



# WSA rules book

## World Soundtrack Academy® mission & membership

### One: Mission of the Academy

1. The World Soundtrack Academy (hereafter referred to as WSA) was created with the aim to organize and oversee the educational, cultural, professional and promotional aspects involved in the art of film music and soundtracks, including the preservation of its history as well as its worldwide promotion.
  - a. **PROMOTION:** This through the presentation of awards, aimed at the recognition of outstanding achievements, as well as through the development of other promotional activities.
  - b. **EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, PROFESSIONAL:** the WSA wants to represent the viewpoint of the actual creative forces involved in film music and sound and foster educational activities between the professional community and the public-at-large. It therefore actively contributes to educational initiatives that are aimed at studying this form of art such as seminars, workshops, master classes, music events, etc. as well as through the publication of these studies and the development of an archive.

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### Two: Membership

Membership in the WSA consists of **Voting Members** and **non-Voting members**.

Among the entire group of WSA Voting Members a key group of **WSA core members**:

- the **Advisory** Board members
- the **Honorary** Board members

*You will find more information about the WSA Advisory & Honorary Board on page 3.*

### Voting membership

- Voting Membership is free and is **open to film music composers and to executives active in the film music business**, such as agents, managers, producers, publicists, etc. upon presentation of:
  - at least two (2) written recommendations from existing Voting Members
  - one recommendation in case of a WSA Advisory Board Member
- Together with the written recommendations, all candidate members should supply a **full biography** that proves their active involvement in the film music profession, i.e. as a film composer or film music executive.
- Alternatively, the status of Voting Member is also **automatically given to all WSA Nominees and Winners**.

#### Voting rounds

All Voting Members are invited to cast their votes for the two voting rounds, i.e. the **first round (by the beginning of July)** and the **second round (mid - August)**, to select resp. the nominees and winners in the WSA Film Composer, Best Original Song, Television Composer of the Year categories.

*More details about the Award Definitions on page 4.*

### Non-voting membership

Corporate Membership is available to all organizations, companies and bodies interested in financially supporting the activities organized and initiatives taken by the World Soundtrack Academy.

**Corporate Membership does not give the right to vote.**



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### **The WSA Advisory Board Members**

The **WSA Advisory Board** is the core group of the World Soundtrack Academy.

These key members of the World Soundtrack Academy are very **actively involved with the day-to-day business of the WSA** and the film music industry in general.

The WSA Advisory Board has to consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 40 members, coming from all over the world. At least one-quarter of them should be composers. Non-composer members should be recruited under filmmakers (directors and producers) whose work displays a great interest for music, film music agents, film music industry executives, etc. Not more than 45% of the board members can come from the same country\*.

(\* Not the country of origin but the location they live in and work from is considered to determine this.)

Most communication with the Board is done via e-mail or regular mail.

The Board may take the initiative to invite candidates to join as Board or Voting Members.

It is within the sole and confidential discretion of the Board to cancel or refuse membership, or to alter application regulations. The Board shall also resolve all interpretations and all questions with regards to membership applications.

### **The WSA Honorary Board Members**

The **WSA Honorary Board** contains honorary members of the World Soundtrack Academy. These film music experts are consulted whenever necessary.

Honorary members follow the general Academy voting process and are not actively involved in the voting for Discovery candidates nor Best Song nominations.

Winners of the **WSA Lifetime Achievement Award** are automatically incorporated within the WSA Honorary Board.

### **Three: Administration and Revenues**

1. Administrative activities of the WSA are conducted under the supervision of Film Fest Gent.
2. The operating revenues of WSA are obtained from Corporate Sponsorship and Corporate Membership, the organization of special events and the possible sale of rights.

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### World Soundtrack Academy® voting rules

#### Rule one: Awards Definitions

1. The World Soundtrack Awards shall be distributed annually to **mark and celebrate outstanding achievements in scoring music for motion pictures** and to honour other achievements as provided for in the rules and approved by the advisory board of the organizing body, the World Soundtrack Academy.
2. The awards shall be presented at an **annual ceremony**.

