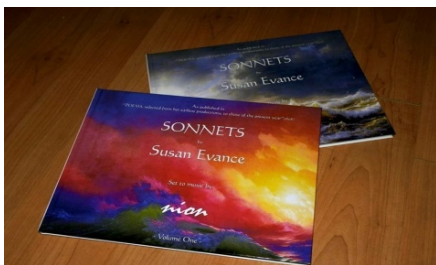
First single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from I...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Tuesday, March 29, 2016**

**12:24 AM:** The e-books accompanying the albums are very beautiful. I needed images to support the beautiful poetry by Susan Evance, and I've found them in 18th century paintings. It's amazing how it all fits. I had them printed as photo albums, and they're looking great.

<http://sonnets.nion.eu>



**FB: Thursday, March 31, 2016**

**7:18 AM:** Free sheet music of my latest single, 'Why should I fear the spirits of the dead', based on a sonnet by Susan Evance, and the single itself:

The image shows a page of sheet music for the song 'Why should I fear the spirits of the dead'. It is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is arranged for voice, piano, and bass. The lyrics are: 'Why should I fear the spi - rits of the dead? What if they wan - der at the hour of night, A - mid these sa - cred walls, with si - lent tread, And dim - ly vi - si - ble to mor - tal sight? What if they ride up - on the wan - dering gale, And with low sighs a - larm the lis - tening ear? Or swell a deep, a sad - ly - sound - ing wail, Like so - lemn dirge of death! why should I fear?' The sheet music includes a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a bass line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

**FB: Friday, April 1, 2016**

**12:31 AM:** Susan Evance, Sonnet written at Netley Abbey

WHY should I fear the spirits of the dead ?  
What if they wander at the hour of night,  
Amid these sacred walls, with silent tread,  
And dimly visible to mortal sight !  
What if they ride upon the wandering gale,  
And with low sighs alarm the listening ear;  
Or swell a deep, a sadly-sounding wail,  
Like solemn dirge of death ! why should I fear?  
No ! seated on some fragment of rude stone,  
While through the Ash-trees waving o'er my head  
The wild winds pour their melancholy moan,

My soul, by fond imagination led,  
Shall muse on days and years for ever flown,  
And hold mysterious converse with the dead !

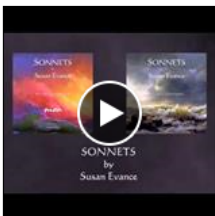
Such a beautiful poem! Paintings by John Constable.

Free .mp3 of this song at <http://sonnets.nion.eu>



**FB: Saturday, April 2, 2016**

**11:27 AM:** A short advertisement for the new albums.

	<p>Sonnets by Susan Evance, set to music and performed by nion</p> <p>Advertisement for the albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' (volumes one &amp; two), by nion.</p> <p>YOUTUBE.COM</p>
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**FB: Monday, April 4, 2016**

**5:06 PM:** Ah! The void after finishing a project! De profundis! What will I do next... :)

**FB: Friday, April 8, 2016**

**12:46 AM:** I'm listening to unfinished demo songs from my 'sleeping' project 'Thy Delightful Shade'. There's enough excellent raw material to make at least one album... It's odd, these songs were written in 2009/2010, I released four singles and then abandoned the project, for no apparent reason... I think it deserves revisiting :)

**FB: Monday, April 11, 2016**

**11:03 PM:** I'm working on some more videos for the 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' albums.

**FB: Friday, April 15, 2016**

**12:20 AM:** April 24: next free single from the albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'!

# Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes

A sonnet by

Set to music and performed by

Susan Evance

nion

**NEWS: Second single from Sonnets by Susan Evance**

**FB: Sunday, April 24, 2016**

**12:15 AM:** I've just released the second free single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'. The video is on Youtube, and the MP3 can be downloaded from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.



**Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes (single)**  
Second single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from ...

YOUTUBE.COM

**8:50 AM:** Hm, 'Tidal' seems to be trending... it has some of my music.

One wonders where the bio text comes from. It's outdated. "His style can be described as melancholic and vaudeville-like." Vaudeville-like? Pfff.

**FB: Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 10:58am**

**10:58 AM:** At last, the new albums are available from Amazon. I really don't know why this took more than a month: Sonnets Volume One and Sonnets Volume Two.

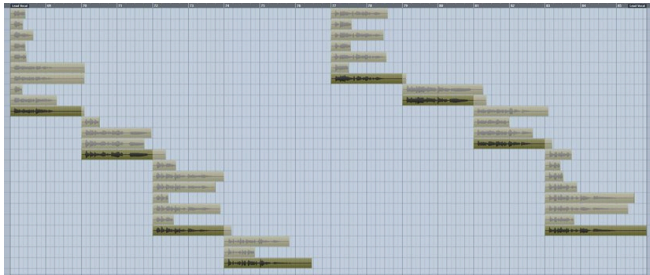
**11:26 AM:** Anyway, buying them from CD Baby might be a better idea anyway. Huge discount!



nion | CD Baby Music Store  
Listen to and buy nion music on CD Baby, the independent record store by musicians for musicians.  
CDBABY.COM

**FB: Monday, April 25, 2016**

**11:38 PM:** Wow. Today it took 130 takes to record the lead vocal for a song I wrote in 2009 (and 7 years of practise before even daring to record it). It's probably so difficult because of the syncopation and the 16th notes, at a fairly high amount of bpm. This is what 1/3 of the song looks like before throwing away the failures (the greyed-out parts):



**FB: Tuesday, April 26, 2016**

**11:19 PM:** I've decided to finish one of my 'sleeping' projects. I've revisited several (almost) finished songs over the last few days, and have added new parts to them - and I've been working on new songs as well. So far, it all sounds very, very promising. Best work so far :) And, as the material was half finished, I should be able to complete the album much quicker than previous projects...

**FB: Thursday, April 28, 2016**

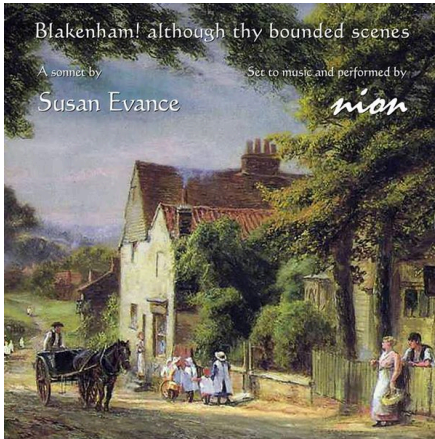
**6:35 PM:** Work on the (previously 'sleeping') project is progressing, but slowly, very slowly. I'm trying out many ideas, but most of them don't work at all. A bit frustrating but I'm not in a rush :)

**FB: Friday, April 29, 2016**

**6:27 AM:** Free sheet music booklet of my latest single 'Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes'. Download the .pdf from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.

The image displays a musical score for a song, consisting of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (soprano), a piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs), and lyrics. The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes a-mong No forests wave, no lofty hills arise, Whence far stretch'd prospects meet the rapid eyes No winding sea-dash shores to thee be-long. Skirted by wild and rocky so-ber, 'Su-bli-mities that must de-light the mind." The score is marked with a tempo of "Allegro" and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics.

**FB: Saturday, April 30, 2016**



**5:48 PM:** Susan Evance, Sonnet to a village in Suffolk, The Residence of a Friend

Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes  
Among no forests wave, no lofty hills arise,  
Whence far-stretch'd prospects meet the raptur'd eyes--  
No winding sea-dasht shores to thee belong,  
Skirted by wild and rocky solitudes,  
"Sublimities that most delight the mind"  
Yet Blakenham, thy still meads where riv'lets wind,  
Thy corn-fields waving 'neath the rustling breeze,  
And thy secluded copses--they are dear  
To me; and when I go far, far away,  
Full oft amid thy scenes will memory stray.  
Ah ! virtue, taste, refinement pure are here;  
And these, when view'd by fond affection's eye,  
Give thee an interest--which shall never die !


Free single available from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>

Full length video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eshQf7c\\_QPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eshQf7c_QPE)



**FB: Tuesday, May 10, 2016**

**9:47 AM:** Full length video of my latest single, from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'.



**Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes (single)**  
Second single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from ...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Friday, May 13, 2016**

**12:11 AM:** Around May 24th: the next free single from my albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'!

**FB: Thursday, May 19, 2016**

**10:53 PM:** A guest musician on my next album :)



**FB: Friday, May 20, 2016**

**12:25 AM:** Facebook warns me I haven't posted in seven days. Perhaps this is because I don't want to give anything away about the stunningly beautiful new songs I'm recording at the moment :) (Except for the singing redbreast.)

# As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays

A sonnet by

## Susan Evance

**NEWS: Third single from Sonnets by Susan Evance**

**FB: Monday, May 23, 2016**

**11:41 AM:** Tomorrow: next single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'!

**10:21 PM** Ah, why wait until tomorrow :) I've just released the third free single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance': 'As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays'. The video is on YouTube, and the MP3 can be downloaded from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.



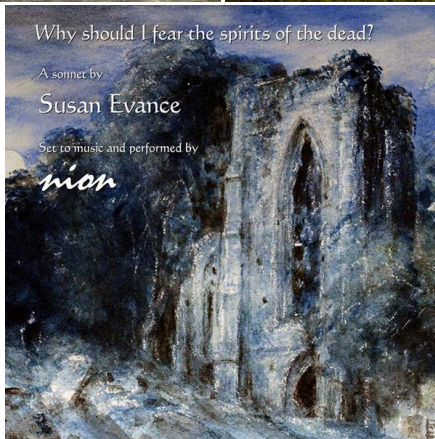
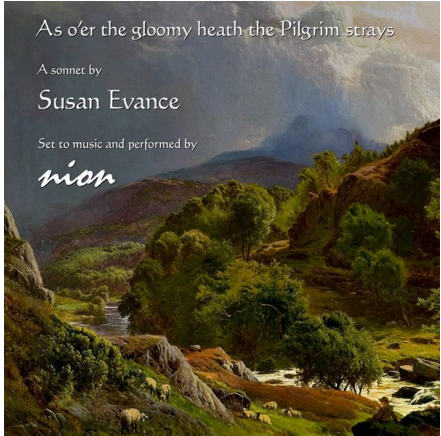
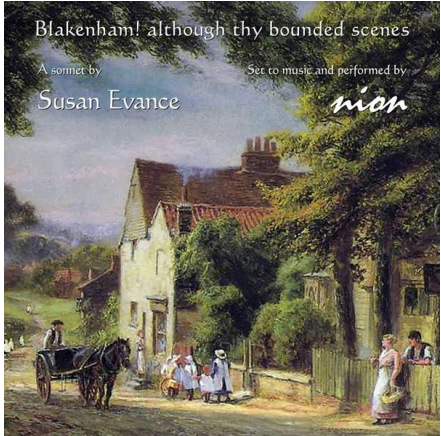
### As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays (single)

Third single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from i...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Saturday, May 28, 2016**

**5:56 AM:** The three free singles (so far) from the albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', volumes one & two. Available from <http://sonnets.nion.eu> and <https://nion.bandcamp.com> (the free singles). The albums are available from iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon, Google Play, etc. (not free).



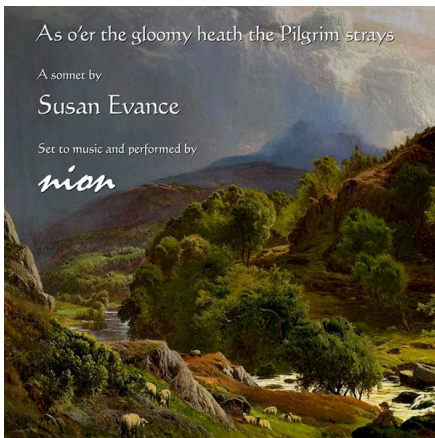
**FB: Thursday, June 2, 2016**

**8:03 AM:** SONNET by Susan Evance

AS o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays,  
When night's dark shadows thicken all around,  
While nought he hears, save the low moaning sound  
Of sweeping winds--at length, far distant rays  
Of light from some low cottage bless his gaze;  
With joy he then pursues his lonely way,  
No longer to despair and grief a prey,  
But cheering hope once more his bosom sways. Thus  
have I wander'd in Life's dreary scene,  
Forlorn and hopeless--while Affliction's blast  
My sky with threat'ning clouds has overcast;  
But gentle Friendship's hallow'd lamp serene,  
With guiding ray has bid my fears depart,  
And spread its soothing influence through my heart.

Free single available from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.

Albums available from iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon, Google Play.



**.FB: Friday, June 10, 2016**

**9:37 AM:** Free sheet music of the single 'As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays' at <http://sonnets.nion.eu>

The image displays a musical score for the song 'As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system starts at measure 13 and includes the lyrics 'As o'er the gloomy heath the'. The second system starts at measure 16 and includes the lyrics 'Pilgrim strays, When night's dark shadows thick-en all a-round, While nought he hears, save the low moaning sound Of sweeping winds at length, far'. The third system starts at measure 19 and includes the lyrics 'dis-tant rays Of light from some low cot-tage bless his gaze; With joy he then pur-'. The fourth system starts at measure 20 and includes the lyrics 'sues his lone-ly way, No long-er to des-pair and grief a prey, But cheer-ing hope once more his bo-som'. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature.

**FB: Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

**5:50 PM:** In about ten days, the fourth (and last) free single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' will be available.

**FB: Saturday, June 18, 2016**

**2:26 AM:** Six days to go :) I've also made a lovely video for the next single!

**FB: Tuesday, June 21, 2016**

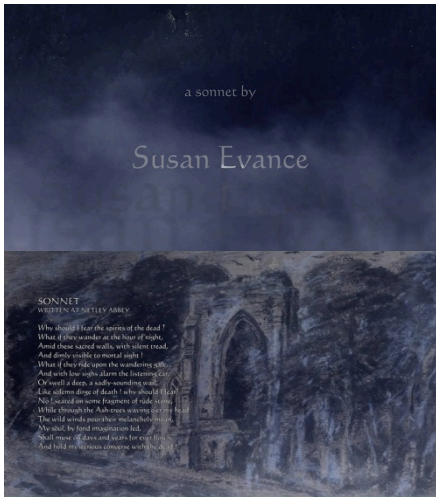
**9:20 AM:** Lots of flowers in the video :)

**FB: Wednesday, June 22, 2016**

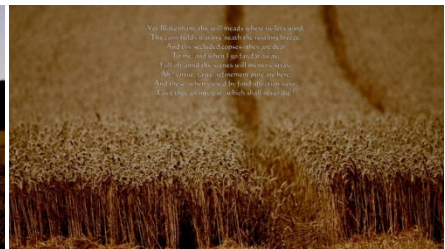
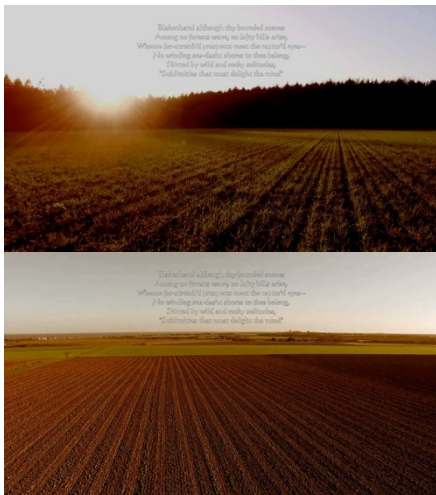
**10:54 AM:** Screenshots from the upcoming video!



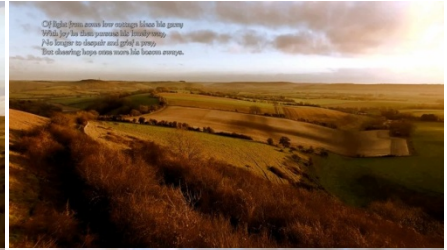
**11:07 PM:** Screenshots from the hi-res video for 'Why should I fear the spirits of the dead?', the first single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'.  
YouTube version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dL\\_VOnbQl4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dL_VOnbQl4)



**11:08 PM:** Screenshots from the hi-res video for 'Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes', the second single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'.  
YouTube version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eshQf7c\\_QPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eshQf7c_QPE)



**11:09 PM:** Screenshots from the hi-res video for 'As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays', the third single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'.  
YouTube version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3Magtb\\_N-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3Magtb_N-8)



**11:11 PM:** And, three more videos are finished! This Friday the fourth free single/video will be released. The remaining two videos will be included in a free Blu-ray video collection, which I intend to release somewhere later this year.



# Did I not see thee ope thy lovely eye

A sonnet by

## Susan Evance

**NEWS: Fourth single from Sonnets by Susan Evance**

**FB: Thursday, June 23, 2016**

**11:15 PM:** I've just released the fourth (and last) free single from my album collection 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'. Free download from <http://sonnets.nion.eu> Full length video on YouTube!



### Did I not see thee ope thy lovely eye (single)

Fourth single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from ...

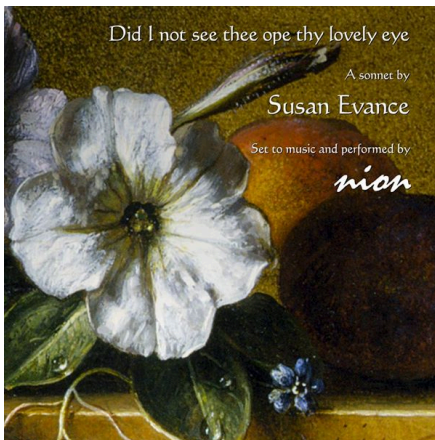
YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Monday, June 27, 2016**

**11:02 PM:** SONNET, by Susan Evance - TO A CONVOLVULUS.

DID I not see thee ope thy lovely eye,  
When Morning came with tresses bath'd in dew?  
Were not thy artless charms display'd to view  
When shone the brilliant sun-beam from on high?  
Now that day's crimson splendours fading slow,  
Yield to soft shadowy eye the silent sway,  
Thou tremblest as the breezes o'er thee stray,  
And fold'st thy leaves, and lay'st thy bosom low.  
Alas, poor flower, thy little life is o'er,  
The yellow morning shall return again,  
But all her chearing dews will fall in vain,  
For thou must never wake to taste them more.  
I grieve for thee, yet, wherefore should I grieve?  
Man's but a morning flow'r that like thee dies at eve.

Free single and video available from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.



**FB: Wednesday, June 29, 2016**

**3:21 PM:** Really COOL! My new Aphex IN2 audio interface. Great for recording vocals, which is all I need, really.



**FB: Thursday, June 30, 2016**

**11:40 AM:** I'm really happy with my Aphex IN2 :) I've made a test recording of the vocal for one of the songs in my next project, and it sounds great. This little machine was designed with vocal recording in mind. Crystal clear :)

**FB: Thursday, July 7, 2016**

**8:42 AM:** Free sheet music of my latest single 'Did I not see thee ope thy lovely eye': <http://sonnets.nion.eu>

Free mp3: <http://sonnets.nion.eu>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMbuN8ZV1wE>

Did I not see thee open thy love-ly eye, When

Morn-ing came with tress-es bath'd in dew? Were not thy art-less charms dis-play'd to view When shone the bril-liant sun-beam from on high?

