



FILM MUSIC CONNECT

SHORTS COMPETITION

2024/25 RULES & GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

SAGindie and Helix Collective are accepting short film and composer reel applications for the 2024 FILM MUSIC CONNECT SHORTS COMPETITION.

Short films without an original soundtrack will be paired with a winning composer who will write an original score for the film for chamber ensemble, performed and recorded by Helix Collective. The score will be provided to the filmmaker for all future use in their film.

- Films must have a 10-minute or less runtime and be signatory under a SAG-AFTRA agreement
- Winning filmmakers must attend and/or view the Helix Collective workshop "From Spotting Session to Final Dub" prior to working with their composer
- Winning films will be selected by a panel of SAGindie staff
- Composer finalists will be selected by a panel of Helix Collective staff
- Winning filmmakers will get to choose their composer from the selected finalists
- Filmmakers shall receive nonexclusive rights and license to use the score in any and all exploitation of their film in perpetuity
- Composer shall retain exclusive copyright to composition; composer's publishing company shall retain 100% of copyright and publishing income in connection with the composition
- Helix Collective shall retain exclusive copyright to master recordings
- Filmmaker is strongly encouraged to but not obligated to use the final score. If score is not used, all rights granted to the filmmaker shall be null and void

Learn more at sagindie.org/FilmMusicConnect

RULES & REGULATIONS

FILM SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

- Short films of 10 minutes or less runtime that do NOT have an original score are eligible. (Completed films that used library music are welcome to apply.)
- Films must be signatory under a SAG-AFTRA agreement (Student Film Agreement, Micro-Budget Agreement, Short Project Agreement, New Media Agreement)
- Film submission form must be completed, including:

- Filmmaker contact info
- Film genre, runtime, and plot description
- Link to view film (Vimeo, YouTube, etc.)
- Submit your film at <https://www.sagindie.org/resources/music/connect-submission/>

COMPOSER SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

- Submit a link to a video reel up to 5 minutes in length of your music scored to picture
 - Including multiple examples of different styles is suggested
 - Including music recorded by live musicians is not required but strongly encouraged
 - Film clips with re-scores may be included
 - Please provide a link without password protection
- Submit a PDF sample score
 - The PDF score does not need to match a sample video in your reel
 - Chamber music scores are preferred but full orchestra scores are acceptable
 - You should have prepared the score yourself without assistance from an orchestrator
 - Submit your reel at <https://forms.gle/qYBZyMjRJJokfp7y7>

WINNERS

Three (3) short films and three (3) composers will be named as winners.

Scores will be provided to the winning filmmakers free of charge. After delivery of final edit and mix of score, composers will receive a \$500 honorarium, paid by Helix Collective.

SELECTION PROCESS

Winning films and composer finalists will be selected based on artistic merit and/or vision, ability to collaborate, and adherence to all submission criteria.

SAGindie staff will select the three winning films. Helix Collective staff will select composer finalists whose reels will be reviewed by the winning filmmakers. Each filmmaker will get to choose the winning composer for their film from the selected finalists.

ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Upon completion of the selection process, SAGindie and Helix Collective (Hosts) will attempt to notify selected filmmakers and composers using the contact information provided on the submission forms. Hosts disavow any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any failure to contact the selected filmmaker or composer using the contact information provided on the submission form.

WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Winning filmmakers will be required to attend the virtual workshop "From Spotting Session to Final Dub," presented by Helix Collective. This informational workshop will educate filmmakers on the basics of film music and provide communication tools to improve their collaboration with their composer. If any filmmaker is unable to attend, viewing a recording of the workshop is required.

ORIGINAL WORK

Films must be the original work of the applicant. The filmmaker is solely responsible for obtaining all necessary rights and permissions, including copyrights and trademarks. Filmmaker holds Hosts harmless and will indemnify against any costs, damages, or liabilities incurred by breach or alleged breach of this representation.

Score must be an original work by the composer. Composer represents that the score is wholly original, and does not violate any rights of any persons or corporations. Composer holds Hosts harmless and will indemnify against any costs, damages, or liabilities incurred by breach or alleged breach of this representation. The use of public domain works is allowed.

COLLABORATION

Film Music Connect is an educational program designed to strengthen the collaboration process between the filmmaker and composer and tell the film's story in the best way possible using music as a tool. The filmmaker and composer must collaborate on the spotting, style, and dramatic intent of the music. One spotting session (in-person or virtual) is required and further communication is strongly encouraged. Helix Collective will be available as an additional communication resource and guide for any questions or concerns that arise during the collaboration process.

DEADLINES

Music/composition sessions take place over approximately 1 month from picture delivery to composer; Master recordings by Helix Collective to take place 1 month after receipt of finalized composition and all required materials in agreed upon format and instrumentation; Composer shall use master recordings to create final mix and deliver to Filmmaker within 2 weeks.

Hosts reserve the right to disqualify any composer or filmmaker who fails to remit their final cut, score, parts, or files by the stated deadline.

- January 6, 2025 - Film/Reel submission deadlines
- February 3, 2025 - Winning films and composer finalists notified
- February 17, 2025 - Final composer selection deadline for filmmakers
- February 24, 2025 - Locked picture delivery deadline
- February 25 - March 26, 2025 - Score writing period
- April 2025 - Recording Session
- May 2025 - Music mix delivery deadline

OWNERSHIP AND RIGHTS

Subject to the nonexclusive rights granted to Filmmaker, the Copyright in the Composition shall be the exclusive property of the Composer, and the copyright in the Master Recordings shall be the exclusive property of Helix Collective, worldwide without limitation for the full duration of copyright therein, including the sole and exclusive right respectively to register copyright in same. Composers have the right to use their score paired with the short film in their

privately-shared reels as long as Filmmaker and Helix Collective are credited. Public sharing of the short film requires permission from the Filmmaker.

Filmmaker is granted the non-exclusive right, license, privileg, and authority throughout the universe to have the perpetual, irrevocable license to synchronize and/or use the score in connection with any and all exploitation of the film in all media, including advertising and promotion of the film. Uses in derivatives including full-length feature, prequel, sequel, series, merchandise, games, etc. are not included and would be subject to good faith negotiation.

Helix Collective and SAGindie have the right to use any content from the resulting recording sessions in promotions for future events and support.

CREDITS

Filmmaker shall include the following credits in their film:

"Original Score by [Composer Name], Performed by Helix Collective"; and:

"Special Thanks to SAGindie"

FAQs:

Q: Is there a submission fee to apply?

A: No, it is free to apply for both filmmakers and composers.

Q: Is my feature film eligible?

A: No, currently only short films with maximum runtimes of 10 minutes are eligible.

Q: My film is non-union. Can I still apply?

A: Only short films produced under SAG-AFTRA agreements (including but not limited to the Micro-Budget Agreement, Student Film Agreement, Short Project Agreement, and New Media Agreement) are eligible.

Q: Does the filmmaker get to choose their own composer?

A: Yes, each winning filmmaker will review the reels of the composer finalists and choose the one they want to write their film's score.

Q: Does the filmmaker have to pay the composer for their work?

A: No, Helix Collective and SAGindie cover all program costs, from composer fees to recording session fees.

Q: What if the filmmaker doesn't like the final score provided to them?

A: While we hope that won't be the case (this is a collaboration process in which you have hopefully been able to communicate and share your ideas, needs, and feedback), filmmakers are not obligated to use the final scores in their films. If a filmmaker chooses to not use the score, all rights and licenses granted to the filmmaker are null and void.