

SOUND TECHNICIANS

A.Y. 2025/2026

16th Edition



AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to the various professional figures involved in the performing arts through its four departments: Music, Dance, Stagecraft, Management. Its broad curriculum ranges from basic and core training courses to advanced courses, Level 1 and 2 AFAM (advanced training in art, music, and dance) university-level academic diploma programs, Level 1 master courses, workshops, and summer programs. The highest level of instruction is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and prominent experts in the performing arts. The teaching method derives from the philosophy of learning by doing and prepares students for their future career through intensive daily exposure to the performing arts in a real-world context.



Ph: Noemi Ardesi

FOUNDING PARTNERS



THE COURSE

Under the technical and artistic coordination of Stefano Barzan, the course is addressed to those who aspire to a professional career as sound technician in the performing arts or music production industry.

The program provides complete training in all aspects of sound technology with lessons in theory and practical “on-the-job” experiences. The competencies acquired cover all phases of sound production, from capture and processing using dedicated software to the creation of the final product, amplification in a live context, or sound spatialization in a multimedia installation. The curriculum includes classroom lessons, hands-on exercises, and an internship at a recording studio, audio service provider, or company of proven professionalism in the audio technology sector.

A major strength of this course is practical exercises in the use of software, recording studios, and live venues. After an initial period of classroom work with equipment, cables, and signal flow and transmission (with a special unit on the DANTE protocol), the students will work in real-world contexts both recording and amplifying live concerts. Lessons in acoustics, physiology of hearing, and psychoacoustics are complemented by dedicated units in microphone, mixer, and signal flow techniques, and mixing and mastering. Students will have access

to a space dedicated to sound capture and processing equipment, and specific software such as Pro Tools, Digital Performer, and Apple Logic Pro X. The curriculum also includes elements of music theory, listening appreciation, sheet music reading, and instrumentation. In recent years, the course has been enriched with a unit on sound spatialization, where participants will learn techniques for managing the spatial manifestation of sound and how to position stationary or moveable sound sources in order to provide listeners with the best audio experience possible. The program teaches multidisciplinary competencies to facilitate interaction and collaboration within the team, as well as elements of contract law and self-entrepreneurship, which are invaluable when entering the job market.

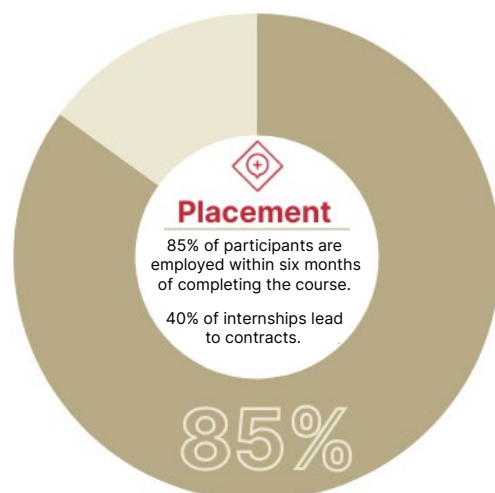


Ph: Fabio Benato

PROFESSIONAL FIGURE

Various professional figures work in the audio technology sector: theatre or studio sound technicians, recording engineers, boom operators, music lab technicians, audio archive specialists, post-production / live sound engineers.

Course participants develop skills applicable to all realms of sound production and musical styles.



MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS

Course participants have the opportunity to attend workshops and seminars with experts and representatives of sound technology companies in order to develop a broad overview of the market and keep abreast of its evolution.

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

Students will have the opportunity to take part in various types of practical exercises under the supervision of a technical tutor.

- ◆ Guided classroom exercises: practical applications of the technologies and software studied in the classroom
- ◆ Field exercises: sound recording and mixing for concerts at Teatro alla Scala or other music venues, including season-program performances of Academy musical groups
- ◆ Studio exercises: recording, mixing, and mastering of projects by various genres of musical groups (pop, rock, classical, folk) at Studio Tranquilo S.a.s.
- ◆ Live exercises: complete sessions with setup, sound check, amplification, recording, demob, and post-production of a live concert

PROJECT WORK

As a final phase in the curriculum, course participants will conceive and produce audiovisual products or multimedia installations, working in conjunction with participants in other Academy courses. They will be involved in all stages of the project, from the creation of content to the final production. The project will be presented to the public as a special event marking the conclusion of the course.

INTERNSHIP

The 130-hour internship is a fundamental element in the curriculum. And it is all the more valuable given the prestige of the host organizations, which include Teatro alla Scala, Studio Tranquilo S.a.s. di Stefano Barzan, and the Fondazione Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano.



CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF

CORE UNITS - THEORY

Acoustics, Psychoacoustics, and Physiology of Hearing

Walter Lori, *sound engineer*
Michela Casazza, *architect*

- Speaker placement
- Isophonic curves
- The auditory system
- Environmental acoustics
- Acoustic treatments
- Soundproofing

Digital audio

Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*
Andrea Machini, *IT technician*

- Digital audio basics
- Sampling theory
- Wordclock management

Audio devices

Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*

- Study of audio production devices and instruments



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Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Electro-Acoustics

Walter Lori, *sound engineer*
Massimo Guerçi, *lighting technician*

- Magnitudes, scales, levels, measurements of all electric/electronic/electro-acoustic events
- Basics of electrical circuits

Microphones and Microphone Techniques

Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*

- Types of microphones
- Characteristics and use of microphones
- Microphone techniques

Mixer and signal flow

Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*

- Analysis of block diagrams and internal routing
- Input/output, aux, effects

Sound spatialization

Hubert Westkemper, *sound designer*

- Techniques for creating three-dimensional sound spaces
- Simulation of sound movement in space

Executive techniques

Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*
Antonino Valenti, *president of Supersonica*

- Advanced mixing techniques
- Mastering techniques
- Industrial techniques for audio duplication
- History and use of the MIDI protocol



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CORE UNITS - PRACTICE

Independent practical exercises

Cinzia Guareschi, *sound technician*

- ↻ Studio software
- ↻ Soundtrack sync techniques, audio editing, audio mixing

Guided practical studio and field exercises

(recording studio and Teatro alla Scala)

Andrea Ferrario, *sound designer*
Cinzia Guareschi, *sound technician*

- ↻ Recording techniques
- ↻ Microphone techniques
- ↻ Monitor lines

Project work

Andrea Ferrario, *sound designer*
Angelica Lorefice, *Academy teaching coordinator*

- ↻ Sound spatialization laboratory project

Software

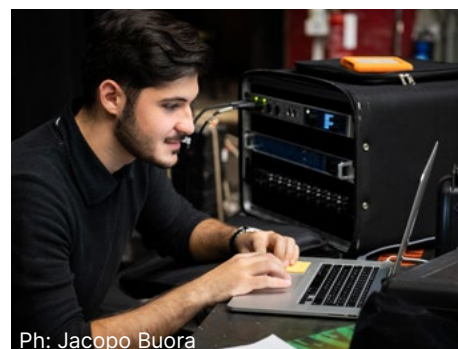
Stefano Barzan, *musician and record producer*
Massimo Faggioni, *sound designer*
Andrea Ferrario, *sound designer*

- ↻ Digital performer
- ↻ Avid Pro Tools and DANTE protocol
- ↻ Apple Logic Pro

Cabling and soldering

Domenico Vergato, *sound technician*

- ↻ Cable and connector types
- ↻ Soldering techniques for assembling and maintaining cables



Ph: Jacopo Buora

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Music background and appreciation

Fabio Sartorelli, *musicologist*
Andrea Massimo Grassi, *coordinator of Accademia Teatro alla Scala*
Diego Maggi, Stefano Ligoratti, *musicians and sound technicians*
Alessandro Cornelli, *musician and musicologist*

- ↻ Introduction to the history of opera
- ↻ Analysis of opera repertoire
- ↻ Introduction to contemporary music



Introduction to musical theatre

Andrea Massimo Grassi, *coordinator of Accademia Teatro alla Scala*

- ↻ Introduction to the arts, trades, and languages of the performing arts

SELF-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Contract law

Gianfranco Daniele, *enterprise consultant*

- ↻ Types of enterprises
- ↻ Characteristics of self-employment
- ↻ The partita IVA [VAT number]: from the quote to the invoice (tax aspects)
- ↻ Basic management for starting a business: business plan and budget

Workplace Safety

Sergio Tasca, *safety trainer*

- ↻ Legislative framework
- ↻ Rights and responsibilities of company figures
- ↻ Work equipment, movements, and postures
- ↻ PPE and workplace emergency procedures

Career Orientation

Umberto Bellodi and Marco Pasotti, *Accademia Teatro alla Scala coordinators*

- ↻ CV formats
- ↻ Active job search and channels
- ↻ Effectiveness in job interviews
- ↻ Professional planning

KEY POINTS

INSTRUCTORS

Eminent musicians, sound technicians, sound designers, and music producers directly share their experience with course participants.

INTERNSHIP

Internships are hosted by world-class theatres, audio service providers, recording studios, and music and audio producers.

PROJECT WORK

A special final event will see the participants engaged in the conception and production of audiovisual products or multimedia installations.

CONSTANT PRACTICE

Constant activity represents the key element of the curriculum: participants will work in the classroom, in the field, in studios, and during live performances.