Now that day's com-son splendours fa-ding slow Yield to soft sha-dow-ey eye the si-lent away, Thou trem-blest as the bree-zes o'er thee stray, And

**FB: Friday, July 8, 2016**

**5:07 AM:** Read the beautiful e-books accompanying my latest albums: <http://sonnets.nion.eu>.

**FB: Wednesday, July 13, 2016**

**8:51 AM:** And, of course, the redesigned version of the original volume of poetry by Susan Evance (same url: <http://sonnets.nion.eu> under '1808 Poems').

**FB: Monday, July 18, 2016**

**10:26 AM:** This summer I will try and finish my next album. The instruments have already been recorded, and some of the vocals as well. However,

some of the vocal parts are rather demanding and I'm not sure how much effort (and time) it will take to get them right...

**3:46 PM:** Well, this is going very well indeed. I've recorded half of the 'difficult' vocal parts and I think they're just fine. Of course, the other half is even more difficult :)

**FB: Tuesday, July 19, 2016**

**11:25 PM:** I've finished some more of the recordings, very happy with the results :)

**FB: Wednesday, July 20, 2016**

**9:36 AM:** The four singles from my albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', volumes one & two, are also available from Bandcamp: <https://nion.bandcamp.com/> Free downloads, but if you want to, you can pay for them (which I'd appreciate).

**6:22 PM:** It seems I've finished all vocal recordings for my next album in three days. I'm quite surprised. My voice sounds great! Smoking 25% of what I used to smoke might be one of the reasons, though :) Now to get rid of the remaining 25%...

**FB: Thursday, July 21, 2016**

**5:19 PM:** Amazing, the new album is taking shape with tremendous speed. Then again, mixing the vocals usually causes great delays :)

**FB: Friday, July 22, 2016**

**8:39 AM:** I'm also preparing a video for the first single.

**FB: Monday, July 25, 2016**

**7:58 AM:** This week, I'll publish the high quality (and add-free) versions of the videos I've made to accompany my albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', volumes 1 & 2. Today, the first single. Tomorrow, the second single, et cetera. At the end of the week: two brand new bonus videos! This will round up all releases from this project.

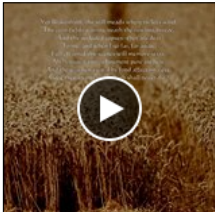


**Why should I fear the spirits of the dead (single edit, without add)**  
First single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). The albums are availab...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Tuesday, July 26, 2016**

**8:01 AM:** The second single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', HQ.



**Blakenham! although thy bounded scenes (single edit, without add)**  
Second single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). The albums are availab...

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**FB: Wednesday, July 27, 2016**

**5:03 AM:** The first bonus video from the project 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', this is one of my favourite sonnets.



**Pale ruthless Demon! terrible Despair! (bonus video)**  
Bonus video #1 from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Several free singles are available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). The albu...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Thursday, July 28, 2016**

**7:52 AM:** The third single from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'.



**As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays (single edit, without add)**

Third single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Albums available from i...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Friday, July 29, 2016**

**10:25 AM:** The fourth single. Tomorrow: the second bonus video.



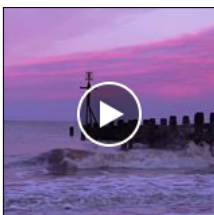
**Did I not see thee ope thy lovely eye (single edit, without add)**

Fourth single from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Free single available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). The albums are availab...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Saturday, July 30, 2016**

**6:50 AM:** This second bonus video from 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' rounds up all releases from this project. All six videos can be viewed from <http://sonnets.nion.eu>



**O take me from the hated haunts of man (bonus video)**

Bonus video #2 from the album(s) 'Sonnets by Susan Evance', set to music and performed by nion. Several free singles are available from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). The albu...

YOUTUBE.COM

**FB: Monday, August 1, 2016**

**10:43 AM:** New, superfast computer. I'm very pleased. 64 GB RAM and 4 GHz processor :) Video rendering times a fraction of what they used to be. Fast loading of huge piano sample banks and real time playback without having to render to WAV first. OK, quite an investment (> 1.500 Euros) but this makes life so much easier!

**FB: Wednesday, August 3, 2016**

**12:00 AM:** Work on the next album is going very well. I've been working on this project for seven years and the puzzle pieces are suddenly falling in place. It's not uncommon for me to work on a project for such a long time... And, I'm usually working on several projects at the same time. This project will be finished this year, and I'm hoping for an album release somewhere in November or December.

**FB: Thursday, August 4, 2016**

**9:32 AM:** Ah! Facebook has made significant improvements to the layout of artist pages. Mine's [here](#).

**FB: Friday, August 5, 2016**

**10:32 AM:** All instruments and vocals for the next album have been recorded. Now for the difficult part: mixing & mastering. Usually takes more effort than recording...

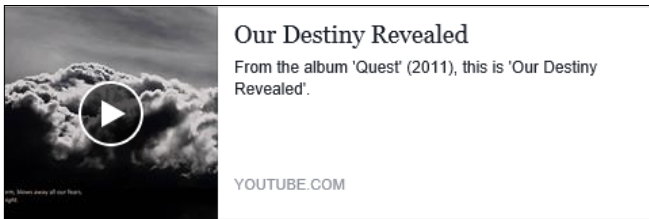
**FB: Monday, August 8, 2016**

**2:18 PM:** I'm taking a short break from the new album, and I'm making a video for an 'old' song from my album Quest (2011).



**5:03 PM** The haunting track 'Our Destiny Revealed' from the album Quest (2011) needed a video :) I've rediscovered this song while I was archiving material, and I'm quite impressed by its beauty. Very ambient, multi-layered voices.

The entire Quest album is rather dark, actually, in retrospect it's a clear prelude to my later work. I'm not very fond of my first two albums (too much concessions to modern pop music), but Quest (the third one) still meets my approval :)

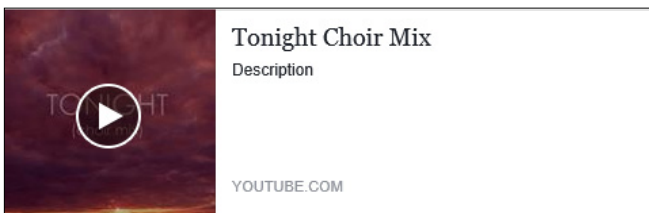


**FB: Wednesday, August 10, 2016**

**1:30 AM:** The website and artwork for the next album are as good as finished. But that's always the easy part :)

**FB: Thursday, August 11, 2016**

**10:48 AM:** My 2013 single 'Tonight', without vocals. I made this short video because I think the musical arrangement (especially the piano) deserves to be heard without the vocals (except for the symphonic choir).



**FB: Friday, August 12, 2016**

**12:11 AM:** One of the photo ideas for the new album. I've had to Photoshop the graffiti off the stones... (compare the pictures)! Why do people have to ruin beautiful things?



**FB: Monday, August 15, 2016**

**10:50 AM:** I've decided to redesign my entire website, on the occasion of the new album (which isn't finished, by the way). More compact and 'mobile friendly'...

**FB: Tuesday, August 16, 2016**

**12:12 PM:** Aah... redesigning more than 100 web pages is a lot of work, when you're still using Frontpage... Copy & Paste speeds it up a little, but I really should transfer everything to a more modern application :)

### **FB: Wednesday, August 17, 2016**

**1:33 PM:** I'm practising dramatic vocal expression by recording 'Non, je ne regrette rien' and similar (torch) songs. Quite taxing! I've thinking about making an album of cover songs for a while... But I should finish all the other unfinished projects first... there are quite a lot of them by now :)

### **FB: Wednesday, August 17, 2016**

**1:42 PM:** Now here's a quote I can identify with: "Some may say that I couldn't sing, but no one can ever say I didn't sing". --Florence Foster Jenkins. Interesting Meryl Streep movie.

### **FB: Thursday, August 18, 2016**

My combined blogs, news items and Facebook posts about recording and publishing my music, in a 187<sup>66</sup> page - illustrated - .pdf-document (A5). Everything from 2008 up to now. Probably too much tech talk for most people :)

Available from this page (lower right corner).

### **FB: Thursday, August 18, 2016**

Mixing stage for the new album. Which is the difficult part... But everything has been recorded, that's an achievement in itself :) I'm not setting a release date, from experience I know that mixing/mastering takes a while.

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<sup>66</sup> Red.: 223 and growing :)

**FB: Monday, August 22, 2016**

I know I'm taking this completely out of context... but... my song Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee appears to be just as popular as several Kate Bush songs, on iTunes :) (and 30 cents cheaper!)

Deeper Understanding	Kate Bush	Director's Cut	6:33	€ 1.29
And So Is Love	Kate Bush	Director's Cut	4:20	€ 1.29
Top of the City	Kate Bush	Director's Cut	4:23	€ 1.29
Song of Solomon	Kate Bush	Director's Cut	4:44	€ 1.29
Never Be Mine	Kate Bush	Director's Cut	5:05	€ 1.29
Army Dreamers	Kate Bush	Never for Ever	2:58	€ 1.29
<hr/>				
Shall Earth No More inspire Thee	Nion	Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee - Single	4:18	€ 0.99

**FB: Friday, August 26, 2016**

Interesting, my Spotify payouts are increasing: \$ 0.01 per song. A few months ago, it was \$ 0.0008. Which means I'll 'only' have to sell 15 million songs to quit my other job, instead of 187 million :)

(I don't want to quit my other job, by the way, it's way too interesting.)

**FB: Wednesday, August 31, 2016**

Back to work on the new album, after finishing Obduction. Or shall I play the game once more...?

**FB: Sunday, September 4, 2016**

My album 'Quest', originally released in 2011, this week only, at € 7.99 from Bandcamp. Including 17 bonus tracks!

<https://nion.bandcamp.com/.../quest-bandcamp-exclusive-edition>



**FB: Sunday, September 11, 2016**



My album 'The Void', originally released in 2009. This week only, at 7.99 from Bandcamp: <https://nion.bandcamp.com/.../the-void-bandcamp-exclusive-edi...>

Includes 22 bonus tracks!

**FB: Sunday, September 18, 2016**

My album 'Lost In Love', originally released in 2007. This week only, at 7.99 from Bandcamp: <https://nion.bandcamp.com/.../lost-in-love-bandcamp-exclusive...>

Includes 25 bonus tracks!

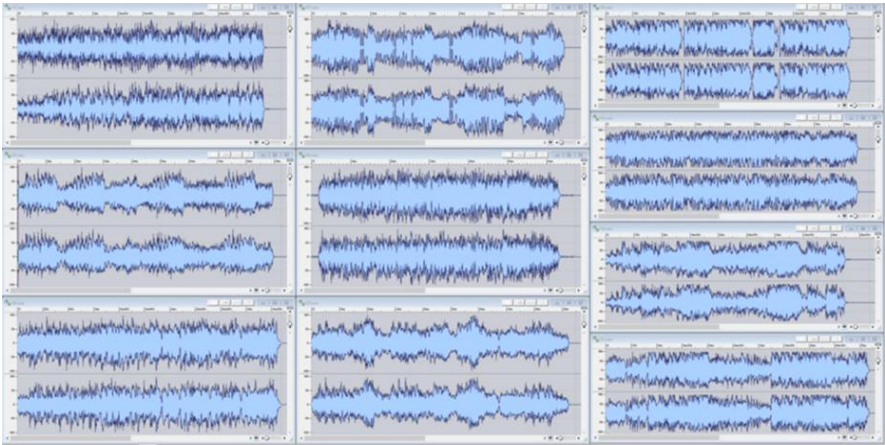


**FB: Monday, September 19, 2016**

The last few weeks I've been mixing my new album, mainly the vocals (as this is usually the most difficult part). I've just listened to a rough mix of all ten songs, and I'm quite happy with the way it all sounds. I've learned quite a few new mixing 'tricks'; the vocals are really clean and well placed in the mix. Of course, the base material was quite good to begin with, apart from having to filter some noise out, and remove the rather peculiar throat sounds I seem to produce in between notes :)

**FB: Friday, September 23, 2016**

My next album, 10 songs, first test mix ☺



**FB: Monday, September 26, 2016**

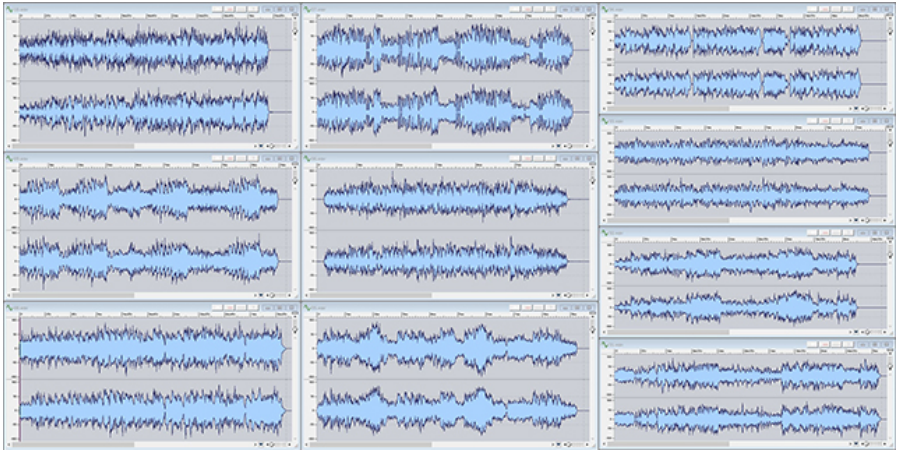
Highlights from my double album 'Sonnets by Susan Evance'. Ten songs, including the four singles, at only € 2.99 from Bandcamp:

<https://nion.bandcamp.com/album/sonnets-by-susan-evance-highlights>



**FB: Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

My next album, second test mix ☺



**FB: Thursday, October 6, 2016**

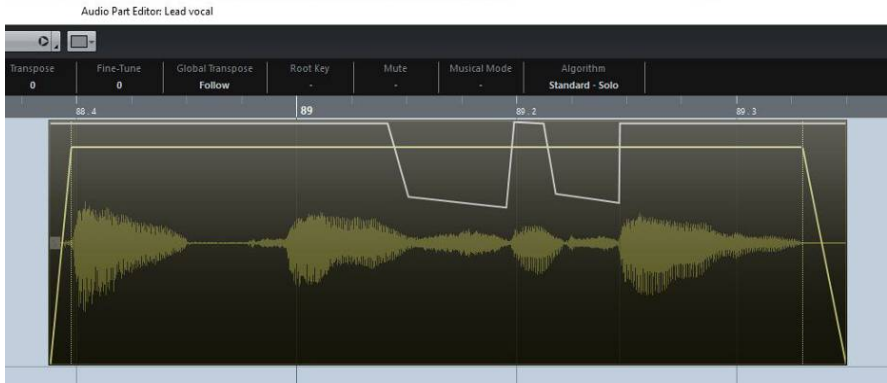
Ah, the fun part of mixing an album: adding effects like reverb. I tend to overdo that, but further on in the process I'll correct that :)



**FB: Friday, October 7, 2016**



Problems with de-essing again... I can't seem to get it right with plug-ins. So, I've decided to do it manually this time. Every ess - sh - ch etc. Which is going to take a lot of time...



### **FB: Friday, October 21, 2016**

It's really amazing how much filters can improve a vocal... EQ, gate, limiter, de-esser, compressor - after some tweaking it just sounds great. I'm finishing the final mixing for the new album (it took a few months...). Next step: mastering. But that's not too complicated :)

### **FB: Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

I'm still mixing/mastering the new album, but I'm running out of ideas, so I guess it's almost finished :)

### **FB: Monday, October 31, 2016**

The first serious mastering attempt at the new album has been completed. I think it sounds pretty good :)

Meanwhile, the sheet music from my albums 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' is available for free, for a limited period, from my website:

<http://www.nion.eu/SonnetsVolumeOneSheetMusic.pdf>

<http://www.nion.eu/SonnetsVolumeTwoSheetMusic.pdf>



**FB: Thursday, November 3, 2016**

Annoying! Two rather expensive headphones (same brand, different types), and the new album sounds great on one and horrible on the other. Which means many, many hours of experimenting in order to get it to sound right on both. The album sounds great on the speakers, though :)

**FB: Friday, November 4, 2016**

Dynamic equalizers, wow, instant improvement. I'd forgotten that :)  
Problem (almost) solved!

**FB: Monday, November 7, 2016**

I'm mixing the new album on the speakers, and I keep hearing this weird clicking sound throughout the song, (mostly) on the beat. It took me a while to realize it's me, tapping my foot to the rhythm, and the plastic nose of my doggy slipper hitting the keyboard stand :)



I've finished the first serious mastering session for the new album (despite interruptions from my other job - the one that pays for the mortgage and for sustenance...). I'm really impressed with the overall sound!

**FB: Wednesday, November 9, 2016**

Ah well. Enough about politics. I'm going to finish mastering my new album today.

*[Later...]* Ah! 12 hours of mastering the new album... My ears need some rest ;)

It sounds pretty good, but I think I'll need one more session. But right now, I have to let it rest for a while. Perhaps even a few weeks.

I've smoked just one cigarette today, which is also quite an achievement :)

**FB: Monday, November 14, 2016**

An automated mixing/mastering application suggests I should EQ my voice this way. It seems a bit over the top ;) But, it actually sounds great (although I will make some further tweaks myself).



**FB: Thursday, November 17, 2016**

Same process, different equalizer, smoother results :) We're getting there, eventually...



**FB: Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

Oww... with the new album as good as finished, I've decided to re-record several lead vocals. Not an easy decision, as it will mean a lot of unforeseen extra work and thus, a significant delay...

**FB: Sunday, November 27, 2016**

My 2009 Christmas single, "Minuit, Chrétiens", now available again from Bandcamp (free): <http://nion.bandcamp.com/>.

**FB: Thursday, December 1, 2016**

I've re-recorded two lead vocals for my next album, and to my delight they're much better than the previous recordings.

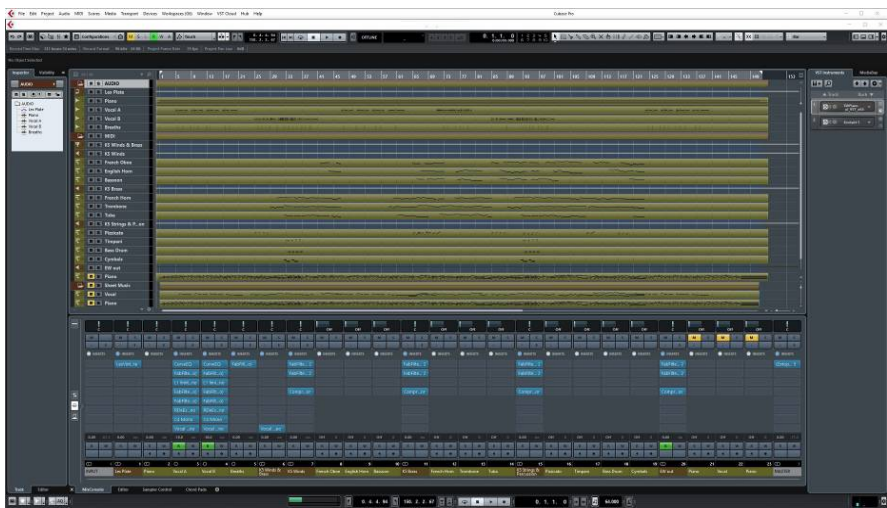
**FB: Tuesday, December 6, 2016**

Busy at work, why does everything always have to be finished before Christmas? Although January may be quiet because of that :)

I managed to do one run through the entire new album and it sounds 'near completion'. No release this year though, I don't want it to disappear in the Christmas rush.

