

Soundpainting: Pedagogy & Creation — Level 1 (Block 1)

Detailed program

From 26 to 30 October 2026 at the UMJ, 19 rue des Frigos, 75014 PARIS
5 days, 30 hours, 10:00-17:00 with 1 hour lunch break

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Pedagogical coordination: Xavier BORNENS

Speakers:

- **Claude Whipple** (Certified multidisciplinary soundpainter and teacher)
- **Walter Thompson** (Creator of Soundpainting)
- **François Jeanneau** (Musician, historical figure of Soundpainting in France)

Monday, October 26 — (10am–5pm) — Fundamentals, Grammar & Body (Theory 1)

Trainer: **Claude WHIPPLE.**

Objectives of the day

- Clearly define Soundpainting; set the framework and **syntax Who–What–How–When.**
- **Grammar** : order of information, role of each part of a sentence, breathing of the gesture.
- **Fundamental principles** (reiterated all week):
"I want nothing and I accept everything" · "If I'm wrong, I'll continue" · "If I haven't understood, I'll continue."
- **Proprioception & muscle memory** : neutrality vs. active gearbox, readability, trajectories.
- **Knowledge to be transmitted** : learning to **explain a sign** (definition, intention, frequent mistakes).

Procedure (indicative)

- **10:00–10:30** Welcome event, working environment, objectives, round table.
- **10:30–12:30** Basic syntax & grammar; first **Who/What/How/When signs** (definitions + spoken examples).
- **14:00–15:15** Body & Space: anchoring, neutrality/active box, readability; muscle memory drills.
- **15:15–16:30 Micro-teaching #1** : everyone explains **1 sign** to the group (clear definition).
- **16:30–17:00** Mini-shapes 2–3' (L1) in small groups: check **clarity of starts/stops** and **legible end.**

Deliverables / criteria of the day : basic L1 vocabulary defined and **explained** ; grammar understood; body readability (neutrality/active box) in place.

Tuesday, October 27 — (10am–5pm) — "Risky" signs & L1 tools (theory 2)

Trainer: **Claude WHIPPLE.**

Objectives of the day

- Cover all **the L1 theoretical elements** (definitions + how to explain them).
- Aborder/pratiquer les **signes plus complexes** : **Scanning, Point to Point, Shapeline, Improvise, Relate To.**
- Consolidate **grammatical rules**, endings that "land", and **returns** (With, Continue, Change, Erase...).

Procedure (indicative)

- **10:00–10:20** Quick reminder (syntax, fundamentals).
- **10:20–12:15** Demos + targeted plays: **Scanning / Point to Point / Shapeline** (playback, exit, common errors).
- **12:15–12:45 Micro-teaching #2** : everyone explains **1 complex sign** (or short combination).

- **14:00–15:00 Improve / Relate To** : framing, risks, clarity of intent; quick examples.
- **15:00–16:15** Mini-shapes 4–6' integrating 1–2 complex signs + **With / Continue / Change / Erase**.
- **16:15–17:00** Consolidation: Theoretical Q&A, individual checklist (points to watch tomorrow).

Deliverables / criteria of the day: robust definitions of the 45 characters (L1); ability to **explain** a complex sign; first combinations legible in a situation.

Wednesday, October 28 — (10am–5pm) — Composition laboratory (100% practice)

Objectives of the day

- Moving on to **doing** : composing, testing, trying again; developing **listening** and **readability**.
- Work by **constraints** to refine the clarity of the language and the holding of shape.
- Preparing for the arrival of the weekend: 6–8' forms ready to be coached.

Proposed constraints (examples)

- **A single content set** (e.g., Long Tone **or** Pointillism) for the entire room.
- **Obligatory common thread** (recurring element: pattern, dynamics, texture, space).
- **Imposed title** : compose according to an intention (e.g. *Silence under tension*).
- **Without How** (leaving the initiative to the performers) **or without What** (pure sculpture).
- **Slow Inputs/Outputs** required; **an assumed end**.
- **Memory & Return**: Capture a state (without a formal snapshot in L1) and **return** to it later in a readable way.
- **Relate To** : clear relationship to a gesture/source (without invading everything).

