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

January 25 to 29, 2027 at ESPACE ALBATROS, 52 Rue du Sergent Bobillot, 93100 Montreuil
5 days, 30 hours, 10:00–17:00 with a 1-hour lunch break

Target Audience: Musicians, teachers, dancers, actors, and creators interested in real-time composition.
Prerequisites: None.
Rates: Solidarity Rate (Self-funded): €460 (payable in 3 interest-free installments) / Professional Rate (OPCO/AFDAS): €1,240.
Access Terms & Deadlines: Applications are open up to 7 days before the start of the training. Registration via the online form on realtimemusic.fr.
Disability Accessibility: The training is accessible to people with disabilities. For any specific needs or inquiries, please contact Xavier Bornens, Disability Representative, at contact@realtimemusic.fr.

TEACHING TEAM & COORDINATION

Pedagogical Coordination: Xavier BORNENS
Instructors:

- **Claude Whipple** (Certified multidisciplinary Soundpainter and educator)
- **Walter Thompson** (Creator of Soundpainting)
- **François Jeanneau** (Musician, pioneering figure of Soundpainting in France)

Monday, January 25 — (10:00–17:00) — Fundamentals, Grammar & Body (Theory 1)

Instructor: Claude WHIPPLE.
Daily Objectives

- Clearly define Soundpainting; establish the framework and the **Who–What–How–When syntax**.
- **Grammar**: order of information, role of each part of the phrase, breathing of the gesture.
- **Core Principles** (reinforced throughout the week):
  “I don’t want anything and I accept everything” · “If I make a mistake, I keep going” · “If I didn’t understand, I keep going”.
- **Proprioception & muscle memory**: neutral position vs. Active Box, legibility, trajectories.
- **Teaching skills**: learning how to **explain a sign** (definition, intention, common mistakes).

Schedule (indicative)

- **10:00–10:30** Welcome, working framework, objectives, introductions.
- **10:30–13:00** Basic syntax & grammar; first **Who/What/How/When** signs (definitions + spoken examples).
- **14:00–15:15** Body & space: grounding, neutral position/Active Box, legibility; muscle memory drills.
- **15:15–16:30 Micro-teaching #1**: each participant explains **1 sign** to the group (clear definition).
- **16:30–17:00** Short 2–3’ pieces (L1) in small groups: checking **clarity of starts/stops** and **legible endings**.

Daily deliverables / criteria: basic L1 vocabulary defined and **explained**; grammar understood; physical legibility (neutral position/Active Box) in place.

Tuesday, January 26 — (10:00–17:00) — “High-Risk” Signs & L1 Tools (Theory 2)

Instructor: Claude WHIPPLE.
Daily Objectives

- Cover **all L1 theoretical elements** (definitions + how to explain them).

- Address/practice **more complex signs**: **Scanning**, **Point to Point**, **Shapeline**, **Improvise**, **Relate To**.
- Consolidate **grammatical rules**, endings that "land" cleanly, and **returns/modifiers** (With, Continue, Change, Erase…).

Schedule (indicative)

- **10:00–10:20** Quick recap (syntax, core principles).
- **10:20–12:15** Demos + targeted practical exercises: **Scanning / Point to Point / Shapeline** (reading, exiting, common mistakes).
- **12:15–13:00 Micro-teaching #2**: each participant explains **1 complex sign** (or short combination).
- **14:00–15:00 Improvise / Relate To**: framing, risks, clarity of intention; quick examples.
- **15:00–16:15** Short 4–6' pieces integrating 1–2 complex signs + **With / Continue / Change / Erase**.
- **16:15–17:00** Consolidation: theoretical Q&A, individual checklist (focus points for tomorrow).

Daily deliverables / criteria: **solid** definitions of all 45 signs (L1); ability to **explain** a complex sign; first legible combinations in practice.

Wednesday, January 27 — (10:00–17:00) — Composition Lab (100% Practice)

Daily Objectives

- Move into **action**: compose, test, try again; develop **listening** and **legibility**.
- Work with **constraints** to refine language clarity and structural coherence.
- Prepare for the final days: **6–8'** pieces ready for coaching.