**FB: Thursday, December 8, 2016**

Just released: Steinberg's Cubase 9, the lower zone is a great improvement!



2017

**FB: Monday, January 9, 2017**

After a two-week holiday I've resumed working on my next album. There's not much left to do, I'm listening to the vocals once more, and do some fine tuning. I will be mastering the songs this and next week. Which means I can - hopefully - release a single this month, and the album shortly after that.

**FB: Wednesday, January 11, 2017**

Funny, just like last year, the window cleaner is the first one to hear my new album. Perhaps I should sound proof my window :)



**NEWS: Times Go By Turns – full length video****FB: Thursday, January 12, 2017**

The new single and album are finished! I will deliver them to my distributor later today. There will be a single release soon, and the album will be released shortly after that.

In the mean time... I've visualized the four singles from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade', using stock videos. The fourth single was 'Times Go By Turns', based on the poem by Saint Sir Robert Southwell, who met his end in a very nasty way: hung, drawn and quartered. The single was released in October 2014. The song was remastered for this video release.



I've always associated this poem with winter, therefore: lots of snow in the video. The full length video can be found here: [https://youtu.be/lnW2EDW\\_jj0](https://youtu.be/lnW2EDW_jj0).

The single itself is still available on iTunes (and other online shops):  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/times-go-by-turns-single/id923820093>.

**FB: Friday, January 13, 2017**

Ow, Friday the 13th today :)

The full score sheet music for 'Times Go By Turns' (see also the video posted below) is free, and can be found here:  
<http://www.nion.eu/Current/ThyDelightfulShade/pdf/TGBT-sm.pdf>.

By the way, the release date for the new single has been set for January 25. But, online shops don't always pay attention to requested dates, when you're not a really famous artist. We'll see...

[Later...] A lot of snow was promised, so, waking up to this was a bit disappointing.

If you want to see lots of snow, watch the video below: my song Times Go By Turns.



**FB: Saturday, January 14, 2017**

Oh great. An online shop has just made my new single available for pre-order. I didn't ask for that and it sort of spoils the surprise.



## **NEWS: Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee – full length video**

**FB: Sunday, January 15, 2017**

The second video from the project 'Thy Delightful Shade' was the first single, released in May 2013, my setting of 'Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee', based on the (originally untitled) poem by Emily Brontë.

I'm pleased with this video; it illustrates the music and the poem very well (in my opinion). The song itself is one of my favourites, it's quite haunting. The track was remastered for this video release. The full length video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/Yau3BE836io>.



The single itself is still available on iTunes (and other online shops): <https://itunes.apple.com/album/shall-earth-no-more-inspire/id645807705?l=en>.

**FB: Monday, January 16, 2017**

In one month I've earned 43 cents by selling 167 streams on Google Play. I'm going to be rich!

**FB: Tuesday, January 17, 2017**

The full score sheet music for 'Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee' (piano, vocal and choir) is free, and can be found here:

<http://www.nion.eu/Current/ThyDelightfulShade/pdf/SENMIT-sm.pdf>.

On January 25, I will release a brand new single (if the online shops pay attention to the preferred release date my distributor has given them).

**FB: Thursday, January 19, 2017**

I wanted to publish another video today but I'm down with the flu. Hopefully that will pass soon.

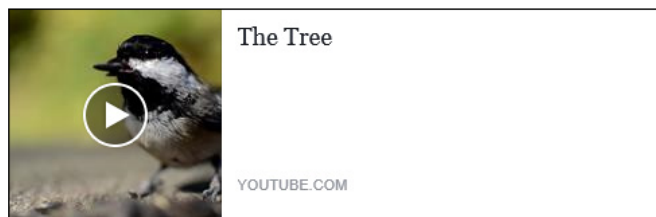
## **NEWS: The Tree – full length video**

**FB: Friday, January 20, 2017**

The third video from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade' is 'The Tree', based on the beautiful poem by Anne Finch. This single was released in August 2014. It's a nine minute ode to nature, and I think of it as a symphonic poem. The music was remastered for this video release.

The full length video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbtlkqNBiKl>. There are many, many trees in it :)



The single itself is still available on iTunes (and other online shops):

<https://itunes.apple.com/album/the-tree-single/id904854224>.

**FB, Sunday, January 22, 2017**

The full score sheet music for 'The Tree' is free, and can be found here:

<http://www.nion.eu/Current/ThyDelightfulShade/pdf/TT-sm.pdf>.

**NEWS: The Deserted House – full length video**

**FB: Monday, January 23, 2017**

I'm glad I prepared the posts about the videos for Thy Delightful Shade in advance, before being struck down by the flu. All I have to do is copy & paste, which I can manage...

As promised, another video from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade'. The second single, my rendition of 'The Deserted House' by Alfred Lord Tennyson, was released in March 2014. It is one of the most beautiful songs I've written. The song was remastered for this video release. The visualisation is quite nice as well. The full length video can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07NV-iM\\_QRc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07NV-iM_QRc).

	<p><b>The Deserted House</b></p> <p>As promised, another video from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade'. The second single, my rendition of 'The Deserted House' by Alfred Lord Tennyson, was relea...</p> <p>YOUTUBE.COM</p>
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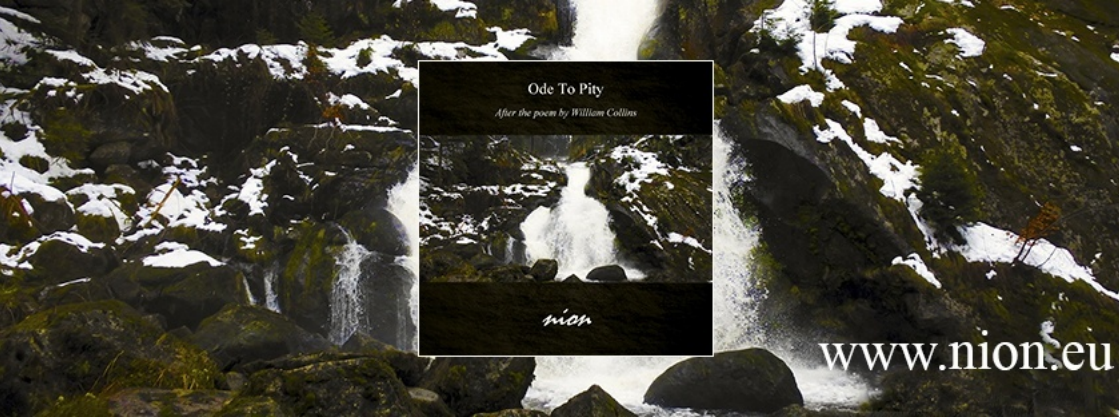
The single itself is still available on iTunes (and other online shops): <https://itunes.apple.com/album/the-deserted-house-single/id828814710>.

**FB, Tuesday, January 24, 2017**

The piano/vocal sheet music for 'The Deserted House' is free, and can be found here:

<http://www.nion.eu/Current/ThyDelightfulShade/pdf/TDH-sm.pdf>.

Tomorrow (hopefully): new single release at last!



www.nion.eu

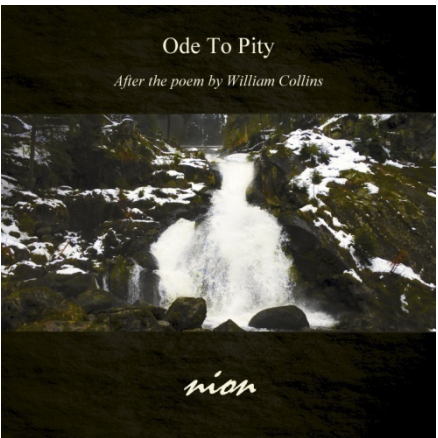
**NEWS: Ode To Pity – single release and full length video**

**FB: Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

More than two years have passed since the release of the last single from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade'. Now, I'd like to announce a new single, the fifth in the cycle. 'Ode To Pity', a poem by William Collins, has inspired me to make one of my best works ever.

The full length video can be found here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvwl8wB5AaI>.

There's quite a surprise, starting at around 6.30 minutes! Also, a lot of running water :)



<p>O Thou, the Friend of Man asquard,          With balmy Hands his Wounds to bind,          And charm his frantic Woe;          When first Distress with Dagger keen          Broke forth to viewst his desart'd Scene,          His wild unmet Foot</p> <p>By Pella's Bard, a magic Name,          By all the Græks his Thoughts could frame,          Receive my humble Rite:          Long, Pity, let the Nations view          Thy sky-worn Robes of fere-drest Blue,          And Eyes of dewy Light!</p> <p>But wherefore need I wander wide          To old Iliss' distant Side,          Deserted Stream, and many?          Wild Aron too has heard thy Strains,          And Echo, 'midst my native Plains,          Been sooth'd by Pity's Lute.</p> <p>There first the Wren thy Myrtles shed          On gentler Orway's infant Head,          To Ham thy Cell was shown;          And while the song the Female hears,          With Youth's soft Notes unsuold by Art,          Thy Turtles mix'd their own.</p>	<p>Come, Pity, come, by Fancy's Aid,          It's mine my Thoughts, enrapt'ring Maid,          Thy Temple's Pride design:          In Southern Site, its Truth compleat          Shall raise a wild Enthusiast Heart,          In all who view the Shrine.</p> <p>There Picture's Tolls shall well relate,          How Chance, or hard Involving Fate,          Or mortal Illus prevail;          The Husk'd Mine shall near her stand,          And sighing prompt her tender Hand,          With each disastrous Tale.</p> <p>There let me sit, retir'd by Day,          In Dreams of Passion melt away,          Allow'd with Thee to dwell:          There waste the mournful Lamp of Night,          Till, Virgin, Thou again delight          To hear a British shell!</p>	<p>Written, performed and produced by <i>nion</i></p> <p>All rights reserved © 2017  <a href="https://www.nion.eu">https://www.nion.eu</a></p>  <p>1 91061 26265 5</p>
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'Ode To Pity' is available from iTunes, CD Baby, Google Play and many other online shops (links below). If you like the song, please don't just rip the video from YouTube but buy the single!

CD Baby (discount!):

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/nion17>

iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/ode-to-pity-single/id1194752046>

Google Play:

[https://play.google.com/store/music/album/Nion\\_Ode\\_to\\_Pity?id=Bt6pf6dxyj36foeexpug6vzb7eki](https://play.google.com/store/music/album/Nion_Ode_to_Pity?id=Bt6pf6dxyj36foeexpug6vzb7eki)

and many other online shops.

More information: <http://www.nion.eu>.

### **FB: Thursday, January 26, 2017**

All videos from the project Thy Delightful Shade in one playlist:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk5yNRovIkB\\_CUmPQ9yX7TUGfrGicCLFC](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk5yNRovIkB_CUmPQ9yX7TUGfrGicCLFC)

### **FB: Saturday, January 28, 2017**

Full length video for my new single, 'Ode To Pity', released earlier this week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvwI8wB5AaI>.



**FB: Sunday, January 29, 2017**

Next Thursday: brand new album release!

**FB: Monday, January 30, 2017**

Oh, it appears to be: "Next Wednesday, brand new album release!"



**NEWS: Thy Delightful Shade – album release**

**FB: Wednesday, February 1, 2017**

I'm very pleased to be able to announce the release of my album 'Thy Delightful Shade', a collection of ten British poems set to music. The project has been 'under development' for seven years, with single releases in 2013, in 2014 and, last month, 'Ode To Pity'. The older singles have been included on the album, remastered and extended versions. Apart from that, six other poems were set to music.

The album is available from iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby and Google Play (links below). CD Baby is substantially cheaper than the other shops!

More information: <http://thydelightfulshade.nion.eu>.



**Thy Delightful Shade**

*nion*

1. Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee (5:14)  
*After the poem by Emily Jane Bronte*
2. The Deserted House (4:43)  
*After the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson*
3. Ode To Pity (8:34)  
*After the poem by William Collins*
4. To Autumn (4:57)  
*After the poem by John Keats*
5. The Tree (9:41)  
*After the poem by Anne Finch*
6. The Redbreast (6:47)  
*After the poem by Susan Evans*
7. The Hermit (9:03)  
*After the poem by James Keatts*
8. Come, Come - What Do I Here? (3:30)  
*After the poem by Henry Vaughan*
9. Times Go By Turns (9:10)  
*After the poem by Saint Sir Robert Southwell*
10. Cradle Song (3:32)  
*After the poem by William Blake*

Written, performed and produced by *nion*  
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<http://www.nion.eu>

1 91061 26403 3

Apart from releasing a brand new album, I've also redesigned my website. It looks great! See: <http://www.nion.eu>.

The five videos from 'Thy Delightful Shade' (complete songs) can now be viewed from <http://thydelightfulshade.nion.eu>.

You can buy the album from:

CD Baby (discount!):

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/nion18>

iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/thy-delightful-shade/id1195008858>

Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/Thy-Delightful-Shade-nion/dp/B01N7ULKYQ/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?s=dmusic&ie=UTF8&qid=1485215015&sr=1-2&keywords=nion&refinements=p\\_n\\_feature\\_browse-bin:625150011](https://www.amazon.com/Thy-Delightful-Shade-nion/dp/B01N7ULKYQ/ref=sr_1_2?s=dmusic&ie=UTF8&qid=1485215015&sr=1-2&keywords=nion&refinements=p_n_feature_browse-bin:625150011)

Google Play:

[https://play.google.com/store/music/album/Nion\\_Thy\\_Delightful\\_Shade?id=Bqw2ud466xqr3h2icjr26x3f5pq](https://play.google.com/store/music/album/Nion_Thy_Delightful_Shade?id=Bqw2ud466xqr3h2icjr26x3f5pq)

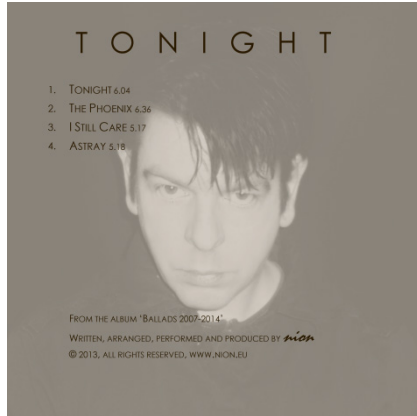
**FB: Monday, February 6, 2017**

Free sheet music for the single Ode To Pity can be found here:

<http://www.nion.eu/2017ThyDelightfulShade/pdf/OdeToPitySheetMusic.pdf>

**FB, Sunday, February 12, 2017**

Available exclusively from CD Baby: two extended play versions of previously released singles: Tonight (2013) and The Phoenix (2014), both featuring three bonus tracks. Here: <http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/nion>.





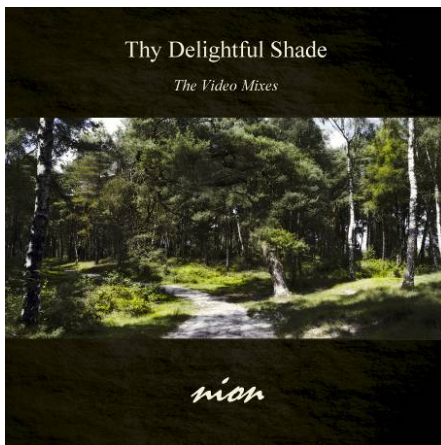
**NEWS: Thy Delightful Shade – bonus EP release**

**FB: Wednesday, March 1, 2017**

I've received several requests to release the remastered mixes of the first four singles from Thy Delightful Shade, as featured in the videos, so I've rush-released an EP featuring all four songs.

It's exclusively available from CD Baby, at just \$ 1.96:

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/nion23>



All five videos from 'Thy Delightful Shade' (complete songs) can be viewed from <http://thydelightfulshade.nion.eu>.

**FB: Monday, March 20, 2017**

I've had the sheet music book printed for my new album Thy Delightful Shade, as I did with the previous album, and it looks really beautiful, as you can see on these pictures. The book is available as a download from <http://www.nion.eu/2017ThyDelightfulShade/Album.htm> (the file is 140 MB!).



**FB: Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

I really don't know what kind of album to make next. Therefore, I'm recording symphonies by Beethoven and waltzes by Strauss, to pass the time. Emulating an entire orchestra is quite fun, and orchestral sample collections are quite realistic, nowadays. Perhaps I should write a symphony myself :)

## FB: Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Still have no idea what kind of album to make next. I toyed with the idea of recording classical arias but I'm afraid I can't possibly compete with trained classical singers :)

## FB: Monday, May 1, 2017

Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. Two	Ah No--Enthusiasm's Hour Is Fied	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	Pale Ruthless Demon! Terrible Despair!	No	stream	4.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.01110000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	I Know Thy Charms, Sweet Love! Enchanting Boy	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	As O'er the Gloomy Heath the Pilgrim Strays	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	Sweet Evening, Hail! Thy Melancholy Hour	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. Two	Romantic Shades, By Nature Wildly Dreast!	No	stream	3.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00830000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. Two	Contentment! I Have Left the Lowly Spot	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	Why Should I Fear the Spirits of the Dead	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. Two	Did I Not See Thee Ope Thy Lovely Eye	No	stream	5.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.01390000
Google Music Store	Nion	Sonnets by Susan Evance, Vol. One	O Leave Me Not, Content! I Cannot Bear	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00280000	\$0.00280000

As you can see, I'm getting rich fast :) Ah well, better than nothing at all, I guess...

## FB: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Today, I've written an orchestral brass arrangement for one of the songs I've been working on (and off) for 8 years. 3 trumpets, 4 horns, 4 trombones and 3 tubas. It sounds great, beautiful harmonies. Perhaps my writer's block is fading at last?



**FB: Sunday, June 11, 2017**

Ah, why not draw your attention, once again, to my latest album :) Available from iTunes, et cetera ([www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu)).



**FB: Thursday, July 13, 2017**

Writers' block. I'm just sitting here, listening to half finished projects and they're all awful. I need to write something new but I've got no idea what. I think I'll go back to sleep. Again.

**FB: Wednesday, July 26, 2017**

I've started working on an old project, the one with songs sung in Latin. The songs were written (in 2009/2010, wow, that's seven years ago!) on the piano, with vocals, but not orchestrated, and I now think that's too basic.

So I'm adding instruments, sometimes even deleting entire piano arrangements, and it seems to go well. Although somehow this takes a lot of energy, much more than I experienced with previous projects. I

have no idea if I will ever release or even finish this project. But it's a start, after four months of doing nothing at all...

Unfortunately, an extremely busy period is coming up at my other job, so I hope I can combine business with pleasure. At the moment, I'm not sure which of the two (music or job) is the pleasure part...

I've never had so much trouble making music, perhaps I'm raising the bar too high? But I think each new project should be better than the previous one (and I was very pleased with 'Thy Delightful Shade').

### **FB: Wednesday, August 16, 2017**

My grandmother, Lenie Lammers-De Mug, died in 2009. This month, she would have been 101 years old, had she lived.

I dedicated my 2014 single Times Go By Turns to her, which was later included on the album Thy Delightful Shade.

