

We are delighted to announce that the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków will host a unique international event celebrating one hundred years of music in film. We warmly invite scholars and practitioners to submit their proposals!

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE SOUNDS OF CINEMA *INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR 100 YEARS OF MUSIC IN FILM*

25-27 NOVEMBER 2027

The central theme of the Congress will be a reflection on the phenomenon of film music as an artistic, cultural, and technological practice that has continuously shaped the language of cinema and our experience of moving images for almost a century. From the earliest accompaniments to silent films to contemporary soundtracks created with the support of artificial intelligence, film music has remained one of the defining elements of audiovisual storytelling. It creates emotional landscapes, structures cinematic time and space, shapes the identity of characters, and contributes to the cultural memory shared by successive generations of audiences.

The Congress aims to provide an international forum for scholars, composers, music theorists, film and media researchers, cultural scholars, and professionals from the film industry. It seeks both to reflect upon the achievements of film music scholarship to date and to explore new directions for this interdisciplinary field in the context of contemporary aesthetic, technological, and social transformations. Particular attention will be devoted to the relationships between music, image, and audience, as well as to the future of film music in the era of new media.

MAIN THEMATIC AREAS:

1. History and Heritage of Film Music
2. Aesthetics, Analysis, and Audiovisual Narrative
3. Composition, Technology, and New Media
4. Culture, Society, and the Future of Film Music

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. History and Heritage:

- Origins, sources, and early concepts of film music
- Music for silent cinema
- The emergence of sound film
- The Golden Age of Hollywood
- European schools of film music
- The history of Polish film music

- Great film composers and their works
- Film music across cultures
- Archives, manuscripts, and source materials for film music research
- Film music as cultural heritage

2. Aesthetics and Analysis:

- Music as a component of film narrative
- Relationships between music and image
- Dramaturgy, emotion, and perception
- Semiotics of film music
- Intertextuality, quotation, and stylistic reference
- Genres and styles of film music
- Analysis of film scores
- Leitmotifs and narrative strategies
- Silence as an expressive device
- Music, editing, and cinematic rhythm

3. Composition, Technology, and New Media:

- The craft of the film composer
- Soundtrack production and recording
- Electronic and hybrid film music
- Sound design and its relationship with music
- Artificial intelligence in film music composition
- Immersive audio technologies
- Music in television series, video games, and interactive media
- Concert adaptations of film music
- New technologies in sound recording and production

4. Cultural and Social Contexts:

- Film music as cultural memory
- National and regional identities in film music
- Music in biographical, historical, and documentary films
- Film music and social or political change
- Gender studies and postcolonial perspectives on film music
- Film music in popular culture
- Film and music education
- Reception studies
- The concert life of film music
- The future of film music in the age of artificial intelligence

5. Other Topics:

The Programme Committee also welcomes proposals that extend beyond the thematic areas listed above, provided they relate broadly to film music, audiovisual culture, or the art of sound.

CONGRESS FORMAT:

The preliminary programme will include:

- Two keynote lectures
- Twenty-minute paper presentations (held in two parallel sessions)
- Round-table discussions, including a panel dedicated to the film music of the Academy's patron - Krzysztof Penderecki - at the Elżbieta and Krzysztof Penderecki Music Salon in Kraków
- Accompanying events
- Concerts
- Meetings with film music composers

Participants are encouraged to approach their topics from broad interdisciplinary perspectives. We strongly recommend in-person participation. The official language of the Congress will be **English**.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

We invite proposals for twenty-minute presentations in English.

Please submit your abstract by **15 March 2027** to:

soundsofcinema@amuz.krakow.pl (contact person: Maria Wilczek-Krupa)

Please attach a single Word document (.docx) containing:

the author's full name, institutional affiliation, a short biographical note (up to 100 words), the title of the paper and an abstract (up to 300 words), keywords, and details of any audiovisual equipment required.

All abstracts will undergo a review process, and authors will be notified of acceptance **by the end of March 2027**. Notification of acceptance, as well as all information regarding registration, will be sent by email.

CONFERENCE FEE:

Academics: €140

Students and doctoral candidates: €70

The conference fee does not include travel or accommodation expenses.

PROGRAMME AND ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

Maria Wilczek-Krupa

Ewa Czachorowska-Zygor

Agnieszka Draus

Andrzej Mądro

Piotr Karola