Ph: Annachiara Di Stefano

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

→ Applicants must pass a selection process to be admitted to the course. ←



LENGTH

One year

November 13, 2025 to
October 31, 2026



TOTAL HOURS

630 total hours including classroom work, practical exercises, and individual study:

- ◆ **300 hours** of classroom work with sound professionals
- ◆ **200 hours** of practical exercises with technical tutors
- ◆ **130 hours** of internship at a recording studio, audio service provider, or audio/music producer



ATTENDANCE

Monday through Friday. Three days will be dedicated to theory and two half-days will be dedicated to hands-on group exercises.

Attendance is mandatory. Absences must be justified and may not exceed 25% of total hours or the participant will be expelled from the course. The Academy and Teaching Committee reserve the sole right to make exceptions to this rule.



LANGUAGE

The course is taught in Italian.



LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta 18
20123 Milan

Studio Tranquilo SAS
Via Ruggero di Lauria, 15
20149 Milan

Teatro alla Scala
Via Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan



FINAL EXAMS

The final exams comprise:

- ◆ a written test
- ◆ a test of competency in using software
- ◆ a technical competency test
- ◆ an interview on technical aspects

COURSE MATERIALS

The classroom for the sound technicians course is outfitted with twelve Mac workstations (with all software studied during the course), mixers, audio cards, and studio-grade monitors. Participants may use this equipment for individual study on free days.

At the completion of each unit, participants will be given lesson packets and multidisciplinary slides.



FAST TRACK

From June 30 to July 11, 2025, the Academy proposes an introductory workshop. Those who score 29/30 or higher may bypass the selection process and enroll directly in the Sound Technicians course. Visit <https://www.accademiascala.it/en/stagecraft/workshop-in-audio-technology> for more information and enrollment.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE



REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- 18-40 years old on the date of the selection process
- Compulsory schooling completed



PREFERENTIAL FACTORS

- Practical musical competencies (musical instrument) and/or theoretical knowledge (sight reading, harmony)
- Audio experience (studio/live events) and/or knowledge of basic sound techniques (scientific or technical education)
- General knowledge of music
- English proficiency



SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consists of two steps:

- ◆ a **computer-based musical perception test**
- ◆ a **motivational interview**

◆ WHEN

The selection process will take place in two sessions: **March 10–14, 2025 and October 13–17, 2025**. Dates may be subject to change.

Those who enroll in and pass the first session will be eligible for a tuition discount. Those who do not pass the first session will have the option of enrolling in the second session but will lose the right to a tuition discount.

◆ WHERE

Both sessions will be held at the Academy facilities at Via Santa Marta 18, Milan.

◆ HOW

After the application deadline, applicants will receive an email with the date and time of the selection process. The computer-based listening exam will last approximately 45 minutes and will be immediately followed by the individual interview (approx. 20 minutes).

◆ **Listening test**

The computer-based listening test consists of multiple-choice questions on musical perception in response to sounds and musical excerpts.

Applicants are not required to have advanced theoretical or practical knowledge or significant experience in audio technology or music to take this test.

◆ **Individual interview**

The interview will focus on the applicant's general musical knowledge, professional goals, and motivations for taking the course. The applicant will have the opportunity to illustrate his/her talents and strengths. The interview will include: ◆ a discussion of the listening test ◆ a review of the applicant's CV ◆ the applicant's motivations in taking the course ◆ the applicant's musical interests.

◆ WHAT TO BRING

Bring a valid photo ID (passport or identity document) and headphones to the selection process.

Suggestions: ◆ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to study Sound Technology at the La Scala Academy ◆ Rehearse the points you will want to make during the interview so you will be more effective and stimulating ◆ Research the history and activities of the La Scala Academy ◆ Do not be afraid to ask questions.

The Selection Committee will decide which candidates are eligible to attend the course. Candidates who are judged eligible but not admitted to the course because the maximum number of students has been reached may be admitted subsequently if a higher-ranked candidate declines to enroll. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be challenged or queried.

COSTS

The fee for participation in the selection process is **€ 100 including VAT**, which will be paid online when you apply. Payment may be made with principal credit/debit cards or by credit transfer via the MyBank circuit (the list of participating banks is provided at <https://mybank.eu/participating-banks-and-psps/>).

Tuition for the course is **€ 6,870, including VAT** (discounted of **€ 250** for those passing the March session of the selection process), plus a **security deposit of € 100**, which will be refunded at the end of the course less any costs for missing or damaged materials.

Tuition shall be paid in three installments via SEPA Direct Debit (SDD)* as follows.

If the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Economy raises VAT, the above amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

* Those who do not have a bank account in the SEPA zone, please contact the office by phone or email (contact info at end of document).