The full-length video for Times Go By Turns can be seen here: <http://www.nion.eu/2017ThyDelightfulShade/Videos4.htm>

### **FB: Friday, September 1, 2017**

Well, the past six months I've worked on several ideas and none of them have worked out. So, my next album will NOT be:

- a collection of songs by Erik Satie;
- a collection of songs sung in Latin;
- a collection of folk songs about birds;
- a symphony;
- a mass or Requiem;
- an album containing arias from operas;
- a concept album about the Egyptian book of the dead;
- an album of synth pop;
- a Christmas album.

At least it's good to know what doesn't work (although I might try some of them again, at some point in the future).

I have some ideas left, in a few weeks I'll know if anything works out :) Any release this year is very unlikely - it'll probably be 2019 before something new is finished.

**FB: Monday, September 4, 2017**

It's been ten years since I released my very first single, so I thought: let's make it available again (for a while):

[iTunes](#)

[Amazon](#)

**FB: Monday, October 16, 2017**

Ah! I've managed to get the Music Player & Shop working again on my artist page:

<https://www.facebook.com/nionartist/app/190322544333196/>

**FB: Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

Autumn sale :)

All songs now reduced to \$0.49 at CD Baby



**nion | CD Baby Music Store**

Listen to and buy nion music on CD Baby, the independent record store by musicians for musicians.

[STORE.CDBABY.COM](http://STORE.CDBABY.COM)

**FB: Wednesday, October 18, 2017**

Ah! I felt like improving my website. The new layout is much better (in my opinion). <http://www.nion.eu/>

**FB: Thursday, October 19, 2017**

I've made some further improvements to my restyled website at [http://www.nion.eu.](http://www.nion.eu/)

The only thing missing is a new CD release... but I will start working on that. I have some ideas!



**FB: Friday, November 17, 2017**

I'm choosing 'things' for a next album. I've settled on a theme and it looks promising. But: very early stages. Knowing myself, I might just change it completely, somewhere in the future :)

**FB: Friday, December 15, 2017**

Booklet for the 2016 release of 'Sonnets by Susan Evance (Highlights)'. The music is available exclusively from [Bandcamp](http://Bandcamp). The booklet is a test print, and I'm quite happy with it. Next time, I should try and keep the camera steady though :)





**FB: Thursday, December 21, 2017**

I'm recording a song for a special occasion. I'm not sure if I can finish it in time but I'll try...

*Update:* Well, I didn't finish it in time. It will have to wait a year :)

2018

FB: Wednesday, January 3, 2018

:)





## FB: Thursday, January 4, 2018

'X' is a unique release, containing all recordings and videos I made between 2007 and 2017 (ten years, hence the title...), on four DVD's, accompanied by a 44 page 11,5" book containing the artwork. Limited edition!

Three audio DVD's, containing all songs from my albums (including bonus tracks, remixes and single b-sides) and one DVD containing the videos from 'Quest', 'Sonnets by Susan Evance' and 'Thy Delightful Shade'.

Available through mail order only, at € 89.99 (EU), £ 79.99 (UK) and \$ 120 (worldwide), which may seem a lot, but if you buy all songs through iTunes, it would cost you at least € 99.99 - and you won't have the book :)

If you want to purchase this collection, please pay through Paypal (info@nion.eu), and include your address. Please allow three weeks for production and shipping.

\* Worldwide shipping is very expensive!



It's been ten years since I released my first album, and I thought it would be nice to make a compilation of everything I released since. 'X' contains three audio DVD's, a video DVD, and a beautiful 11,5" 44 page book. It doesn't come cheap, as production costs are quite high. And it's a limited edition :)

Compilation page:

<http://www.nion.eu/2013Compilations/images/X.jpg>

Full website: <http://www.nion.eu>

## FB: Monday, January 8, 2018

The very first step towards a new album :)



**FB: Wednesday, January 10, 2018**

Vocal melodies & chords for three songs are finished. Quite a few more to go :)

**FB: Monday, January 15, 2018**

Eight songs, so far :)

*Later:*

Ten songs (vocal melodies & chords) finished (as well as several fragments). This part of the process is relatively easy, once I get started. The next step takes much more time, and I expect the material will undergo radical changes during the next few months. But at least I have new material to work on, which is quite a contrast to 2017, the year in which I didn't compose anything at all :)

**FB: Wednesday, January 17, 2018**

Fourteen songs. Four to go. Probably way too much material for one album :)

**FB: Friday, January 19, 2018**

Vocal melodies and chords have been written for all eighteen new songs. Next step: demo recordings (to check out if I can actually sing what I've written, and if it's any good), rewriting melodies, structuring songs, adding instruments. That will take quite a while, but it's great fun of course. See you again next year :)

**FB: Tuesday, January 23, 2018**

Ah well, at least people are listening...

Spotify	Nion	Ode to Pity	Ode to Pity	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00340000
Spotify	Nion	Ode to Pity	Ode to Pity	No	stream	1.0	\$0.00670000

**FB: Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

My goal for February: composing & playing bass & percussion for the new album(s) ;)

**FB: Thursday, February 8, 2018**

I've decided to skip recording percussion for now and I'm concentrating on (electric) piano parts. Bass has been recorded (but will be altered later on).

**FB: Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

I've recorded bass and pianos for 18 songs. Next step is to record them again, and embellish ;)

**FB: Monday, February 19, 2018**

I've finished one song. 17 left to go ;)

**FB: Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

Two songs finished... Although I will probably make some changes further on in the process.

### FB: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Three songs finished, well, almost :)

### FB: Monday, February 26, 2018

Looks like I've written a jazz song. Cool :)



### FB: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Well, I'm stuck at three songs. No progress in orchestrating the other fifteen. Probably just a passing phase...?

### FB: Monday, March 5, 2018

I've spent the entire day on one guitar arrangement. But, it's progress :)

### FB: Friday, March 23, 2018

Eight songs are more or less finished (which is enough for one album), and I have ten more songs 'under development'. I haven't started on the vocals yet, just instruments. I'm quite pleased with the overall sound, which is quite different from the previous album(s) and nothing like what's in the charts nowadays. Which... means, once again, I will not get rich from the sales :)

**FB: Monday, March 26, 2018**



Ah, maj7 chords, they're so beautiful :)

**FB: Thursday, March 29, 2018**

I've decided to put 6 of the 18 new songs 'on hold', as they don't work out, so far. But I'm adding 6 new songs, of which one is a rewritten version of one of the discarded songs. Out of these 23/24 songs, four are nearly finished (and I think they're really good). All in all, I don't expect to finish this project quickly...

**FB: Sunday, April 22, 2018**

Fun part of recording a new album: designing sounds. It takes a lot of time though... Pictured: a rather lush strings-like sound.



new **nionpad001** Output: st. 1 Voices: 0 Max: 32 Purge Tune: 0.00

Midi Ch: [R] 1 Memory: 2.44 MB

Instrument Options | Group Editor | Mapping Editor | Wave Editor | Script Editor

**Mapping Editor** Edit Auto Solo Zone Selected Groups only AutoSel. Grp

List View Select Zone via Midi Root Sample: nion-pad-001-left(10).new

K.Range: D3 - E3 | Velocity: 1 - 127 | Root: D#3 | Volume: 0.00 dB | Pan: -100.0 | Tune: 0.00 st

**Wave Editor** Search Snap Ext. Editor

Sample: nion-pad-001-left(10).new | S.Start: 0 | S.Mod: 0 | S.End: 1400175 | Fmt: 44100 16 | Len: 31.75s

0.0ms | 5.0s | 10.0s | 15.0s | 20.0s | 25.0s | 30.0s

LOOP 1 ▶

**Sample Loop** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**Sync / Slice** Loop Start Loop End X-Fade

416779 | 1400175 | 0

**Zone Envelopes** Loop Edit Tune Count

0.00 0 until end

**Sample Editor** Grid Fix Auto

Width  $\frac{1}{4}$

120.94 BPM  $\frac{4}{4}$

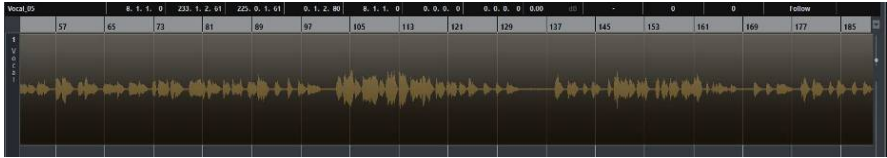
**FB: Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

Having fun with a Korg PolySix emulator. Some of these sounds might end up on the new album :)



**FB: Tuesday, May 29, 2018**

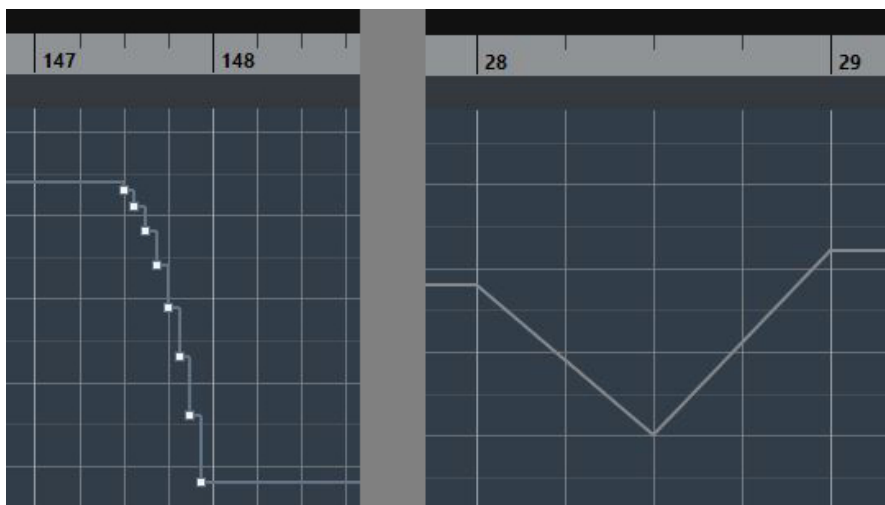
I'm making demo recordings to see if the vocal melodies are working. So far, I think quite a few changes will be necessary...



**FB: Tuesday, June 12, 2018**

For (about) 25 years I've been programming my rallentandos and accelerandos manually (pictured on the left). Today, I found out this can be done with one mouse click (pictured on the right). Ah well, never too old to learn :)





### **FB: Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

Album news: I've finished six songs so far of which I'm (quite) certain they will be included on the album, at a total of 37 minutes of music. So, six songs is not enough, I want to add at least two (or three) more. Ten other songs are still 'under development', and some of them will probably be discarded, or reworked for other projects. Seven songs have already been discarded, but parts of them may be used in future projects. One of those is a really good song but it doesn't fit in with the rest. I'm designing a lot of instruments myself using virtual synthesizers, which is a lot of fun, and leads to unique sounds.



**FB: Tuesday, June 26, 2018**

I've recorded demo vocals for the six tracks that are nearly finished. Great songs, but I will have to practise quite a bit more before I can sing them in key :) But, in general, I'm satisfied with the song structure.



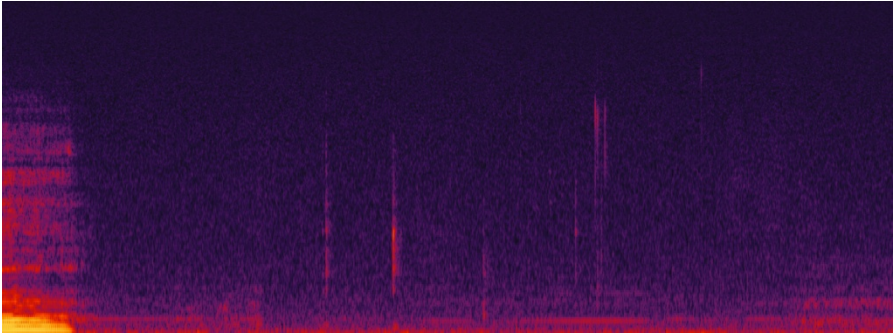
**FB: Wednesday, July 4, 2018**

Well, the idea was to work on my new album, the next two months, during my holiday. But now all seven Myst games have been re-released. Choices, choices...



**FB: Monday, July 23, 2018**

The strange sounds one makes, in between the lines, whilst singing. Clacking of tongue, licking of lips, and sometimes even the creaking of bones.



**FB: Wednesday, July 25, 2018**



Midnight and still 30 degrees (Celsius). Ugh. Trying to work on my songs but my brain seems to have deactivated.

*[Red. later:]*

Recording the second round of demos for the new album, and I'm having much less trouble singing in key (as compared to the first round) :)

Also, it's amazing how much easier it is to breathe now that I'm no longer smoking (well, very little - on average one cigarette a week...). Before, I had to take a breath between every few syllables. Now, I can easily finish an entire line in one breath.

**FB: Wednesday, August 1, 2018**



YOUTUBE.COM

### **Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee**

The second video from the project 'Thy Delightful Shade' was the first single, released in May 2013, my setting of 'Shall Earth No More Inspire...

O! It was Emily Brontë's 200th birthday, last Monday.

**FB: Monday, August 6, 2018**



YOUTUBE.COM

### **The Deserted House**

As promised, another video from my project 'Thy Delightful Shade'. The second single, my rendition of 'The Deserted House' by Alfred Lord Tennyson, was...

Celebrating Alfred, Lord Tennyson's 209th birthday today.

**FB: Tuesday, August 14, 2018**

After many weeks of extreme heat and many hours of work on my new album (which is a tricky combination), most songs are starting to sound pretty good. I've designed almost all synth sounds myself (the album is more 'electronic' than the previous one). I'm still practising the vocals, but it's much easier now I've stopped smoking! My voice is less raw and it's much easier to sing in tune :)

I'm not ready to set a release date, because usually lots of things go wrong or take much more time than expected...And there's my other job of course, and a huge project there which will most certainly start to interfere in the near future...



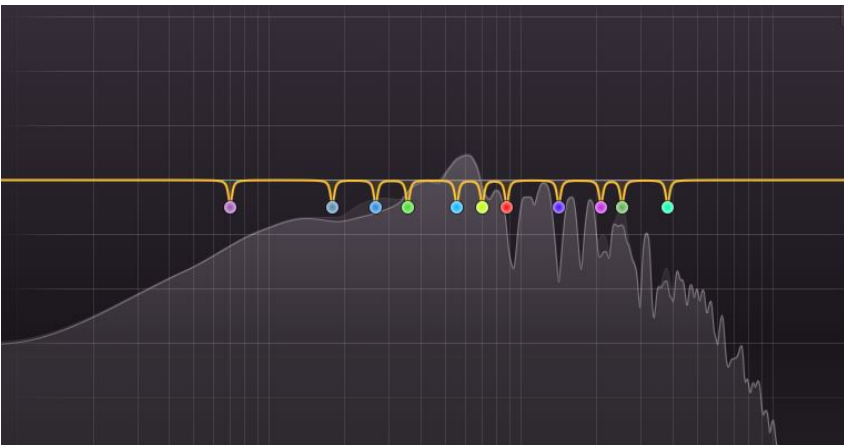
**FB: Monday, August 27, 2018**

My next album gets longer every day... 11 songs / 73 minutes now. I may have to drop one song but I can't choose :) I've tried recording the vocals a few times now but I'll have to practise quite a bit more before I'm happy with them. To be continued!



**FB: Wednesday, August 29, 2018**

Equalising is such fun. First attempt at removing some unpleasant frequencies. Of course, quite a lot of fine tuning will follow before I'm satisfied :)





**FB: Sunday, September 2, 2018**



Next step in equalising is (quite) a bit more extreme :)

**FB: Monday, September 24, 2018**

Gate. Very useful device to get rid of the noise in the pauses between the notes :)

I'm recording the vocals for the new album and I hope they'll be good enough this time.

It's a difficult and slow process (complicated by the fact that I am trying to recover from a burn out from my 'other' job) but it feels good to do something that makes sense.



**FB: Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

De-esser. Another device you can't skip. If you overdo it, it sounds like you've forgotten to put your teeth in, but used moderately it dampens Es and Sh sounds quite nicely.

Recording this new album I've found out there's a distinct difference between the Es and Sh sounds in different languages - which is also a clue to what will be on the album :)



**FB: Tuesday, November 20, 2018**

Short update: yes I'm still working on a new album, as well as on a remaster of an old project. Something should appear in the shops somewhere in 2019 :)

**FB: Monday, December 10, 2018**

Work on the remaster is progressing very well. Especially the things I'm doing to bring out the vocals are producing amazing results. Work on the new album will continue during my holiday (which starts next week and will last until January 20).

**FB: Wednesday, December 19, 2018**

The remastered albums are nearly finished (I think). I'll let them rest for a few weeks to 'refresh' my ears.

2019

**FB: Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

It's the final week of my Christmas holiday and I'm recording backing vocals/harmonies for the new album. This means the recording sessions are almost completed :)



**FB: Monday, January 21, 2019**

I've recorded some more backing vocals/harmonies. The longest song on the new album is 9:09, the shortest 4:02 :)



**FB: Friday, January 24, 2019**

I know I'm posting 'old' videos at the moment, but they weren't available directly from Facebook before, only on YouTube.

The new album is still under development!

## Videos



Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee



The Deserted House



The Tree



**FB: Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

Well, it took exactly one year to write and record a new album. I started writing melodies in January 2018, and recording the instruments started soon after that. Fine tuning of that during the summer. Vocals were recorded in October (lead vocals) and December/January (backing vocals). Some delay was caused by a burn out from my other job, but I think I've recovered from that by now. I started out with 24 songs, of which 12 made it to the album. The others may turn up in some form on a future project.



Next step: mixing and mastering - and I hope this won't take an entire year as well :)

Pictured: album artwork, detail



**FB: Thursday, February 7, 2019**

I finally got round to buy two of these :)



**FB: Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

Amazing plug-in. Cleans up the entire mix :)



**FB: Monday, February 25, 2019**

The new album is being mixed and I'm quite happy about the sound so far. Not finished though, it may take a while :)

**FB: Thursday, March 7, 2019**

The artwork for the new album is finished: CD covers, e-book, sheet music book and website presentation. This is one of the photographs I've used as a background. The beauty of nature is an important theme in many of the songs.



**FB: Saturday, June 8, 2019**

I've just received permission from a rather famous artist to use his voice on my new album. It's a unique recording made for the album, not a sample from something released earlier. I won't tell who it is just yet :)

**FB: Saturday, June 15, 2019**

I've been quite busy over the last few months upgrading the sheet music books for my albums to full score versions. As these books now contain hundreds and hundreds of pages, they've become quite large in MB. You can download them from <http://www.nion.eu/SheetMusic.htm>

Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee?

Musical score for 'Shall Earth No More Inspire Thee?'. The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Piano. The lyrics are: 'Ask... Ask... Ask... Shall earth no more in-spire thee. Thee lone-ly thus - now wert? by the No. No. ask...'. The score is in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations including treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

THE PHOENIX

Musical score for 'THE PHOENIX'. The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations including treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The score is divided into measures 1 through 24.

**FB: Thursday, July 11, 2019**

I've started working on the new album again, after 'resetting' my ears for a month :)

**FB: Tuesday, August 6, 2019**

I've recorded some extra backing vocals. I really should finish the new album soon :)

**FB: Monday, August 12, 2019**



September 21, the start of Autumn. An excellent date to release my new single. I'll elaborate on that in a few weeks :)

(it's not a song about mushrooms)

**FB: Monday, August 19, 2019**



Today, I've submitted the new single and album for distribution to the digital shops.