Proposed Constraints (examples)

- **A single content sign** (e.g., Long Tone **or** Pointillism) for the entire piece.
- **Mandatory common thread** (recurring element: motif, dynamics, texture, space).
- **Assigned title**: compose while honoring a specific intention (e.g., *Silence Under Tension*).
- **Without How** (leaving initiative to the performers) **or without What** (pure sculpting).
- **Slow entries/exits** mandatory; **deliberate ending**.
- **Memory & return**: capture a state (without a formal Snapshot in L1) and **return** to it later in a legible way.
- **Relate To**: clear relationship to a gesture/source (without overwhelming the piece).

Schedule (indicative)

- **10:00–10:20** Constraints briefing & group division.
- **10:20–13:00 Composition sessions**: 3–4 iterations / group (6–8'), structured feedback (legibility, timing of the **When**, transitions, ending).
- **14:00–15:30** Reworking pieces: integrating a **common thread** and an **additional constraint**.
- **15:30–16:30** Short **run-throughs** (6–8'): focus on **gesture clarity**, **solo/background balance**, **time management**.
- **16:30–17:00** Wrap-up & action plan for Day 4 (what works / what to simplify).

Daily deliverables / criteria: at least **one 6–8' piece** per group that holds together under constraints; legible transitions; **reliable ending**; feedback notes ready for Day 4.

Thursday, January 28 — (10:00–17:00) — Practical Coaching & Masterclass

With Walter Thompson & François Jeanneau
Daily Objectives

- Move from exercises to an **8–10' piece**, with high standards of legibility and musicality.
- Work on **ensemble conducting**: attention to everyone, decision-making, language clarity, physical engagement.
- Prepare for the practical evaluation & public performance.

Schedule

- **10:00–10:45** Alignment on certification expectations (observation grid: posture, clarity, syntax, listening, time & ending management).
- **10:45–13:00** Composition labs: **6–8'** sequences in small groups; immediate feedback from Walter/François (clarity, presence, gesture precision).
- **14:00–15:45** Masterclass: 2–3 sessions conducted by Walter/François; focus on accuracy of responses to signs (development level, density, contrast).
- **15:45–17:00** Practical exam simulation (**8–10'**) with evaluation grid, individual feedback, areas for improvement for the next day.

Daily deliverables / criteria: a solid **8–10' piece**, legible transitions, reliable ending, stage plan for the public show.

Friday, January 29 — (10:00–17:00) — Evaluations & Public Performance

With Walter Thompson & François Jeanneau
Daily Objectives

- Validate Workbook 1 skills in both **practice** and **theory**.
- Confirm the ability to **teach and transmit** the content to diverse audiences.
- Present a legible and musical **public performance**.

Schedule

- **10:00–10:30** Written exam (**Multiple-Choice**): terminology, sign functions, syntactical order, physical principles, Performer/Soundpainter roles.
- **10:30–13:00** Practical exam (**8–10'** per participant or pair) with evaluation grid (posture/Active Box, gesture clarity, listening, time and ending management, overall legibility, teaching ability).
- **14:00–16:00** Individual interviews with Walter Thompson and François Jeanneau.
- **16:15–17:00 Public performance** at Espace Albatros.
- **Post-show:** Debriefing, announcement of **Level 1 (Block 1) certification** results.

Certification Modalities

- **Theory (Multiple-Choice)**: understanding of the **45 signs**, syntactical order, physical principles, roles, and basic rules.
- **Practice**: real-time composition (**8–10'**) demonstrating legibility, listening, time management, transitions, and ending.
- **Transmission / Teaching**: ability to clearly explain a sign and its use to a group (assessed during micro-teaching sessions & the written exam).
- **Individual interviews** with Walter Thompson and François Jeanneau.
- **Criteria**: observation grid (posture, use of imaginary zones, gesture clarity, syntax, listening, musical responsiveness, coherence).
- **Validation**: passing both exams + jury assessment (Walter/François) of the candidate's ability to transmit Workbook 1 content to diverse audiences.
- **Certifications** are sent as PDF documents by email the week following the end of the training.

Preparing for Your Arrival

Equipment: instrument (for musicians), notebook/pen, water bottle, comfortable clothing (light movement), smartphone (optional for self-feedback). Bulky instruments? Contact us—instruments are available on-site.

Meals: lunch break 13:00–14:00 (on your own).

Audience: friends and guests are welcome for the Public Performance (exact schedule confirmed on-site).