3. Awards in the form of trophies shall be given **annually for the following achievements**:

- 1) **Film Composer of the Year \***  
Award can be presented in respect of one film or in respect of a body of work in the year
- 2) **Television Composer of the Year \***  
Award can be presented in respect of one series or in respect of a body of work in the year
- 3) **Best Original Song Written Directly for a Film \***
- 4) **Discovery of the Year (emerging film composing talent) \*\***
- 5) **Best Original Score for a Belgian Production \*\***

4. The following **Special Awards** shall be given at such times as in the judgment of the **WSA Board** of the World Soundtrack Academy there are **deserving recipients**, but are not necessarily given each year:

- 6) **Lifetime Achievement Award \*\***
- 7) **Major Contribution to the Art of Film Music and Sound \*\***  
i.e. to special achievements such as the most creative use of existing material in a soundtrack, sound editing, etc.

5. Finally, **audiences from around the world** will be asked to **vote for** the:

- 7) **Public Choice Award \*\*\***

\* For 'Film Composer of the Year', 'Television Composer of the Year' & 'Best Original Song Written Directly for a Film' a shortlist with eligible titles will be presented to all voting members. Nevertheless, each composer and every soundtrack responding to rules two and three of the WSA voting rules remain eligible.

\*\* Only voted by the WSA Advisory Board

\*\*\* Voting takes place via <http://www.worldsoundtrack.com> as well as via a series of film music publications. Audiences can vote between 1 July and 15 September (of the respective voting year) for their favourite soundtrack and this by choosing among the eligible titles (shortlist established by WSA Board members).

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6. Each year, the World Soundtrack Academy organizes a Composition Competition for young International composers (under the age of 36 (until the date of the World Soundtrack Ceremony & Concert)). For each winner of this competition, this implies an important first step towards a professional career as film composer.  
For more information about this competition: [www.worldsoundtrackacademy.com](http://www.worldsoundtrackacademy.com)
7. For **Film & Television Composer of the Year**, WSA Voting Members will be asked to select the composer who - through one or several scores he or she composed during the Awards Year (see *Rule three.1-page 6*), and regardless of them being released on a soundtrack album – they consider as having achieved the best work produced that year.
8. For Film Composer of the Year, only **Original Soundtracks/Scores are eligible. An original Soundtrack/Score** is a substantial body of original music in the form of dramatic underscoring. The work must be the result of the creative interaction between the filmmaker(s) and the composer(s).
9. For Television Composer of the Year, only the principal composer, responsible for at least 50% of the **Original Soundtracks/Scores** of the entire season's episodes, is **eligible**.
9. An **Original Song** must have either original lyrics or original music or both. Where either the music or lyrics is not original they must be in the public domain.  
There must be a clearly audible, intelligible, substantive rendition (not necessarily visually presented) of both lyric and melody, used in the body of film or as the first song in the end credits. The film version (≠ soundtrack version) of the song will be considered. The work must be the result of the creative interaction between the filmmaker(s) and the composer(s) and/ or songwriter(s).
10. The **Discovery Of The Year Award** is aimed at encouraging emerging talent, who at the current WSA eligibility deadline, have scored between one and six feature films (excluded are shorts, TV-formats & documentaries) in total, which have had a commercial theatrical release in at least two countries.  
(For more information about the submission rules for this award, please go to page 7).
11. The **Best Original Score for a Belgian Production** is aimed at encouraging local talent who composed an original score for a Belgian feature film with a Belgian director. Only 5 candidates per voting year are presented to the World Soundtrack Advisory Board who votes for the final 3 nominees.
11. Only the principal composer(s) or song writer(s) responsible for the conception and execution of the work as a whole shall be eligible for an award/trophy.
12. The Advisory Board of the World Soundtrack Academy shall resolve all rules interpretations, all questions of eligibility. In case of a tie in the first round (composer and/or score category), the tying nominees will be submitted for an extra voting round to the Board Members. In case of a tie for the first place in the second round, the Board Members will select the winner.



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13. It is within the sole and confidential discretion of the Board to determine what awards shall be given.