The single release date will be September 21. The album can be pre-ordered from October 4, and will be released on October 19.

The album includes two songs featuring the voice of a well known artist; I will reveal his name on October 4 :)

**FB: Monday, August 26, 2019**

I'm working on a 'simple' video for the single I'm releasing on September 21. Basically: photographs and lyrics.



**FB: Monday, September 2, 2019**



Less than three weeks to go until the single release!

The song is based on a poem by a 19th century poet, the subject matter is seasonal - as you might have guessed from all the mushroom pictures I keep posting :)

**FB: Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

The video for the single is ready, it's a still picture video with lyrics.

I've also made a video to promote the album, featuring a full length song from the album (one of the two songs with the 'mystery guest' voice).

I'll release the single video around September 21 and the other video around October 4 (pre-order release date of the album).



**FB: Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Autumn is coming. Yes, it's a hint :)



**FB: Thursday, September 19, 2019 (later)**



Autumn is close :)

**FB: Friday, September 20, 2019**



Oh dear. It appears Autumn is a day early. I'll elaborate on that in the morning.

**FB: Friday, September 20, 2019 (later)**

Autumn

John Clare (1793-1864)

I love the fitful gust that shakes  
The casement all the day,  
And from the glossy elm tree takes  
The faded leaves away,  
Twirling them by the window pane  
With thousand others down the lane.

I love to see the shaking twig  
Dance fill the shut of eve,  
The sparrow on the cottage rig,  
Whose chirp would make believe  
That Spring was just now flirting by  
In Summer's lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke  
Curl upwards through the trees,  
The pigeons nestled round the cote  
On November days like these;  
The cock upon the dunghill crowing,  
The mill sails on the heath a-going.

The feather from the raven's breast  
Falls on the stubble lea,  
The acorns near the old crow's nest  
Drop pattering down the tree;  
The grunting pigs, that wait for all,  
Scramble and hurry where they fall.

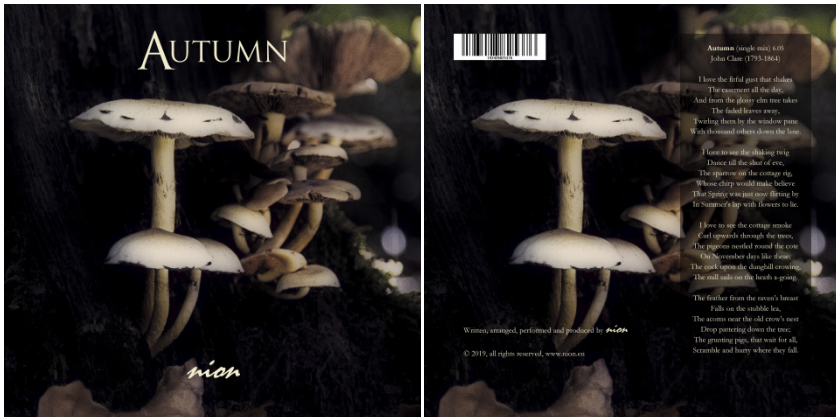
# AUTUMN

the new single, now available

nion

**NEWS: 'Autum' single release**

**FB: Friday, September 20, 2019 (later)**



My new single, 'Autumn', based on a poem by John Clare (1793-1864), has just been released through iTunes, Amazon, Google Play (and other shops).

It's a prelude to a new album, to be released on October 18 (iTunes pre-order: October 4).

More information on my website: <http://www.nion.eu>

[CD Baby](#) (mid price!) / [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#) / [Google Play](#)

Note: due to a mistake by my distributor, the other releases on the iTunes page are NOT mine. Visit my website at <http://www.nion.eu> to see my other releases.

**FB: Saturday, September 21, 2019**



The lyric video for my new single 'Autumn'.

[CD Baby](#) (mid price!) / [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#) / [Google Play](#)

Note: due to a mistake by my distributor, the other releases on the iTunes page are NOT mine. Visit my website at <http://www.nion.eu> to see my other releases.

**FB: Saturday, September 21, 2019 (later)**

Only \$0.49 :)



STORE.CDBABY.COM

🎵 **Autumn (Single Mix) - Nion. Listen @cdbaby**

Click to listen at CDBaby

**FB: Monday, September 23, 2019**

I've adapted my website for use on mobile devices:

<http://www.nion.eu/Mobile/index.html>

The original website is still at <http://www.nion.eu>



**FB: Tuesday, September 24, 2019**

Autumn, it's my favourite season. So many beautiful colours... the harvest... mushrooms... very inspiring. My new album is filled with songs celebrating the beauty of this season.

But Autumn also symbolizes a time of death and decay. Much like the state our planet is in, as a result of decades of industrialization, overexploitation, (air)pollution, the unwillingness to switch to clean energy.

If we don't act now, the damage will be irreversible. Maybe not for us as adults, we might live out our lives relishing the luxuries we're used to. But for the next generations, there may not be much left to live for. Many countries are aware of the problems, and measures are being taken. But, in my opinion, this is not enough. We need to change radically, not even tomorrow, but today.



**FB: Friday, September 27, 2019**

One week to go until my new album is available for pre-order!

**FB: Sunday, September 29, 2019**

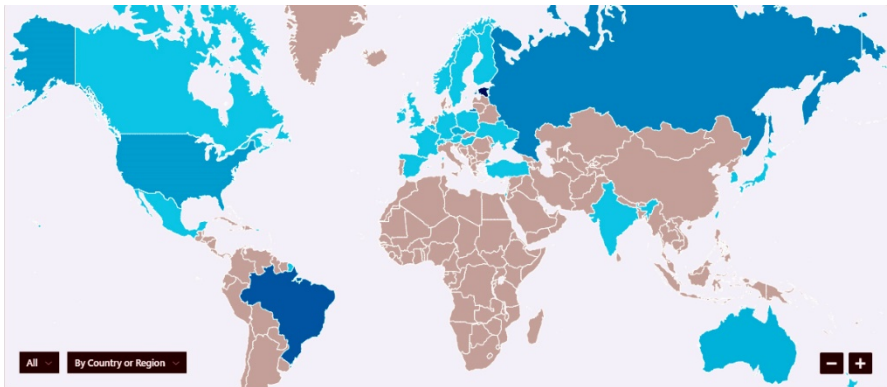


[CD Baby](#) (mid price) / [iTunes/Apple Music](#) / [Amazon](#) / [Google Play](#) / [Spotify](#)

Please note that Spotify pays me about 0.001 per stream...

Due to an error by my distributor, the other releases on the iTunes page are NOT mine. Check my website at <http://www.nion.eu> for the correct links to my discography.

**FB: Tuesday, October 1, 2019**



Apple Music insight in where my listeners are living. Some rather unexpected countries...

# AUTUMN AIRS

The new album, available  
for pre-order on October 4

**NEWS: 'Autum Airs' album available for pre-order**

**FB: Friday, October 4, 2019**



My new album, 'Autumn Airs' is now available for pre-order from Amazon, iTunes and other selected shops.

The 'instant gratification' track is the first song on the album: 'Autumn – A Dirge', based on the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). It features the voice of Tom Robinson, reading part of the poem.

The other song: Tom can also be heard in the 'reprise' version of 'Autumn – A Dirge'. I've made a full length still-photo video for it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-3ZBTroo28>



Needless to say, I am very grateful to Tom for doing this.

[Amazon](#) / [iTunes/Apple Music](#).

iTunes have put the album on the wrong artist page, by the way. Very annoying. I'm trying to solve this through my distributor. My other albums can be found through my website at [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu)

### FB: Tuesday, October 8, 2019

In the weeks leading up to the release of my new album 'Autumn Airs' (on October 18), my 2017 album 'Thy Delightful Shade' is available at only \$2.90 from [CD Baby](#).

'Autumn Airs' is available for pre-order on [Amazon](#) and [iTunes/Apple Music](#).



### FB: Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Another nice picture that didn't make it to the final artwork of my next album 'Autumn Airs'. I think I'll make an extra pdf-booklet including all these photo's :)



**FB: Friday, October 11, 2019**

Next Friday, my new album 'Autumn Airs' will be available from a lot of online shops. It features a guest appearance by Tom Robinson on two tracks. Pre-order is possible from iTunes/Apple Music and Amazon:

<https://music.apple.com/album/autumn-air/1477273359>

<https://www.amazon.com/Autumn-Airs-nion/dp/B07WW31GT8/>

The new album, available from CD Baby, iTunes | Apple Music, Amazon, Google Play, Spotify and other shops.



**NEWS: 'Autum Airs' album released**

**FB: Friday, October 18, 2019**

My new album, 'Autumn Airs' is now available. It features a guest appearance by Tom Robinson (to whom I am very grateful), on two tracks.

[CD Baby](#) (cheapest!) / [Amazon](#) / [iTunes/Apple Music](#) / [Google Play](#)

More information on my website: [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu)





**FB: Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

Last chance: my previous album 'Thy Delightful Shade' from CD Baby at \$2.90. Offer ends this Friday!



## FB: Friday, October 25, 2019

The opening track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Autumn – A Dirge', based on the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). The song opens with the voice of Tom Robinson ([www.tomrobinson.com](http://www.tomrobinson.com)), reading the first refrain of the poem. Musically, it's probably the strangest track I've written so far.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



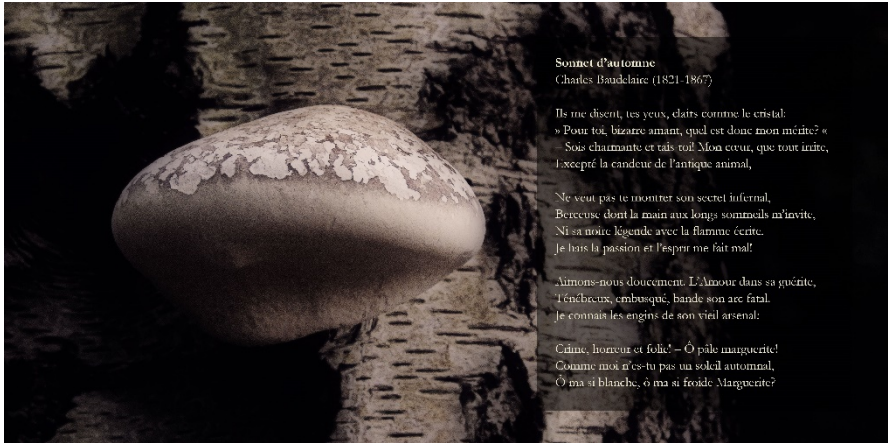
## FB: Thursday, October 31, 2019

After releasing a new album, my inspiration usually disappears for a few months. Which is very frustrating. Still, I managed to write the opening sequence for a future project, 54 seconds of music (which took me two weeks) - well, it's better than nothing :)

**FB: Friday, November 01, 2019**

The second track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Sonnet d'automne', based on the poem by Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867). This poem isn't really about Autumn (just a little, as he compares Marguerite to the autumnal sun), but it felt right to include it on this album. I really like the lush synthesizer pad sounds, and the guitar.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.

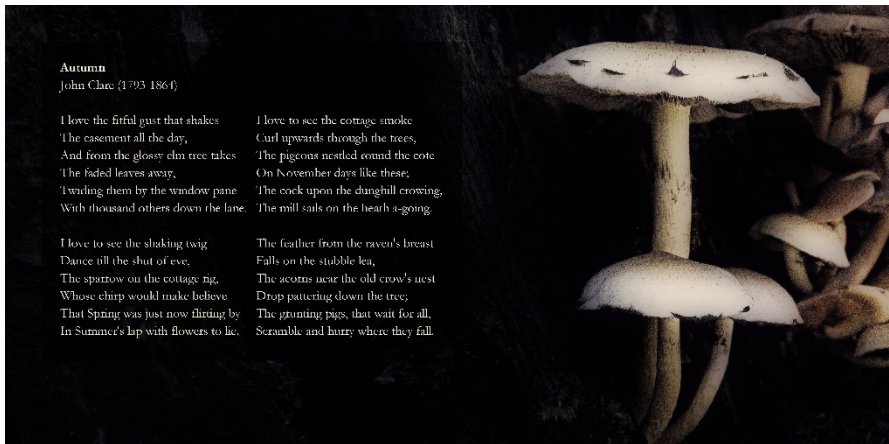


**FB: Saturday, November 16, 2019**

The third track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Autumn', based on the poem by John Clare (1793-1864). A remixed version of the song was released as a single at the start of Autumn, which is included as a bonus track on the album. The single is also available as a video here: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/lm-QRykJifg>.

The melody and chords for this song were written in 2009, based on another poem, but it never felt quite right until I found Clare's poem. Very dreamy.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.

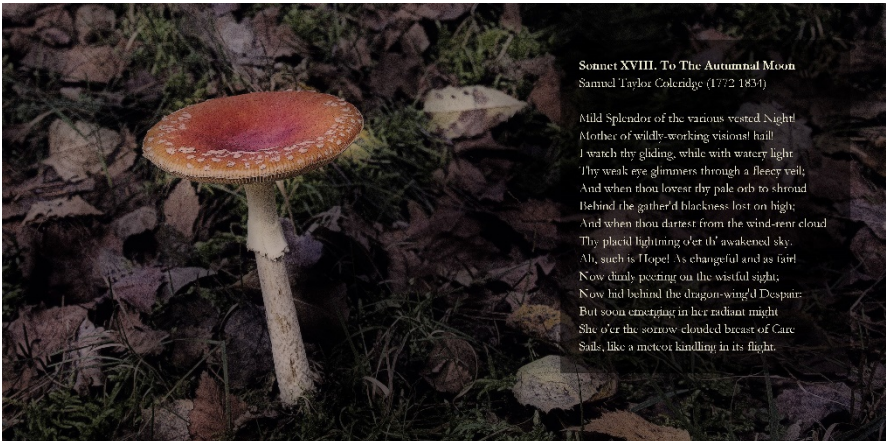


**FB: Friday, November 22, 2019**

The fourth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Sonnet XVIII. To The Autumnal Moon', based on the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).

Inspired by Angelo Badalamenti's jazzy arrangements on the Twin Peaks soundtracks, I wrote the first version of this song based on a German poem. The lyrics didn't really seem to fit the music, so I kept searching until I found this sonnet by Coleridge, and everything fell into place.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**Sonnet XVIII. To The Autumnal Moon**  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

Mild Splendor of the various vested Night!  
Mother of wildly-working visionist hail!  
I watch thy gliding, while with watery light  
Thy weak eye glimmers through a fleecy veil;  
And when thou lovest thy pale orb to shroud  
Behind the gather'd blackness lost on high;  
And when thou dar'st from the wind-rear cloud  
Thy placid lightning o'er th' awakened sky.  
Ah, such is Hope! As changeful and as fair!  
Now dimly peering on the wistful sight;  
Now hid behind the dragon-wing'd Despair:  
But soon emerging in her radiant might  
She o'er the sorrow clouded breast of Care  
Sails, like a meteor handling in its flight.

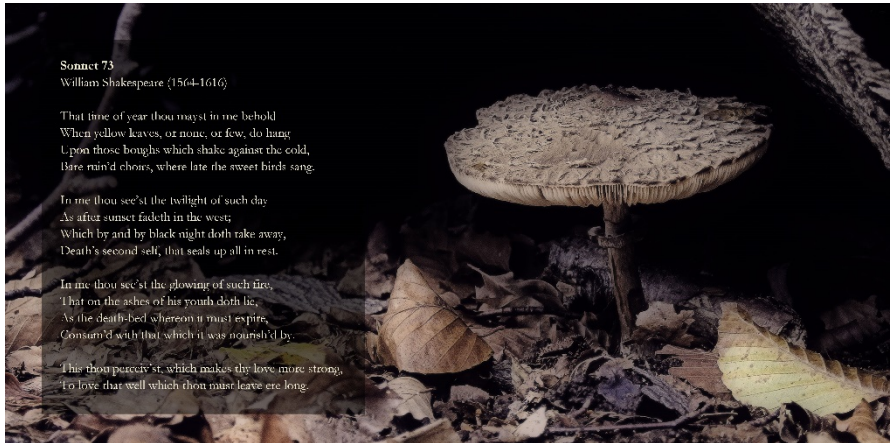


**FB: Sunday, December 1, 2019**

The fifth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Sonnet 73', based on the poem by William Shakespeare (1564-1616). I've always been fond of Shakespeare's sonnets, and to my delight I found one that deals with Autumn.

The song has a nice, jazzy brass arrangement (trumpet and saxophones), as well as a vintage electric piano interspersed with a vibraphone. Smooth :)

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Friday, December 06, 2019**

The sixth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Ich sah den Wald sich färben', based on the poem by Emanuel Geibel (1815-1884). As I consider myself European rather than Dutch, I wanted to sing in different languages on this album. English, French and German seemed like a good start :) Future projects may feature other languages...

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Saturday, December 14, 2019**

The seventh track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Lines Written In The Autumn Of 1818', based on the poem by Joanna Baillie (1762-1851). It was a very short song at first, until I added the instrumental parts. I'm quite pleased with the (self-designed) synthesizer sounds on this track.

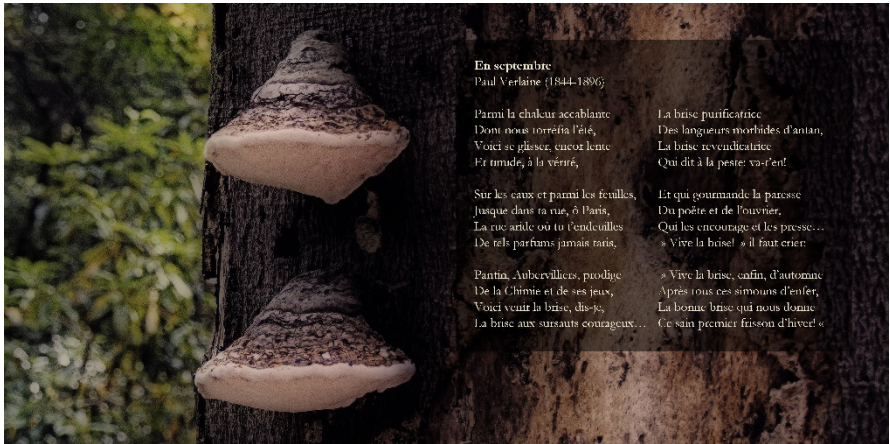
The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Friday, December 20, 2019**

The eighth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'En septembre', based on the poem by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896). I wanted to create a Parisian café atmosphere in this song, a bit 1920's perhaps? I'm very pleased with the vocal melody, especially when the second and fifth stanza's set in - I couldn't resist repeating them further on in the song.

