

Masterclass – ORCHESTRATION

November 1st to 6th 2025 in Halle (Saale), Germany

The Masterclass is part of the **18th Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt** (November 1st to 8th 2025) in Halle (Saale), Germany. By working in the master class on a soundtrack you have created for a short film excerpt, orchestrated for large symphony orchestra, you can deepen your skills in film music composition, orchestration and orchestral production.

Coached by the composer and arranger Prof. Benjamin Köthe, the conductor Prof. Bernd Ruf, the sound engineer Holger Busse and the artistic director of the Film Music Days Markus Steffen, the participants of the Masterclass 2025 will create a soundtrack for a film sequence or a short film.

The fact that especially young composers get only a few chances to work with an orchestra, was one reason to develop this Masterclass. The lecturers will mentor the participants in their roles as an orchestrator and composer and will give an impression of a recording producer's work. Thanks to the close cooperation with the Staatskapelle Halle (our local A-orchestra in Halle) the qualified talents get the rare opportunity to work with a great symphony orchestra with up to 80 musicians.

TARGET GROUP AND APPLICATION

The Masterclass is aimed at film music composers, from student to professional level.

Application deadline is **August 18th, 2025**.

The number of participants is limited to five.

SCHEDULE:

Application deadline, 18.08.2025

The film clip is then provided for the composition to be worked out ahead of the Masterclass.

Saturday, 01.11.2025, start of the Masterclass

Sunday, 02.11.2025, composing / orchestration

Monday, 03.11.2025, composing / orchestration

Tuesday, 04.11.2025, composing / orchestration

Wednesday, 05.11.2025 composing / orchestration / recordings with the orchestra

Thursday, 06.11.2025, debriefing / end of the Masterclass

Friday, 07.11.2025, rehearsal Gala Concert / Masterclass feedback round

Saturday, 08.11.2025 rehearsal and Gala Concert

For the **application**, please submit the filled in **form** with a representative **orchestral score** (pdf) and a **recording** or **midi-layout**. If you are one of the five selected applicants, you will receive in the next step a short sequence of a film (or short film) for composition and orchestration, which will be produced in a **recording session** with the Staatskapelle Halle and GENUIN classics.

PROGRAM

During the six-day Masterclass the participants will realize their own film music composition/ orchestration, led by the experienced composer and arranger Prof. Benjamin Köthe (University for Music and Theater Rostock). Afterwards the participants shall get their own Master file recorded with the Staatskapelle Halle.

- **Dramaturgy of a film score, functionality, and effects of film music**
- **How does an orchestra function, think and work?**
- **Orchestrating, Composing, Notation**
- **Sound Techniques**
 - Introduction into sound studio techniques for orchestral productions
 - Insights into technical variants and options for recording the own film music.
 - Record Management – Working with conductor and orchestra.
 - Postproduction – Editing, mixing
- **Working with a Symphonic Orchestra**
 - During the recording session led by Holger Busse (GENUIN Classics, Leipzig) the five compositions will be recorded in a session with the Staatskapelle Halle (Symphonic Orchestra)
 - Visit of rehearsals for the Gala Concert of the 18th Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt (if possible)
 - Performance of a selection of the composed scores at the Gala Concert of the 18th Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt at the Opera House in Halle (if feasible)

TEACHERS

Prof. Bernd Ruf conducts orchestral recordings for films and games, most recently for ‘Harry Potter: Magic Awakened’ with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. These include soundtracks from major TV and cinema productions such as ‘Ku'damm 63’ (2021) by Karim Sebastian Elias, ‘Traumfabrik’ (2019) by Philipp Noll and ‘Albert Schweitzer: A Life in Africa’ (2009) by Colin Towns. Since 2008, he has conducted the annual film music concert gala at the Filmmusiktage Sachsen-Anhalt. As a guest conductor, he has conducted film music and crossover concerts with various orchestras for 25 years. He received a Grammy nomination in Los Angeles, the Golden Melody Award in Taiwan, many platinum, and gold awards in Germany and was nominated for Conductor of the Year at Opus Klassik in 2021. At the University of Music Lübeck, he is head of the department of popular music, jazz, and world music.

Prof. Benjamin Köthe works as a composer, orchestrator, arranger, piano and keyboard player for studio, film and tv productions as well as for concert projects with several orchestras. He is specialized in symphonic rock crossover compositions. For many years now he is the main arranger for “Bridges to Classic” at the legendary Händel Festival in Halle (Saale). Since 2006 he leads the studies of pop and world music at the Rostock University of Music and Theater.

Holger Busse is one of the founders and CEO of sound engineering and classic sound studio GENUIN classics located in Leipzig. The qualified sound engineer is specialized in orchestra productions for video games and film.

Markus Steffen is the art director of the Film Music Days Saxony-Anhalt. As a music producer he already worked for several cinema productions.

PARTICIPATION

Participation Masterclass – THE ORCHESTRA

Locations:

1. – 5.11. *tbd*

5. – 6.11. *Probenhaus der Staatskapelle Halle, Große Gosenstraße 12, 06114 Halle (Saale)*

Fee:

526,44 (7% VAT included)

Including drinks (daytime), lunch, and the participation at the Gala Concert (November 8th) and the congress (November 7th – 8th) of the 18th Film Music Days.

Accommodation and travel costs are not included.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

We recommend:

Jugendherberge Halle, Große Steinstraße 60, 06108 Halle (Saale) <http://www.jugendherberge-halle.de/>

Other accommodation:

Hostel No.5 <http://www.hostel-no5.de>

B & B Hotels www.hotelbb.de/de/halle-saale

Ankerhof Hotel www.ankerhof.de/

NIU Ridge <https://the.niu.de/hotels/deutschland/halle/the-niu-ridge>

Please tell us about your preferred accommodation for reservation.

If requested and marked in the application form, the participants can visit the **Gala Concert** and the **congress** of the 18th Film Music Days for free.

APPLICATION until **August 18th, 2025**

APPLICATION FORMS for download: www.filmmusiktage.de/masterclass

Please send your application to: a.renner@iama-halle.de

The 18th Filmmusiktage Sachsen-Anhalt 2025 is an event of the International Academy of Media and Arts e. V. in collaboration with the state Saxony-Anhalt under the patronage of the minister of state Rainer Robra.

CONTACT

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