Procedure (indicative)

- **10:00–10:20** Briefing on constraints and group breakdown.
- **10:20–12:30 Composition sessions** : 3–4 iterations/group (6–8'), framed feedback (readability, timing of the **When**, transitions, end).
- **14:00–15:30** Rework of the parts: integrating a **common thread** and an **additional constraint**.
- **15:30–16:30 Short spins** (6–8'): focus on **clarity of gestures, solo/background balance, time management**.
- **16:30–17:00** Summary & action plan for J4 (what works/needs to be simplified).

Deliverables / criteria of the day : at least **one 6–8' shape** per group that "holds" under constraint; legible transitions; **reliable end** ; return notes ready for D4.

Thursday, October 29 — (10am–5pm) — Simulations & masterclasses

With Walter Thompson & François Jeanneau

Objectives of the day

- Move from the exercise to the **8–10' form**, with the requirement of readability and musicality.
- Work on **overall management** : attention to all, decision-making, clarity of language, physical commitment.
- Prepare the practical evaluation & public delivery.

Procedure

- **10:00–10:45** Alignment of certification expectations (observation grid: posture, clarity, syntax, listening, time management and purposes).
- **10:45–12:45** Composition labs: **6–8' sequences** in small groups; immediate feedback from Walter/François (clarity, presence, precision of gestures).
- **14:00–15:45** Masterclass: 2–3 sessions led by Walter/François; focus on the accuracy of responses to signs (level of development, density, contrast).
- **15:45–16:45** Simulation of a practical test (**8–10'**) with grid, individual feedback, areas of progress for the next day.

- **16:45–17:30** Preparation Public performance: distribution of roles, order of appearance, stage constraints, top techniques.

Deliverables / criteria of the day : an **8–10'** shape that "holds", legible transitions, reliable ending, stage plan for the show.

Friday, October 30 — (10am–5pm) — Evaluations & Public Performance

With Walter Thompson & François Jeanneau

Objectives of the day

- Validate the achievements of Workbook 1 in **practice** and theory.
- Confirm the ability to **deliver** content to a variety of audiences.
- Present a **legible and musical** public form.

Procedure

- **10:00–11:00** Written test (**MCQ**): terminology, sign functions, syntactic order, body principles, Performer/Soundpainter roles.
- **11:30–12:30** Corrections & clarification points (last adjustment before practice).
- **2:00 pm–4:30 pm** Practical test (**8–10 minutes** per participant or pair) with evaluation grid (active posture/box, clarity of gestures, listening, time and end management, overall readability, ability to transmit).
- **4:30–5:30 p.m.** One-on-one interviews with Walter Thompson and François Jeanneau.
- **6:00 p.m. Public performance** at the UMJ.
- **After the show** (8:45–9:15 pm) Debrief, announcement of results, presentation of **Level 1 certifications (Block 1)**.

Certification procedures

- **Theory (MCQ)** : comprehension of the **45 signs**, syntactic order, body principles, roles and basic rules.
- **Practice** : real-time composition (**8–10'**) demonstrating readability, listening, time management, transitions and ending.
- **Transmission** : ability to clearly explain a sign and its use to a group (observed during micro-teaching & the written test).
- **Individual interviews** with Walter Thompson and François Jeanneau.
- **Criteria** : observation grid (posture, use of imaginary areas, gestural clarity, syntax, listening, musical responsiveness, coherence).
- **Validation** : success in both tests + opinion of the jury (Walter/François) on the ability to transmit the content of Workbook 1 to various audiences.

Preparing for your visit

Equipment: instrument if musician, notebook/pen, water bottle, comfortable clothing (short trips), smartphone (optional for self-feedback). Bulky instruments? Consult us, there are instruments on site.

Meals: lunch break 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (free).

Audience: friends/welcome for the Public Service (times confirmed on site).