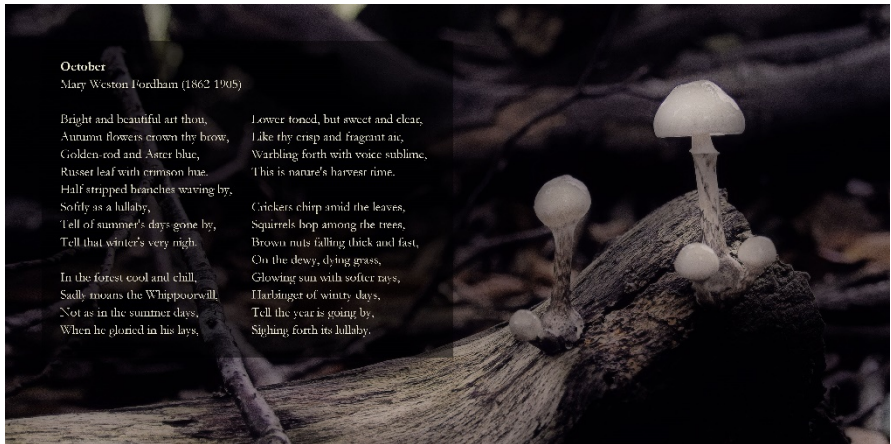
The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Friday, December 27, 2019**

The ninth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'October', based on the poem by Mary Weston Fordham (1862-1905). Every time I rehearsed and recorded this song, it felt like a long, refreshing walk through the woods. How I love Autumn!

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



2020

**FB: Friday, January 3, 2020**

The tenth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Herbstlied', based on the poem by Luise Büchner (1821-1877). Basically a friendly waltz, which really came alive when I added the percussion.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Friday, January 10, 2020**

The eleventh track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Chanson d'Automne', based on the poem by Paul Verlaine (1844-1896). A rather dark song, an atmosphere going back to the opening track of the album. Some 5/4 metre here and there to challenge the listener :)

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.

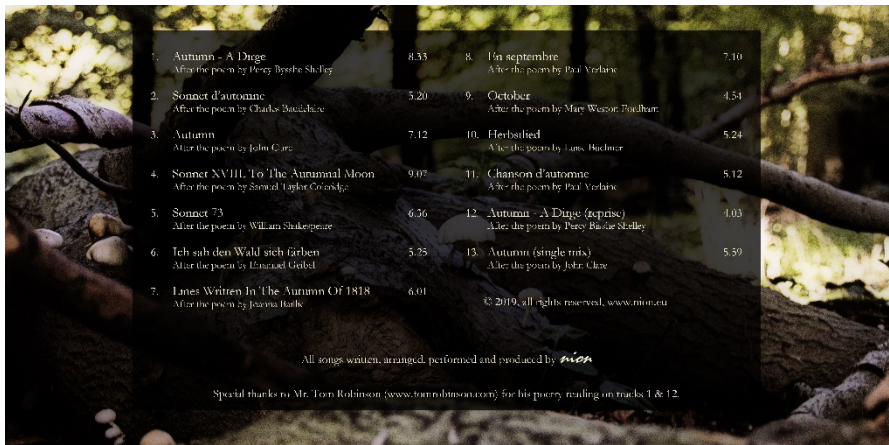




## FB: Friday, January 17, 2020

The twelfth track on my new album 'Autumn Airs' is 'Autumn – A Dirge (reprise)', based on the poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). It contains a second poetry reading by Tom Robinson. I felt the need to end the album in the same vibe in which it begins. The entire track can be heard in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/Im-QRykJfg>.

The album is available from most online shops. Visit <http://www.nion.eu> for more information.



**FB: Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

This morning, at 10.55, our beloved mother, Marian van der Waard-Lammers, passed away at age 76, after a short but difficult sick bed.

Over the last ten years I've been working on an album of Marian hymns, which I had planned to dedicate to my mother.

My mother's death today was unexpected; hence, I haven't yet finished the album.

Still, I'd like to share this video of my (unfinished) setting of the Magnificat, the Song of Mary, in loving memory of my mother.

Requiescat in pace.



**FB: Wednesday, March 30, 2020**

As of today, all my releases can be downloaded for free from my website at [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu).

I don't really need to make money from selling my music, and by offering everything for free I think more people will listen to it. And that's much more important!

**FB: Monday, April 6, 2020**

My latest album, which includes a guest appearance by Tom Robinson, is available for free at [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu) and Bandcamp (<https://nion.bandcamp.com/album/autumn-airs>).

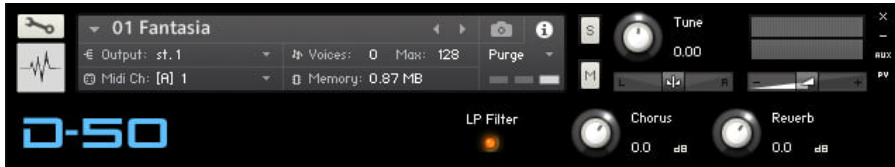
(All other albums are free as well!)



**FB: Thursday, August 27, 2020**

I've just released a new sample collection for Native Instruments Kontakt. Only 19.99 euros for 384 sounds from this legendary synthesizer!

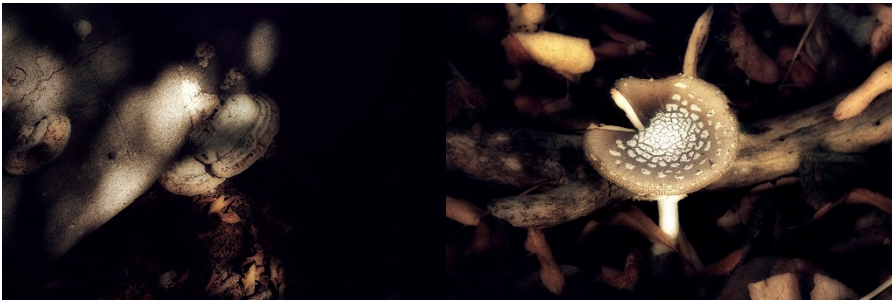
More information: <http://www.nion.eu/Synth/Synth.htm>



**FB: Friday, September 18, 2020**

This year's first sightings.

Which reminds me of last year's album release, 'Autumn Airs', which is still available - for free - from [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu) and [nion.bandcamp.com/](http://nion.bandcamp.com/).



**FB: Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

Autumn's drawing to a close... but my 2019 album 'Autumn Airs' can be played during other seasons as well 😊

It's free: [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu) / <http://nion.bandcamp.com> (because I don't really need the money from album sales - I'd rather have people listening).



**FB: Sunday, December 13, 2020**

If you own the Roland System-8 synth (hardware or vst), here are my presets: <http://www.nion.eu/SYSTEM-8.zip> (59 soundbanks). Free download!



I've recreated sounds from the Juno-106, JX-3P, Jupiter-8, Promars, SH-2, SH-101 and System-1 synthesizers..

**FB: Saturday, December 26, 2020**

First Christmas without my mother. This song, Magnificat (the Canticle of Mary) is dedicated to her.



# 2021

## **FB: Saturday, April 17, 2021**

I'm sorry but nothing is happening on the musical front, and hasn't been for more than a year. I remember my writer's block from 2012-2015, let's hope it'll pass sooner this time...

## **FB: Thursday, July 29, 2021**

Album update #1:

After about 16 months without inspiration, I've started recording again. I'm working on a project I started in 2009, with a little luck I'll actually finish it :)

## **FB: Saturday, July 31, 2021**

Album update #2:



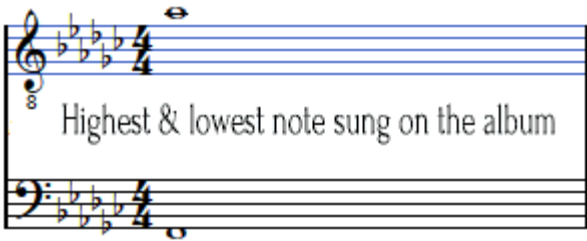
The album will contain eight tracks (and - possibly - two alternative mixes). The music was recorded between 2009-2019, but some parts will probably be re-recorded and/or changed in the near future.

This last week, all backing vocals have been recorded, and I'm pleased with the results. Next step: preparing for the most difficult part, the lead vocals - so that'll take more than a week :)

Release date: if all goes well, autumn? But I'm not making promises, it's a very difficult project and it could take much longer, or it could be aborted at any time. I'm just happy to be recording music again after such a dark year - and no one knows what the future has in store.

### FB: Saturday, August 7, 2021

Album update #3:



This week, I've recorded the lead vocals, and it went quite well - possibly because I've been practising these melodies for more than ten years :) Perhaps I'll do some (parts) of them again, but at the moment I'm satisfied with the results. As you can see on the image, the lowest note sung is an F1, which is the lowest note ever on any of my recordings :)

Apart from that, I've edited and aligned the backing vocals. All songs have 3 or 4 part harmonies, so that was quite a lot of work, as I've recorded each part several times to create a full and layered sound.

I'm also experimenting with plugin settings for the vocals (gate, limiter, compressor, equalizer, de-esser - not necessarily in that order).



**FB: Friday, August 13, 2021**

Album update #4:

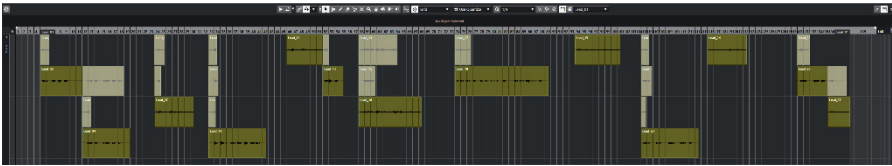


I've re-recorded all lead vocals this week. Not because last weeks' recordings weren't good enough, but because I want a different sound. So, I've dusted off my AKG C414 XLII microphone. Unfortunately, I'd forgotten the AKG is rather noisy, and my singing is quite dynamic. So I'll have to record the vocals again using compression, otherwise, during the quiet parts the noise gets amplified as well as the voice, after adding post-recording compression. Of course there are techniques to correct this but that's much more work than simply applying the compressor whilst recording. So next week I'll re-re-record everything.

All backing vocals have been recorded using my Shure SM58 (which is 30 years old), and by using different microphones, I'm also creating more separation between the lead and backing vocals.

## FB: Monday, August 23, 2021

Album update #5:



Lead vocals, more lead vocals, and then some - I've re-recorded them (some more than once). At least I have enough material to choose from :) As I'm a 'good' but not a 'great' singer, doing lead vocals is one of the most difficult things during the project. I've been working on them for the last few weeks, and it looks like I'm getting somewhere at last...

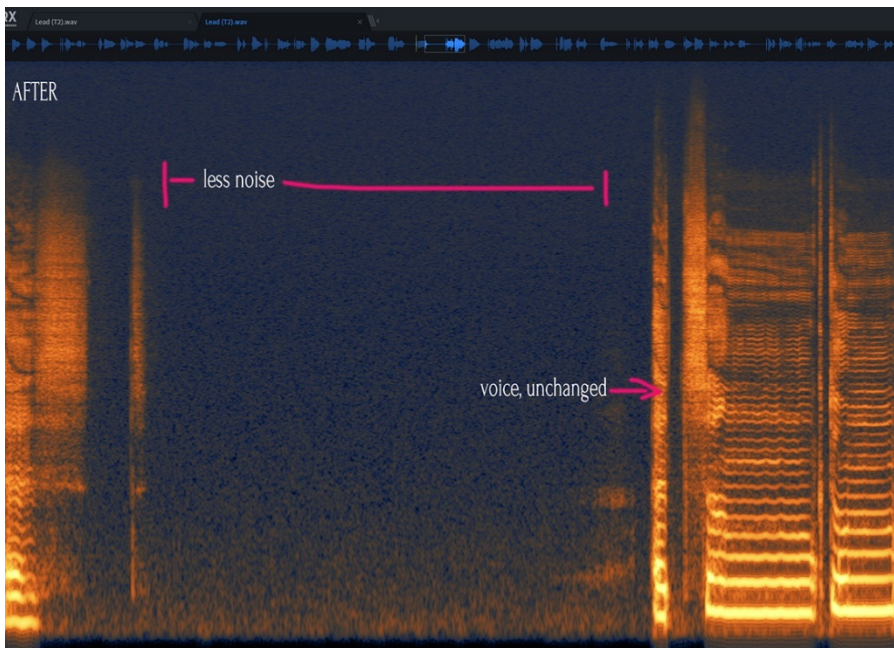
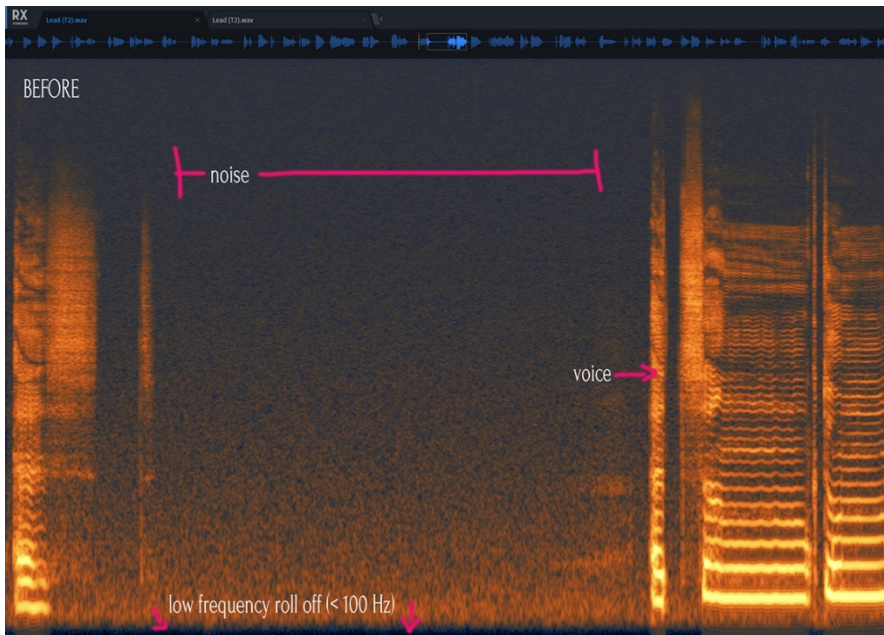
As you can see on the images, I'm making quite a lot of mistakes whilst singing. Fortunately, I can easily stop the recording and go back a few bars to start singing the fragment again. After deleting the mistakes, a rough lead vocal is left, and ready for editing. Which I will do in the coming weeks. After that, re-evaluating the music (which I'm also doing 'on the fly' when I hear something I don't like). After that, final mixing (October? November? - it takes as long as it takes...). In my experience, final mixing and mastering is another process that takes a lot of time.

I've already made some rough 'final' mixes of several songs, I like the way they sound, so I'll continue the project. But if I'm not happy with the final versions of the lead vocals, the project may be shelved (again). This project is very different from previous releases, I've been working on it (on and off) for ten years, and I've given up several times. But there's a special reason to finish it this time, so I won't give up easily.

## FB: Tuesday, August 24, 2021

I thought it was time for a little investment in these plugins. They make music production so much easier :)





Needless to say, I'm quite pleased with the iZotope plugins.

I've managed to record all vocals I'll need these last six weeks (coincidentally this was also my holiday from my payed job) and the next weeks (months?) I'll be editing, mixing and mastering the entire project and finishing the artwork and website.



## FB: Friday, September 3, 2021

Album update #7:

This week, my six-week holiday ended and I started working again, but there was some time left to continue working on the new album. I'm working 30-hour weeks this year at my payed job, which has been great fun, but I'm also looking forward to going back to 24-hour weeks next year...

I've been fine-tuning vocals and testing which plugins help to achieve the best results (i.e.: clear and clean vocals). iZotope Nectar and Neutron are a great help: they analyse the 'raw' recording, suggest EQ-settings and more. Which puts you in the right direction, but the final settings have to be made manually of course.

I've also started creating some videos to accompany the album - nothing fancy - and rather elegant. And I've made several changes to the album artwork.



On the photograph: my workspace. The monitor array is 1.80 meters wide (71 inches), which may seem a little over the top, but it's quite practical as it can display the song as well as the mixer, and on the main screen there's room for plugins on top of the song editor, or with the editor reduced to half a screen. Perhaps not even enough room to

display all the plugins I'm editing at the same time. But adding a third monitor would really be over the top :)

The lower keyboard has weighted keys, it feels like playing an acoustic piano, and it's used for recording final sessions. The upper keyboard is used to quickly record an idea and it's used as a midi controller (using the knobs and sliders is more pleasant than doing it with the mouse).

Then, two audio interfaces: I prefer the Aphex for recording vocals, and I'm using the Steinberg for editing. On the other side of the room I have a vocal booth (note the cable tray across the room, not a pretty sight); buying the booth was a wise decision: it eliminates most traffic sounds from the streets - except when a really heavy lorry passes by (and my AKG microphone picks up everything...).

The monitor speakers are Adam A5X's, they produce a very decent, clean sound. If the music sounds good on these monitors, it sounds good everywhere!

The mirrors on the left used to hang on the other wall, I'm still deciding on their next location. They will probably replace Nana :)

## **FB: Saturday, September 11, 2021**

Album update #8:

This week, I've been listening to the recordings as a whole (several times). I've made some changes to the instrumental parts, and will probably make some more next week.

Apart from that, I've been de-essing the vocals. On my previous releases, I spent a lot of time on getting that right, the Steinberg de-esser didn't really do what I wanted (sometimes it sounded like I'm missing my front teeth), and although the Waves de-esser did do what I wanted, it took a lot of tweaking. This time, I've used the RX8 de-esser - which hit the spot (almost) right away...

(Un)fortunately, I found out I made a mistake with the limiter-settings on the vocals (something just didn't sound right). Correcting that wasn't complicated, but all plugins in the chain after the limiter have to be reconfigured as well...



## FB: Monday, September 20, 2021

Album update #9:

Last week, I've re-done the entire vocal effect chain. The more I listened to the vocals, the less pleased I became. So I axed all Steinberg built-in effects and replaced them with iZotope, except for Waves X-noise, the Steinberg gate and Voxengo CurveEQ.

After some try-outs, and after over-doing it with both Nectar and Neutron, I decided on Neutron as the main processor, whilst Nectar takes care of automatic limiting and unmasking the voice(s) from the music. Neutron's built-in Exciter doesn't excite me at all, but the Sculptor shapes the voices nicely. After that, a dynamic equalizer and two compressors. Main equalizing is done by the CurveEQ, in the chain

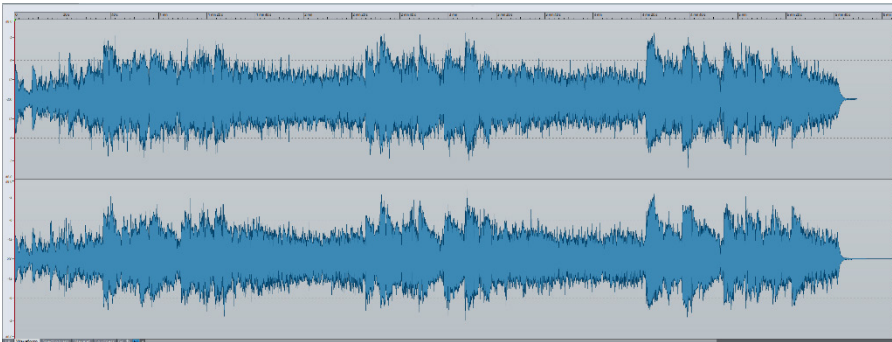


before Neutron, and it's extremely precise. I'll probably have to add a few bands in the equalizer Neutron didn't catch, but that's about it for the vocal chain.

I'm also experimenting with vocal reverb settings which isn't an easy task. Neoverb seemed promising, but perhaps not quite what I'm looking for. I'll probably revert to my trusted Lexicon reverbs...

