

RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA



FILM
COMPOSERS
LAB

Film Composers Lab 2025:26
Application Pack

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About the Programme

Film Composers Lab is a professional development scheme for early-career composers with an interest in composition for screen. Delivered by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), the programme builds on the success of the RSNO's Composers' Hub initiative, delivered annually between 2015 and 2022.

Film Composers Lab offers five emerging UK-based composers an invaluable opportunity to expand their skills in film composition by rescoring an existing short film while working directly with a professional orchestra, project mentors, experienced film composers and seasoned screen industry professionals, creating a brand-new composition for a full symphony orchestra. Delivered in a hybrid format, the project will culminate in a workshop at the RSNO's world-class recording facility, Scotland's Studio, in May 2026. All five new scores will be programmed at a special public screening in the summer of 2026, where one work will be selected to be showcased during the RSNO's 2026:27 Season.

Activity and Dates

Participants will take part in masterclasses with industry experts – providing insights into all aspects of composing for film, from the director-composer relationship to orchestration and budgeting – while working on their new compositions. Each participant will have a 1:1 mentoring session with award-winning film and TV composer John Lunn (*Downton Abbey*, *The Last Kingdom*, *Shetland*). Co-mentor Danai Kokogia will be on hand to provide regular support and advice to participants throughout the project. There will be two opportunities for participants to record their scores with RSNO musicians at Scotland's Studio in Glasgow. Activities will be delivered in a hybrid format between November 2025 and May 2026, with the key dates that composers need to commit to as follows:

Date & Time	Activity	Location
Sat 22 Nov 2025 2-10pm	Induction Day (including tour of the RSNO's Scotland's Studio and attendance at RSNO's Gershwin & Rachmaninov concert)	Glasgow
Sat 7 Feb 2026 9am-5pm	In-person Film Industry Masterclass Day	Glasgow
Sun 8 Feb 2026 9am-5pm	Recording Workshop 1 (with large chamber ensemble)	Glasgow
Sat 28 Mar 2026 9am – 5pm	Online Film Industry Masterclass Day	Online
Sat 2 May 2026 9am-5pm	Recording Workshop 2 (with full symphony orchestra)	Glasgow
Sun 3 May 2026 9am-5pm	Mixing Session	Glasgow
June 2026 Date TBC	Final Screening	Glasgow

In addition, prospective applicants should make note of the following dates:

Applications deadline: 5pm on Sun 21st September 2025

Interviews via Zoom: Thursday 16th October 2025

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Project Facilitators



Lead Mentor: John Lunn

Emmy-winning composer John Lunn, best known for his scores for British television, will act as lead mentor for the Film Composers Lab, guiding participants' experience and providing targeted mentorship during the programme. Lunn has composed the scores for such critically acclaimed series as *Hamish Macbeth*, *Bleak House*, *Shetland* and *The Last Kingdom*. After acting as sole composer of the BBC series *Downton Abbey* during its six-season run, he returned to score the 2019 and 2022 film sequels.



Associate Co-Mentor: Danai Kokogia

London-based Greek composer Danai Kokogia specialises in orchestral and hybrid music for film and video games. As of 2024, Danai is composing the orchestral score for an upcoming video game while simultaneously acting as an assistant to BAFTA and Ivor Novello nominated composer David Housden on scores such as Disney *Illusion Island*. Previous projects include an animated commercial for Taco Bell, feature film *Geal*, and award-winning animated short *Layers of Fear*.



Film Industry Consultant: Holly Daniel

Holly Daniel is a film festival consultant and talent development project manager with a long track record of supporting new and emerging film talent. She currently oversees the Industry programme and market at the Red Sea International Film Festival and curates events for Women in Film & TV in Scotland. Holly was Executive Producer for the Scottish Film Talent Network for 6 years and is now joint Programme Director for the Screen Scotland Talent Builder initiative TAKE THREE which supports short filmmakers in Scotland from early career through to feature film readiness. Holly has worked with the RSNO on their Film Composers Lab since its inception and curates the film industry related elements of the programme.



Masterclass Leaders: Film and Music Industry Professionals

Participants will take part in a series of masterclasses, providing industry insights into the creative, practical, and business elements of composing for screen. Curated by the programme's Film Industry Consultant Holly Daniel, these sessions will be delivered by established UK and international composers, film directors, music supervisors, orchestrators and producers, as well as members of the RSNO Artistic Team and staff.

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Eligibility Criteria

We welcome applications from everyone, regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, or socio-economic background, and would particularly encourage individuals from groups currently underrepresented in the field of composition to apply. The only specific eligibility criteria are that applicants must be:

- Based in the UK
- A current PRS member (or applying member)
- In the early stages of their career, with some experience of composing for picture
- Experience in preparing orchestral scores and parts is preferred

Travel/Accommodation Bursaries

Support for all participants

This programme is designed to be available to any early-career composer resident in the UK. For the in-person days in Glasgow, we will provide travel and accommodation bursaries to all participants (up to a maximum of £1250 over the course of the programme) to ensure that their participation in the Film Composers Lab is financially sustainable.

Application Notes

To apply for a place on the Film Composers Lab scheme, please complete the application form overleaf and return it by email to engage@rsno.org.uk with the required supporting materials. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Sunday 21 September 2025**. Shortlisting will take place in late September and shortlisted candidates will be interviewed via Zoom on Thursday 16 October 2025.

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Application Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full name	
Preferred pronouns	
Address	
Postcode	
Phone number	
Email address	

ABOUT YOU

Are you a: (tick as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Current PRS member? What is your PRS membership number?:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Applying member?
Do you have any accessibility issues?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please specify:
How did you find out about the Film Composers Lab?	

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please tell us why you would like to participate in Film Composers Lab and how it will benefit you at this stage in your career. (500 words max.)

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SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Please attach the following alongside your completed application form:

- Curriculum Vitae
- An example of an orchestral score or part that you have prepared (in PDF format)
- Two composition samples, of which at least one is a score to picture. The picture does not need to be an original project – rescoring is acceptable (you can either attach files to your email or provide links below)

Please note that the panel can only listen to approximately 4 minutes per submitted track/film due to the volume of submissions we receive. Therefore if you are submitting entire films or longer works as your supporting material, please provide timecodes to specify which extract you would like to be taken into consideration.

Composition 1:

Composition 2:

The deadline for applications is **5pm on Sunday 21 September 2025**



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Film Composers Lab is kindly supported by the Boris Karloff Charitable Foundation,
Common Humanity Arts Trust, Idlewild Trust and The Noël Coward Foundation.

The RSNO is supported by
the Scottish Government



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