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### Rule two: Eligibility

1. Eligibility for World Soundtrack Award consideration is subject to Rules Two and Three and to those special rules approved by the Advisory Board of the World Soundtrack Academy which will follow.
2. All eligible scores, unless otherwise noted, must be used in a **dramatic, feature-length motion picture** that had its **world première** screening in a **commercial cinema theatre** or at a **film festival** within the awards year deadlines specified in Rule Three.
3. Scores to any other audiovisual product that received its world première in any manner other than in a commercial cinema theatre or film festival will not be eligible for World Soundtrack Awards in any category. (This includes broadcast, home video and Internet transmissions.)
4. Scores to motion pictures produced in countries **all over the world** shall be eligible for the annual awards, as long as they fulfil all other applicable rules.
5. In the event of any dispute concerning eligibility, the World Soundtrack Academy reserves the right to declare any achievement ineligible, and to withhold any award until the dispute is resolved.

### Rule three: Awards Year and Deadlines

1. **To qualify as an eligible score, the motion picture for which the score was composed/produced has to receive its world première screening between 1 July 2016 and 30 June, of the following year.**
2. Any motion picture that was broadcasted, released on video or transmitted via the Internet prior to the qualifying run as specified in Rule Three.1 (here above) is excluded from participation (for all film related awards).
3. For the 'Best Television composer of the year', all dramatic series and mini-series that had their **world première in open net or on pay-television between 1 July 2016 and 30 June, of the following year.** (documentaries, comedies and DVD premières are excluded)

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### Rule four: Submission (ONLY for Discovery of the Year Award)

1. For the **Discovery of the Year 2017** category where the **WSA Advisory Board** will nominate and elect the winner, candidates must send in:

\* 10 **compact discs** containing the full score

\* **A high resolution digital file** (Mp4 if possible) containing the motion picture as it ran in commercial cinema theatres

(to be uploaded on [www.cinandovl.com/wsaboard](http://www.cinandovl.com/wsaboard))

This for distribution among Advisory Board members who will nominate and elect the winner in this category. The compact discs or digital versatile discs should be accompanied by a **professional biography/CV (profile) of the candidate**.

All material should be with the Academy no later than 15/06 of the voting year. Material received after that date is excluded from the mailing.

2. In case of a nomination for the Discovery of the Year Award, the WSA expects **each nominee** (or the company that represents him/ her) **to send in:**

- high resolution film images containing **excerpts of the motion picture** as it ran in commercial cinema theatres

This material should reach the Academy **no later than 10 September** of the voting year.

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### Rule Five: Balloting and Nominations

1. Voting for nominations on **WSA Soundtrack Composer of the Year, Television Composer of the Year, Best Original Song Written Directly for a Film** (a.k.a. the first voting round) is restricted to ALL Voting Members. Nevertheless, it is the WSA Advisory Board that establishes indicative shortlists for these categories (to be consulted by the start of the first voting round by all WSA Voting members)
2. In the **Discovery of the Year & Best Original Score for a Belgian Production** categories, it will be the WSA Advisory Board who will elect the winner (result only valid when at least 50% of the Board members vote in this case).  
**In the second voting round the Executive Board Members must vote by giving 3, 2 and 1 point(s) to three candidate-discoveries of their choice.**
3. Voting for nominations and awards shall be by secret ballot.  
**Secured electronic voting** is recommended and possible through the site [www.wsavoting.com](http://www.wsavoting.com).  
**PwC** (former PricewaterhouseCoopers) will conduct the World Soundtrack Awards voting (secured electronic voting).
4. The **WSA Film Score Composer of the Year**, the **WSA Television Score Composer of the Year** and the **Best Original Song** category will have a **maximum of five nominations each**.  
All nominations shall be announced & placed on the final ballot in alphabetical order. The achievements receiving the highest number of votes in the final voting round will be the winners in the respective categories.
5. In the event a nominated achievement is declared ineligible by the World Soundtrack Academy after all nominations are announced, it shall not be replaced and the category will remain with one less nomination.
6. In the event that an **achievement was written in collaboration**, the award will go to the person considered to be the team's key member (unless the board decides otherwise).
7. In the **event of a tie** (or ex aequo) **for first place** in the final balloting, it will be the WSA Advisory Board (final result only valid when at least 50% of the Board members vote in this case) that selects the winner.
8. In case the WSA Advisory Board considers the number of valid candidates in one category insufficient, it can decide to either cancel the category for that year or to appoint a winner.