The instrumental parts have been checked again, and some changes have been made to several notes playing too loud (or too soft). And I've added 16 bars to one of the songs (which I should have done before starting the mixing process, but it's not unusual for me to go back and forth through the various stages of music production).

When this process is finished, the mix is pretty close to the final master, and mastering takes very little time. Screenshot: (almost) final mix of one of the songs.



**FB: Monday, September 27, 2021**

Album update #10:

Not much news, this time. Last week, I've been listening to the vocals (again) and fine-tuning equalizer settings. I've managed to eliminate some very nasty frequencies (around 6 kHz) using rather drastic settings on the dynamic equalizer (as pictured). Dynamic equalizing is really

cool: only frequencies above a certain threshold are affected, so the ones that sound good stay good :)

There's not much left to do, I think, except for listening to the entire album several times, and last minute tweaking before I start mastering.



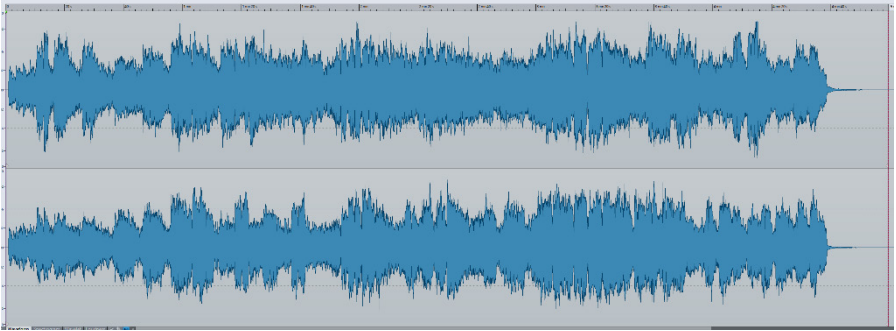
## FB: Friday, October 8, 2021

Album update #11:

I almost shelved the project this week, I couldn't get the lead vocals to sound the way I want them to (even though I thought I could, last week). So I've been experimenting with several different settings, and it seems to go in the right direction. But it's been a very frustrating week.

Certain harmonics in my voice (around 3kHz and 6kHz) are just not very pleasant to listen to, and cutting them makes me sound like I'm singing with a small box on my head, which is even worse. So this will need some more work, and the release date in November I was hoping for is definitely not possible.

One of the songs sounded pretty good though, and I've done a first attempt at mastering (pictured below), especially experimenting with maximizer settings. I remember the loudness was very well, so I'm avoiding that for a start. LUFS somewhere between 14 and 16 are working best and with this album, 'less is more' will be the general approach. It's not the kind of music that has to splash from your speakers :)



## FB: Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Album update #12:

By using some more equalizing the lead vocals now sound the way I want them to. Now every voice has 3 equalizers: the first one shapes the voice, mostly in the 100 Hz - 3 kHz range. The second cuts the really bad harmonics (across the spectrum), the third is placed after the compressors and takes care of the remaining harmonics I want deamplified.

The [video](#) shows how this works - although I've overdone it a bit for demonstration purposes. Of course, I'm not cutting 30 dB on all those bands (it wasn't \*that\* bad!) - they're dynamic, only kicking in when the threshold is reached.

This may seem quite extreme, but this album focusses on vocals and I want them to sound as good as I can get them. Although I'm starting to think I have quite a lot of unpleasant harmonic frequencies in my voice,

if it takes so much effort to get it right :) On the previous album this was a lot easier, because the instruments were more prominent. I can explain this further, but that would be a spoiler...

So I'm back at the point where I was two weeks ago: happy with the way everything sounds. Hopefully, this time it'll last, because if it doesn't, I'll probably shelve the album for good, have a cry, and start something completely different (when the time is right).

I'm (re)designing the artwork, the website, and I'm fine-tuning some video material, and after that I will have to do nothing for at least a week, and listen with 'fresh' ears, on different headphones and different speaker systems, to make sure it sounds good on everything. If it does, I will (finally!) deliver the songs to my publishing service and set a release date.

### **FB: Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

Album update #13:

The songs sound the way I want them to on my studio monitors. I'll also have to listen on hi-fi sets and on different headphones, but the studio monitors are the most important, as their sound is neutral.

I was hoping for a release date this year, but due to early delivery dates from my distributor (the Christmas rush...) this may not be possible.

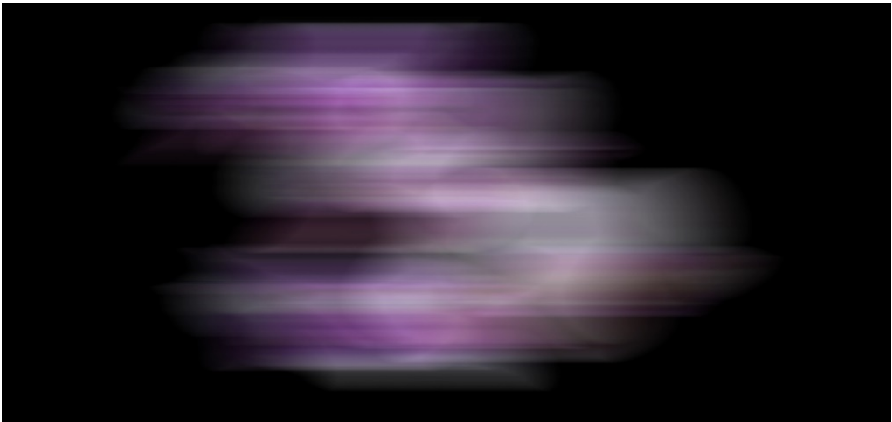


**FB: Wednesday, November 3, 2021**

Lower right corner of the cover artwork. Meaningless without the rest, of course :) But I like to tease.



**FB: Thursday, November 4, 2021**



The video for the single is finished.

## **FB: Friday, November 4, 2021**

Album update #14:

I've finished mixing just now and I'll start mastering tomorrow. With a little luck, everything will be finished next week! Which could mean a December release date after all (but I won't promise that).

The final mixing plugin I added today was the Waves Vocal Rider on the lead vocals and main harmonies (as shown in the [video](#)). This plugin matches the level of the vocal to the music, lifts it a bit when the music is loud (and vice versa). The result is very subtle: 2 dB up or down, but it makes a difference.

## **FB: Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

Album update #15:

Mastering is done. I think. One more go perhaps :)

## **FB: Thursday, November 11, 2021**

Album update #16:

The album and the single are finished and have been presented to my distributor.

I've decided against a rushed release in December. As the album is dedicated to my mother, I've chosen dates that are significant (pictured: dedication page in the CD booklet).

On January 22, the date my mother passed away in 2020, a single will be released on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and other online stores/streaming services. On Bandcamp the release will be mid-price and will feature a bonus track. I'll also release a 'lyric video' on my YouTube channel. On my website at [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu), single artwork and sheet music will be published.

On February 28, my mother's birthday, the album will be released. On iTunes, Amazon, et cetera. On Bandcamp the release will be mid-price. A short video documentary featuring excerpts from the songs, background information, and historical information about the songs will be published on my YouTube channel. Cover artwork, an e-book and sheet music will be published on my website. The album contains eight songs and four bonus tracks (two alternative versions and two demo recordings): eighty minutes of new music.



**FB: Thursday, November 18, 2021**

NEW SINGLE RELEASE:  
JANUARI 22, 2022

WWW.NION.EU

**FB: Friday, November 19, 2021**

I've just released a teaser video (#1) for the new single. It contains part of the song (piano solo). The single will be released on January 22.

NEWSINGLERELEASE

JANUARY 22, 2022

WWW.NION.EU

**FB: Wednesday, November 24, 2021**

The new album isn't really that new. It was written and recorded between 2010-2021.



**FB: Friday, November 26, 2021**

Black Friday deal? Nope, all my releases are free every day of the year:  
<https://nion.bandcamp.com/>

(But a small donation is always welcome.)

**FB: Sunday, December 5, 2021**



**FB: Friday, December 24, 2021**



I've just released another teaser video (#2) for the new single. It contains a snippet from the vocals (without the instruments). The single will be released on January 22.

# 2022

**FB: Friday, January 7, 2022**

I've just released the final teaser video (#3) for the new single. It shows the title (which you might have guessed from the previous teaser video) and some more information. The single will be released on January 22.



**FB: Friday, January 14, 2022**

One week to go!

THE NEW SINGLE  
AVAILABLE FROM BANDCAMP,  
AMAZON, iTUNES, SPOTIFY  
AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

WWW.NION.EU



**NEWS: 'Alma Redemptoris Mater' single released**

**FB: Saturday, January 22, 2022**

My new single, Alma Redemptoris Mater, has been released today!

Alma Redemptoris Mater is a Marian antiphon sung at the end of the office of Compline. It was formerly recited at the end of the canonical hours only from the first Sunday in Advent until the Feast of the Purification. The author is said to be Hermannus Contractus (1013–1054), based on the writings of Saints Fulgentius, Epiphanius, and Irenaeus of Lyon.

The song (as well as the forthcoming album) is dedicated to my mother.

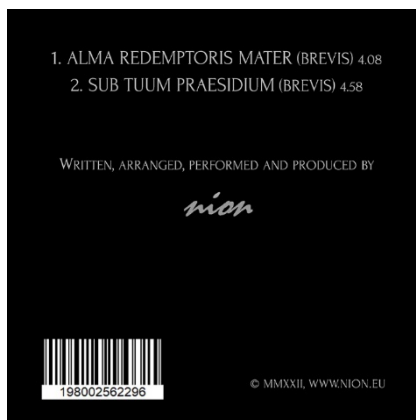
The Bandcamp version of the single is mid-price, and it contains a bonus track: 'Sub Tuum Praesidium'. This hymn is the oldest known Marian Prayer, dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Both songs are 'brevis', edits from the album versions.

Links to the single:

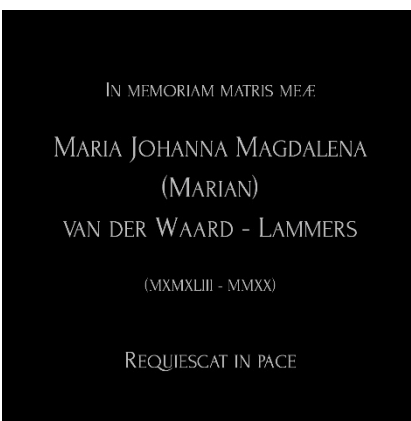
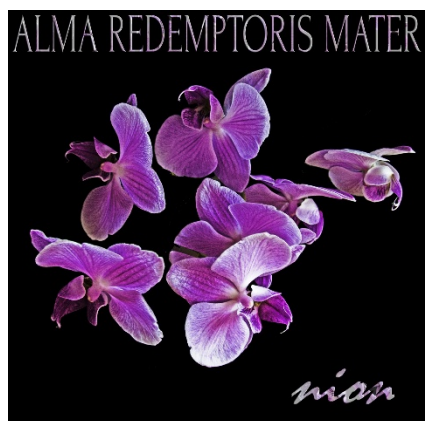
[Bandcamp](#) / [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#) / [Spotify](#)

A full-length lyric video has been posted on my timeline below.



**FB: Monday, January 31, 2022**

Full cover artwork for the two-track version of my new single, Alma Redemptoris Mater. The two-track version is available exclusively from [Bandcamp](#), at a very reasonable price.



ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER (BREVIS) 4.08

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER, QUAE PERVA  
CALLI, POKIA MANES, ET STELLA MARIS,  
SUCCURRE CADENTIBUS. SURGERE QUI CURAT,  
POPULO: ET QUAE GENICISTI NATURA MIRANTE,  
TUUM SANCTUM GENITORUM, VIRGO PRIMUM  
AC POSTERILIS, GABRIELIS AB ORE SUMENS  
ILLEI AVI, PECCATORUM MISERERE. AMEN.

*Loving Mother of the Redeemer,  
who remains the open gate of  
Heaven, and the Star of the Sea,  
give aid to a falling people that  
strives to rise, O Thou who begot  
Thy Holy Creator, while all  
nature marvelled: Virgin before  
and after receiving that greeting  
from the mouth of Gabriel, have  
mercy on sinners. Amen.*

SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM (BREVIS) 4.58

SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM CONFUGIENS,  
SANCTA DEI GENITRIX, NOSTRAS  
DEPRECATIONES NE DESIPIAS IN  
NECESSITATIBUS NOSSTRIS, SUB A BRACHIIS  
CINCTIS VIRGINIS NOS TRIFERA, VIRGO  
GLORIOSA ET BENEDECTA.

*We flee to Thy protection,  
O Holy Mother of God, do  
not despise our petitions in  
our necessities, but deliver us  
always from all dangers, O  
glorious and blessed Virgin.*

1. ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER (BREVIS) 4.08

2. SUB TUUM PRAESIDIUM (BREVIS) 4.58

WRITTEN, ARRANGED, PERFORMED AND PRODUCED BY

*nion*



© MMXXII, WWW.NION.EU

**FB: Monday, February 7, 2022**

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER, THE NEW SINGLE  
AVAILABLE FROM BANDCAMP, AMAZON, ITUNES,  
SPOTIFY AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

NEW ALBUM RELEASE: FEBRUARY 28, 2022

[WWW.NION.EU](http://WWW.NION.EU)



**FB: Monday, February 14, 2022**



ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER,  
THE NEW SINGLE, IS AVAILABLE  
FROM BANDCAMP, AMAZON,  
iTUNES, SPOTIFY AND OTHER  
ONLINE SERVICES.

NEW ALBUM RELEASE:  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

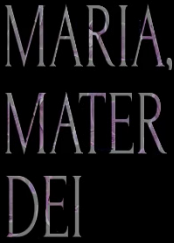


WWW.NION.EU


**FB: Thursday, February 17, 2022**

Next Monday: the unveiling of the album title and a snippet from one of the songs, here on Facebook and on my Youtube channel.

**FB: Monday, February 21, 2022**



MARIA,  
MATER  
DEI



*nion*

I've just released a teaser video for the new album. It contains a piano solo from one of the eight new tracks, and reveals the album title. The album will be released on February 28.



THE NEW ALBUM  
AVAILABLE FROM BANDCAMP,  
AMAZON, iTUNES, SPOTIFY  
AND OTHER ONLINE SERVICES

WWW.NION.EU



**NEWS: 'Maria, Mater Dei' album released**

**FB: Monday, February 28, 2022**

Because of the situation in the world, especially in the Ukraine, I'm not really in the mood for this (I'm pretty scared, actually), but my new album, 'Maria, Mater Dei', has been released today. More information on my website: [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu). Links to the album: [Bandcamp](#) / [iTunes](#) / [Amazon](#) / [Spotify](#).



1. ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER 6.26	WRITTEN, ARRANGED,
2. MAGNIFICAT 9.50	PERFORMED AND
3. REGINA CÆLI 7.10	PRODUCED BY
4. SALVE, REGINA 6.02	<i>nion</i>
5. AVE, MARIS STELLA 9.23	
6. AVE, REGINA CÆLORUM 6.06	
7. AVE, MARIA 3.07	
8. SUB TUUM PRÆSIDIUM 9.55	
SUPPLEMENTUM:	
9. ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER (BREVIS) 4.08	IN MEMORIAM
10. MAGNIFICAT (ANNO MMXVIII)* 9.34	MATRIS MEÆ
11. AVE, MARIA (ANNO MMXIII)* 2.49	MARIA JOHANNA
12. SUB TUUM PRÆSIDIUM (BREVIS) 4.58	MAGDALENA (MARIAN)
* EXPERIMENTA	VAN DER WAARD - LAMMERS
	(MCMXIII - MMXX)
	REQUIESCAT IN PACE
	© MMXXII, WWW.NION.EU

On my YouTube channel (and posted below), you can watch a short video documentary about the new album 'Maria, Mater Dei', containing excerpts from the songs, background information and historical information about the songs.

**FB: Saturday, July 2, 2022**

Released a few months ago, without any promotion whatsoever. But I'm quite proud of this album!

Available from

- iTunes/Apple Music
- Amazon
- Bandcamp

and - if you insist on paying next-to-nothing to artists -

- Spotify

More info on [www.nion.eu](http://www.nion.eu)

**FB: Monday, July 4, 2022**

## How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 1 🤪

The first thing I do (after recording the vinyl record to my computer) is use an automatic de-clicker (iZotope RX8) at a low setting, so most clicks disappear without altering the music.

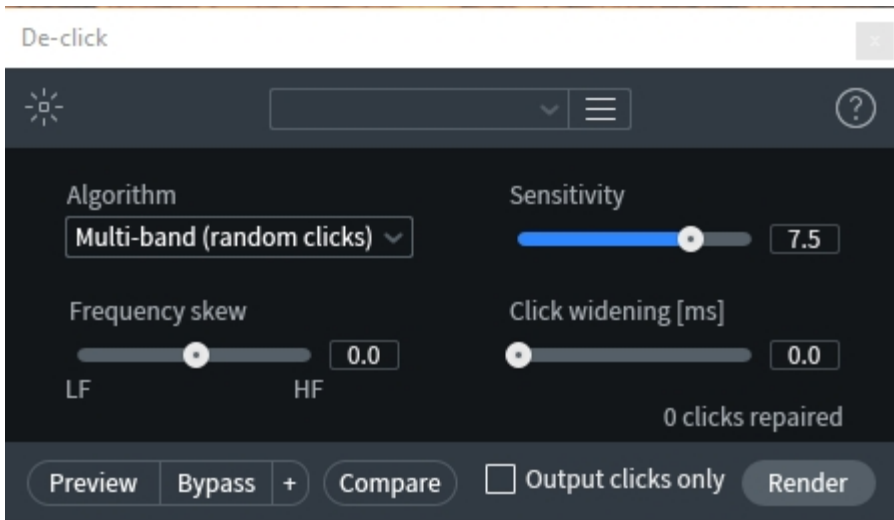
Remaining clicks have to be removed manually; I prefer Adobe Audition because it has an 'auto-heal' tool. After magnifying the wave-file to make the clicks just a little smaller than the tool, you can paint them out. Beware of short percussion sounds: they look a lot like clicks - easily removed by mistake.



I listen to the song twice, first time watching the left channel and deleting clicks, second time the right channel. It takes very little time once you've found out what clicks look like.

Really bad clicks are harder to remove. Sometimes a low frequency click remains, sounding more like a 'pop'. There are many ways to make these disappear, but they're not always successful. Trial and error... After selecting the offending area, you can use a de-plosive plugin (RX8) or a spectral repair tool (also RX8). Also, lowering the volume of the selected area might work (but in doing so you might lower the volume of a bass drum as well). Using the de-clicker at a more aggressive setting could also work. If all this fails, try and copy/paste a similar part from elsewhere in the song (only copy the lower frequencies, up to 200 Hz).

**Update, July 26, 2022:** using the RX-8 de-clicker manually is another option. Simply select the click and a bit of the area around it, and hit 'render'.



