

Follow Your Heart FILM FESTIVAL

International Film Festival "Follow Your Heart"

Supplemental Guidelines for Best Soundtrack Award

January 4, 2023 No. 015

A. Purpose

These guidelines supplement the Protocol for the Selection and Work of Jury Members, dated January 4, 2023, outlining the procedure for assigning the Best Soundtrack award.

For the purpose of these Guidelines, the term “**soundtrack**” refers to the complete musical component of a film, which may include:

- **Original score:** music specifically composed for the film and credited in the final version (e.g., “Original Score by” or “Music Composed by”).
- **Original song(s):** a song (or songs) specifically written for the film and credited in the final version (e.g., “Original Song by”).
- **Music supervision or compilation:** the curated selection, licensing, and integration of pre-existing or newly recorded tracks into the film, credited in the final version (e.g., “Music Supervised by” or “Soundtrack Compiled by”).

The Best Soundtrack award therefore focuses exclusively on original scores, original songs and music supervision or compilation.

B. Evaluation Format

B.1. Open Evaluation

The jury receives complete details for each submission, including:

- Film title, genre, and year of release.

- Name(s) of the composer(s) responsible for original scores and/or music supervisor(s) responsible for soundtrack compilation.
- Director's name and key production details (e.g., production company, distributor).
- Access to screener links (video/audio) showcasing the soundtrack's integration in the film, including original scores and/or compiled tracks.

B.2. Transparency

All relevant information, including the identity of the composer(s) and/or music supervisor(s), is provided to the jury to facilitate a contextual evaluation of the soundtrack's creative and curatorial choices.

C. Submission Requirements

C.1. Complete Submission

- Submissions must include:
 - For original scores: A credited composer or equivalent role (e.g., "Original Music by" or "Music Composed by") listed in the final film credits.
 - For music supervision/compilation: A credited music supervisor or equivalent role (e.g., "Music Compiled by" or "Soundtrack Curated by") listed in the final film credits.
 - A Cue Sheet or equivalent documentation detailing original scores and/or licensed tracks, signed by the producer or music editor.
 - Optional: Supporting materials (e.g., distributor or festival materials) confirming the composer's or music supervisor's role.

C.2. Incomplete Submissions

- If the composer or music supervisor is not specified at the time of submission:
 - The submission is assigned a "Pending Credit" status.
 - The Organizing Committee (the Committee) notifies the applicant and provides a **7-calendar-day Cure Period** to submit the required credits.
 - Failure to provide credits within the Cure Period results in disqualification from the Best Soundtrack category.

D. Award Eligibility and Verification

D.1. Verification of Composer or Music Supervisor

- Prior to result certification, the Committee must verify the identity of the composer(s) responsible for original scores and/or music supervisor(s) responsible for soundtrack compilation. Acceptable evidence includes:
 - Final film credits listing “Original Music by” or “Music Supervised by” or equivalent.
 - Signed Cue Sheet or music clearance documentation identifying the composer or supervisor.
 - Registration of the soundtrack with a Performing Rights Organization (e.g., ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, PRS, SOCAN) linked to the film’s title.
 - A verified composer or music supervision agreement or a certified letter from the producer/rightsholder confirming credits.
 - Distributor or festival materials listing final credits.

D.2. Non-Verification

- If the composer’s or music supervisor’s role is not verified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified from the Best Soundtrack category.

E. Award Assignment

E.1. Attribution

- The Best Soundtrack award is granted to the film for best soundtrack, composer(s) for original scores and/or music supervisor(s) listed in the final credits as responsible for soundtrack compilation.
- In cases of multiple contributors, the award is jointly awarded to all credited composers and/or supervisors.

E.2. Credit Disputes

- If a dispute arises regarding composer or music supervision credits, the Committee suspends the winner announcement until the dispute is resolved with documentation.
- If unresolved, the Committee may declare “Award Withheld Pending Credit Verification.”

F. Conflict of Interest

F.1. Declaration

- Jury members must declare a Conflict of Interest if they have a personal or professional relationship with the composer(s), music supervisor(s), director, or other key personnel involved in the submission.
- Affected jury members abstain from evaluating the submission, and the Committee considers only valid ballots.

F.2. Handling Errors

- If materials are presented with incorrect or incomplete credits due to applicant or secretariat error, the Committee logs the issue and may reassign the submission to another jury member or initiate a re-vote.

G. Documentation and Recordkeeping

G.1. Records

- All notifications, verifications, and decisions regarding disqualification or reclassification are documented and retained by the Committee for at least **5 years** from the certification date.

G.2. Confidentiality

- Individual jury ballots remain confidential. Only winners and, at the Committee's discretion, brief justifications for the award are publicly disclosed.

H. Practical Workflow

- **Jury Access:** The jury receives a form listing the film's title, genre, year, composer(s), music supervisor(s), director, and screener links.
- **Evaluation:** The jury assesses the soundtrack based on seven soundtrack-focused criteria: Narrative Integration, Emotional Impact, Originality, Cultural Authenticity, Orchestration and Technical Quality, Thematic Consistency, Psychological Effect.
- **Verification:** The Committee confirms the composer's and/or music supervisor's role through provided documentation.
- **Award Assignment:**
 - If verified, the award is granted to the film, with credits to the composer(s) and/or music supervisor(s).
 - If unverified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified.

- **Announcement:** Winners are announced publicly with their full credits (e.g., “Best Soundtrack awarded to [Film Title], directed by [Director], with music by [Composer] and/or supervised by [Music Supervisor]”).

Approved by the Organizing Committee

Date: January 4, 2023

The Organizer of the Miami Film Festival “Follow Your Heart”
Head of the Organizing Committee

Tatiana Germanovsky

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Germanovsky', written over the printed name.