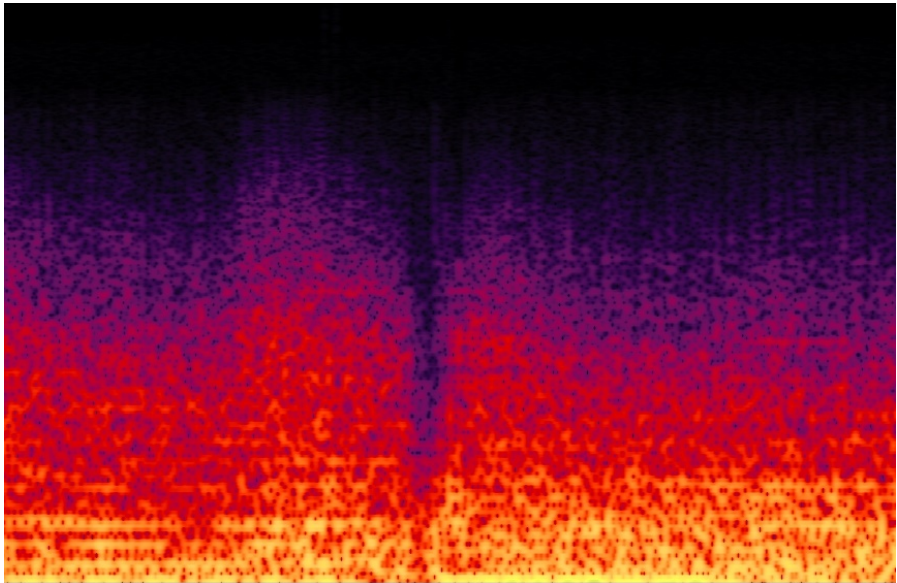
**FB: Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

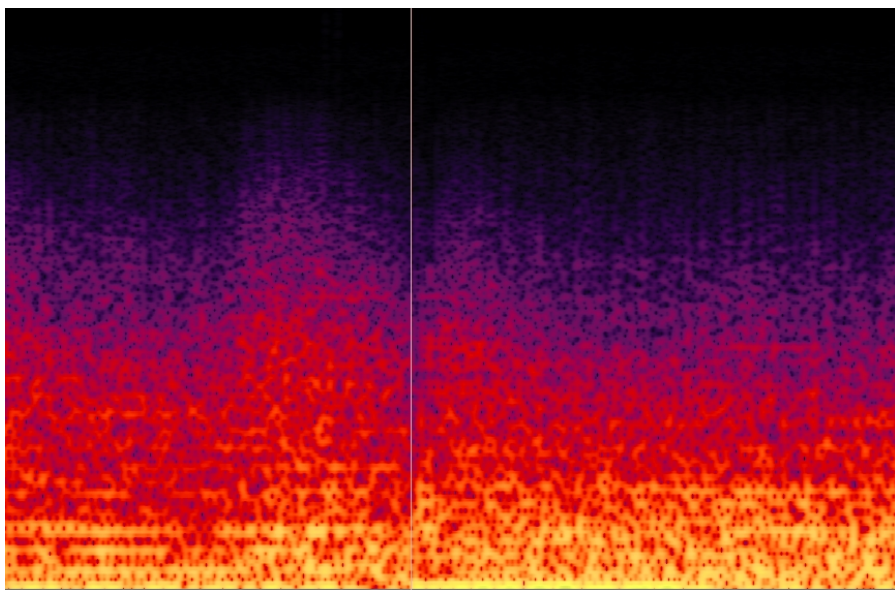
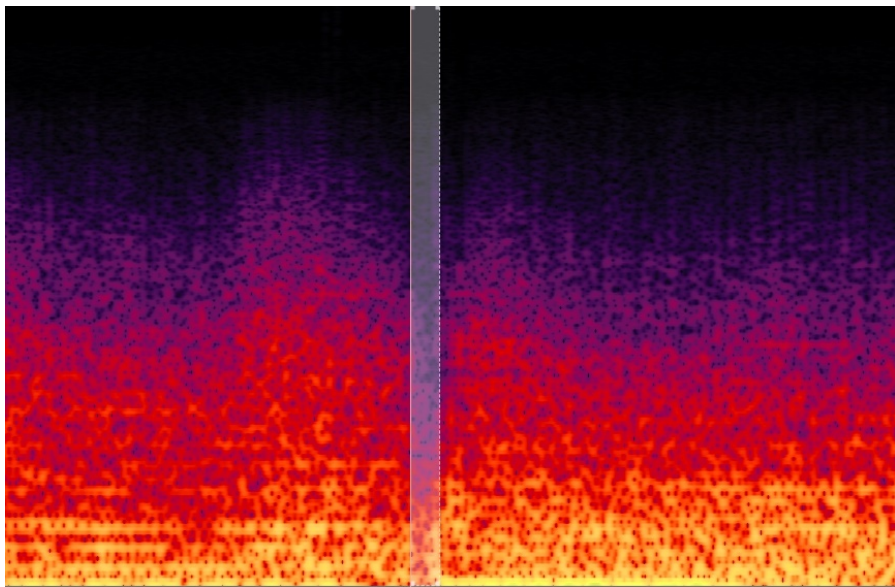
### **How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 2 😊**

Especially in 1970's-1980's 12" mixes, re-arranging parts from songs was probably done by cutting tape and sticking it back together. And mistakes were made. When listening casually, it's hard to hear the mistake, but once you've noticed the join in the spectral display, it's very hard to un-hear it. So this trick alters the song, but I think it's an improvement.

It's quite simple. On the first image, you can see an odd gap. Just a few milliseconds, but noticeable. Select the gap, then delete it. It might take a few tries before you've got the right selection, but you can always undo it and try again.

(This trick can also be applied to music from CD, of course.)





**FB: Thursday, July 7, 2022**

### How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 3 😊

Vinyl records make all sorts of unwanted noises. The solution is de-noising, and there are several plugins that can do just that. I prefer Waves X-Noise, it analyses a part of the recording that has just noise (the grooves between two songs, for example), creates a noise profile, and then (after some fine-tuning) removes the noise from the selected part of the recording. RX8 has a similar plugin, which can be tweaked even more, but I can't get it to work the way I want it too. Too much variables, perhaps.

You have to be careful, raising the threshold or the reduction slider too high creates rather nasty artifacts in the music, and that doesn't improve the recording at all. I find that, after creating the profile, a setting of about 20 for both the threshold and the reduction is just about right, but it really depends on the recording and the record player itself. Just raise the sliders until the music starts to sound odd, and then lower them a bit.

The pictures show the difference before and after de-noising. This is a recording from a cassette by the way, not from a vinyl record, because the difference is more obvious.





**Update, July 26, 2022:** I've learned to use the RX8 Spectral de-noise plugin and the results are amazing. To de-noise an entire song, the adaptive mode at a low setting removes quite a lot of noise without altering the music (at a high setting, it seems to work as a gate and lower frequencies start to sound very odd). In quiet parts or during a fade out, learning a curve and then applying the de-noiser (either RX8 or X-noise) gives the best results.





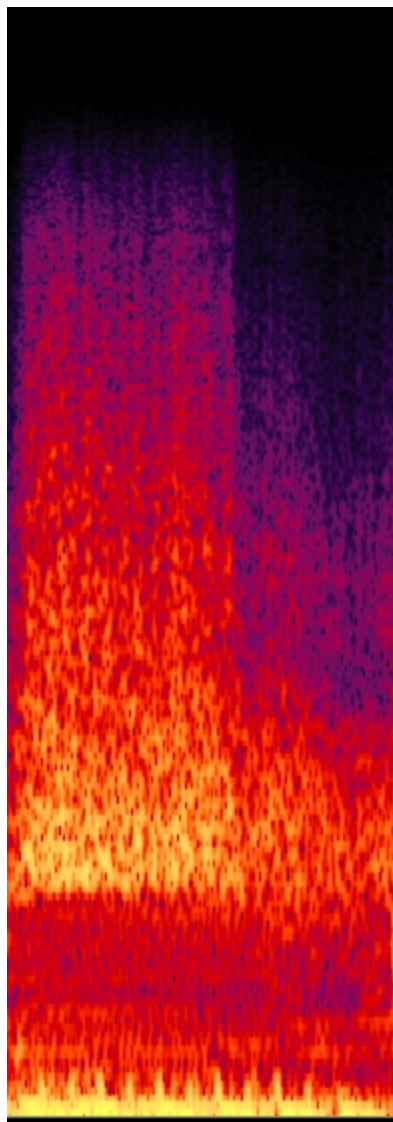
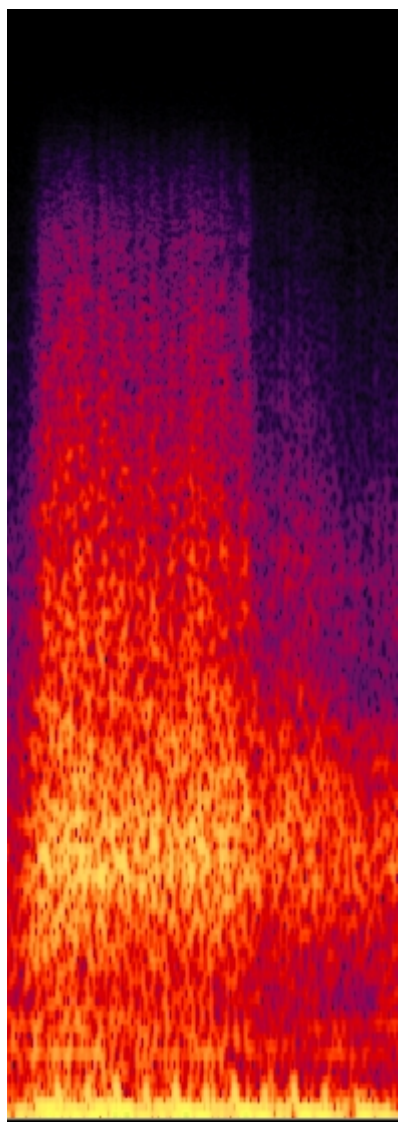
**FB: Sunday, July 10, 2022**

### **How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 4 😊**

De-essing may be needed. To do this properly, you need to learn which frequencies cause which unwanted sounds. It's hard to explain, and I'm not very good at it myself. You can set a de-esser plugin to a specific frequency range and apply this to an entire song, but usually I do this manually because every 'es' or 'sh' sound is different. De-essing a song is also much more difficult than de-essing just the vocal: lowering the volume can also affect instruments.

Using the auto-heal cursor in Audition, you can lower the volume of a part of the spectral display, as shown in the pictures. Usually, the unwanted sound is in the lower part of the fragment, but if you dim this too much, the higher frequencies become dominant and that can sound unnatural as well. Something I recently discovered is that a de-clicker plugin can clean up the 'es' sound automatically, but it very much depends on the sound. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't...

**Update, July 26, 2022:** I've been experimenting a bit, and in RX8 a combination of de-clicking the frequencies below the sharp sound (the brightest part of the fragment), then attenuating them, lowering gain and replacing very bright (= loud) frequencies seems to work best. But, every 'es' is different, customization is needed...



**FB: Thursday, July 14, 2022**

### How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 5 😊

Matching EQ. This is really cool. The iZotope plugin analyses two recordings, shows the difference, and suggests a correction curve.



To improve the recording from vinyl, I use a similar recording from a CD, for instance, if the recording from vinyl is a 12" mix, I use the album version from CD, because the EQ usually doesn't differ that much. After applying the correction curve, the sound of the recording from vinyl improves dramatically.

**FB: Saturday, July 16, 2022**

### How to improve recordings from vinyl, part 6 😊

Remastering with iZotope is very easy. The plugin analyses the music and suggests settings for improvement. Usually, a little too extreme, even when set to 'moderate', but you can easily dial that back a bit.

**Ozone** MASTER ASSISTANT Presets

Equalizer 1 X Dynamics X Dynamic EQ X **Maximizer** X

Learn Threshold -14.0 LUFS

Mode: IRC LL, IRC I, IRC II, IRC III, **IRC IV** (Modern)

**True Peak** Ceiling: -0.3 dB, Threshold: -4.1 dB

Character: 0.60 (Fast to Slow)

Stereo Independence: Transient: 20%, Sustain: 0%

**Transient Emphasis** Amount: 80

Peak: -0.3, -0.3; RMS: -7.9, -8.4

Bypass Gain Match Reference Codec Dither

# 2023

**FB: Monday, January 23, 2023**

Over the past six months, I've been involved in a very special project, the digital revival of an iconic concert from 1982.



My contribution to this re-release was the restoration and remastering of the album from vinyl and I've designed the artwork, resulting in a 49-page booklet containing background information and long lost concert photographs.

The album has been released a few days ago, and all proceeds go to LGBTQ+ charities in the UK.

<https://homopromos.bandcamp.com/album/coming-out-ready-or-not-an-lgbtq-charity-release>

From the recent Tom Robinson newsletter:

Coming Out – Ready or Not' was the live recording of a pioneering LGBTQ+ benefit concert in London at The Albany, Deptford, in December 1982. The event was a fundraiser for London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard, and the album was released on vinyl exactly 40 years ago.

It included the first ever recording of War Baby, performed by myself [Tom, red.] and saxophonist Mark Ramsden. (The subsequent full band recording went to No. 6 in the charts as an independent single six months later.)

Pretty much everybody from the activist LGBTQ+ music scene at the time took part in that marathon concert, including three members of the Gay Teenage Movement... L to R below: the late, great Toby Kettle, a young Richard Coles, and future author, archivist, film-maker and performer Rose Collis.

Other artists that night included singers Jo Richler, Chris Ransome and Carol Uszkurat; plus comedy from Mark Bunyan, Eric Presland and the Red Bucket Theatre Collective of Grimsby. This long-lost live album captures the electric atmosphere of that packed event - particularly the full-cast version of 'Glad To Be Gay' which closed the evening.

The original LP, issued in a limited edition of 400, is now a collector's item, and has been seen on eBay for \$900. Forty years later those recordings

have been retrieved, remastered and released digitally on Bandcamp with added bonus tracks.

Those bonus tracks include another rare vinyl release - the 7" Glad to be Gay EP - specially recorded and pressed for the 1975 CHE (Campaign For Homosexual Equality) conference in Sheffield.

**FB: Wednesday, February 1, 2023**



Last year, I put very little effort in promoting my latest album,, 'Maria, Mater Dei', which contains hymns about the Virgin Mary, sung in Latin. Still, it's worth a listen, especially the Magnificat.

Available from iTunes, Amazon, several other online shops, Spotify, and of course from Bandcamp: <https://nion.bandcamp.com/album/maria-mater-dei>

**FB: Thursday, March 30, 2023**

I've written seventeen new lyrics. I have no idea how long it will take to set them to music and record them, it could be years :)



The picture was generated by an artificial intelligence, by feeding it one of the lyrics.

**FB: Sunday, April 2, 2023**

More experiments with artificial intelligence. How I (or, mostly, the AI) did it:

- Start off with writing a lyric (or a poem).
- Feed the poem to AI #1 and ask it to summarize it into keywords.
- Feed the keywords to AI #2 and ask it to create an oil painting.
- Improve the picture with Photoshop.







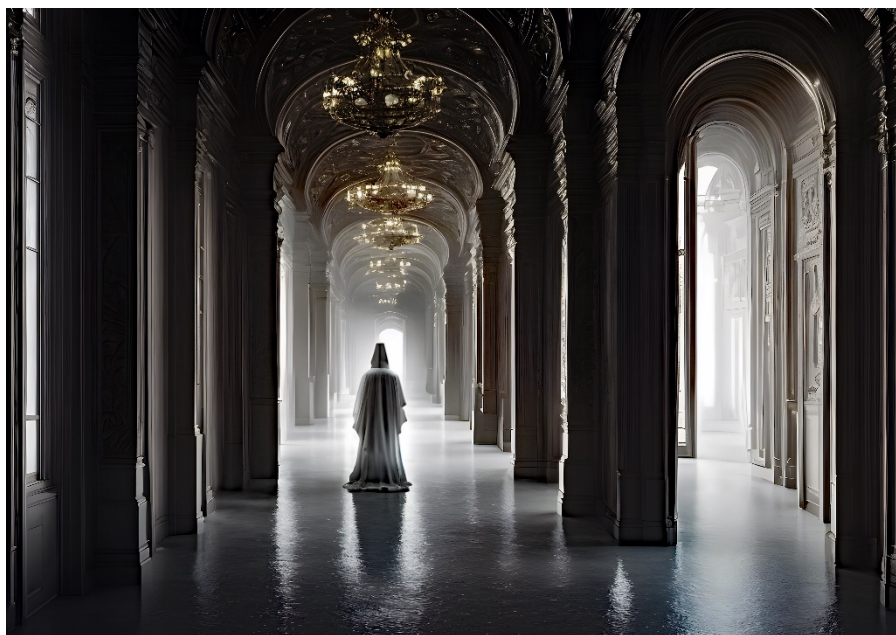
Two of the AI generated images I will \*not\* use in the project I'm working on (I've created more images than needed). But it gives some idea of the direction the music is going in :)

**FB: Saturday, April 29, 2023**

More pictures I will \*not\* use for my next musical project. But I am getting quite good at instructing the AI to create exactly what I want to see :)







**FB: Thursday, November 2, 2023**

Artist update: I'm working on new music and I'm writing several books at the same time. Maybe something will surface in 2024?

**FB: Thursday, December 14, 2023**

Recently, and under a penname/pseudonym, I've published two novelettes on Amazon/Kindle, stories inspired by the poetry of Digby Mackworth Dolben. The stories are set in the 19th century.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CQ88PWCF>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0CKZHYZTH>

I've kept the price as low as possible because earning money is of no importance to me.

## A POEM WITHOUT A NAME

A novelette, inspired by the poems of  
Digby Mackworth Dolben



ARCHIBALD MEADOWSON

## ON RIVER BANKS MY LOVE WAS BORN

A novelette, inspired by the poem by  
Digby Mackworth Dolben



ARCHIBALD MEADOWSON

**FB: Thursday, December 22, 2023**



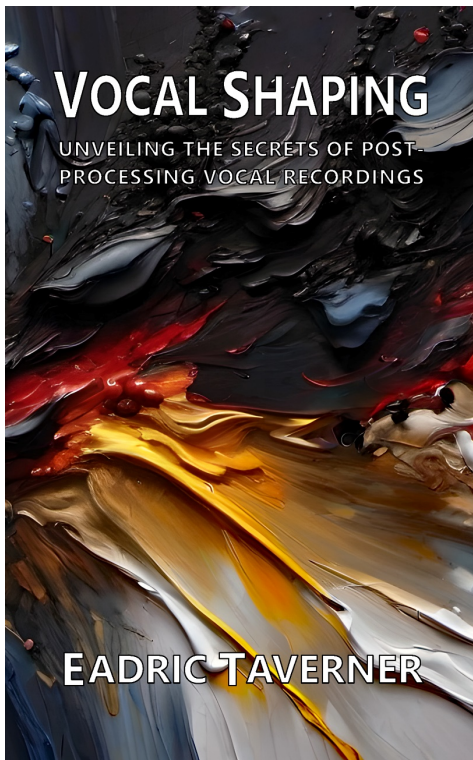
New toy 😊 Only 40 euros, and pretty vintage (1995), this Kawai ACR-20 sequencer/sound module. The sounds are quite decent!

# 2024

**FB: Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

In 2023 I spent a lot of time on writing a technical book, about recording and processing vocals. Quite a lot of work went into this 524-page book!

It's available from [Amazon/Kindle](#) (released under a penname).



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