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1ST INSTALLMENT

for those admitted in the March selection session:
€ 3,320 by April 17, 2025
(fee + security deposit)

for those admitted in the October selection session:
€ 3,570 by November 14, 2025
(fee + security deposit)

2

2ND INSTALLMENT

€ 1,700 by January 30, 2026

3

3RD INSTALLMENT:

€ 1,700 by April 30, 2026



SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Student loans, scholarships, and tuition waivers and other forms of financial support ensure that students have access to a curriculum characterized by unrivaled artistic quality and close contact with the professional world.

Scholarships

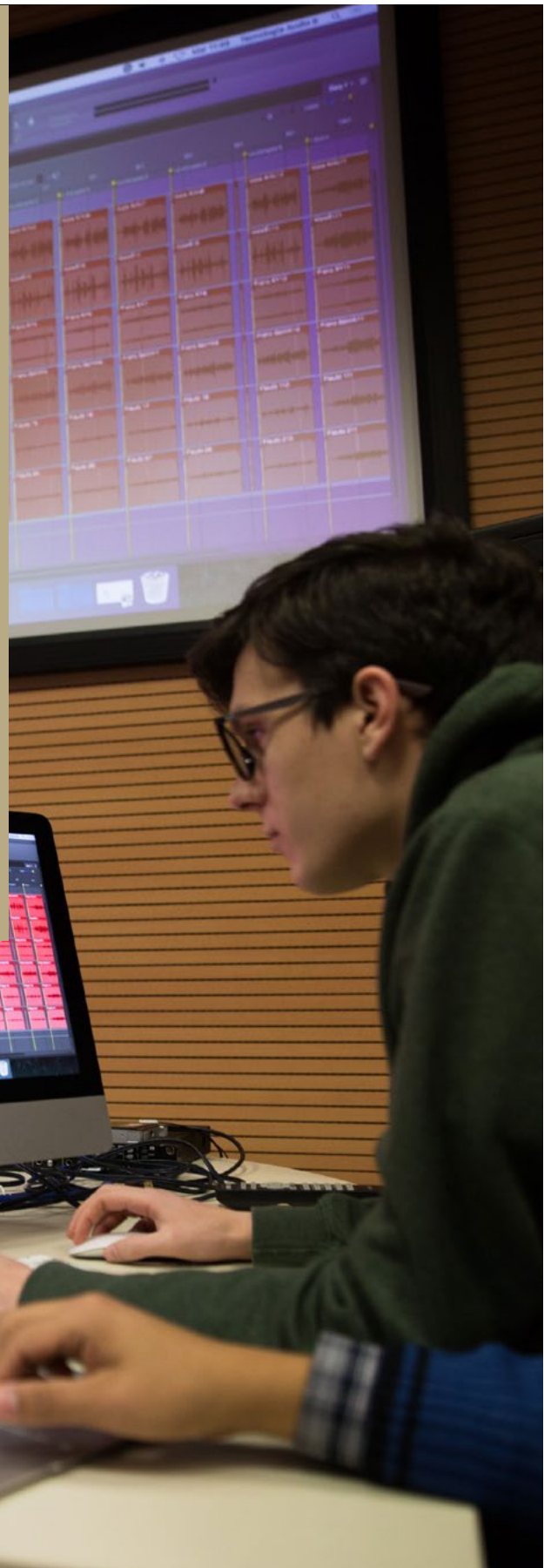
Students who pass the selection process and whose ISEE (Equivalent Financial Status Indicator) does not exceed 20,000 euros may apply for a scholarship to cover all or a part of tuition. The application process will be communicated in a separate announcement delivered to all those passing the selection process.

Merit loans and student loans

The La Scala Academy has established conventions with credit institutes to provide other forms of financial aid covering tuition and/or lodging to all students in good academic standing.

For further information, please contact the Teaching Office:

segreteria.didattica@accademialascala.it



ADMISSION PROCESS

You must apply by **February 18, 2025** to take part in the first selection session or by **September 26, 2025** to take part in the second selection session.

Please follow the steps below to apply:

①

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM LOGIN OR REGISTRATION

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at <https://iscrizioni.accademiascala.it> (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

②

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

③

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the “Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione” [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

④

ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to attach the following documents:

◆ A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:

- I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that all information contained in this CV is truthful*
- I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV per Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679)*

◆ A digital photo of the applicant (passport size)

⑤

APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay a fee of €100 (including VAT) to apply to the selection process. Payment may be made by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

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COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. This completes the application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica]. Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the enrollment platform.

Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application.

The Academy reserves the exclusive right to accept applications submitted after the above deadlines but before the beginning of the selection process.

The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application timeframe, the selection process, and the beginning of the course.

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NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the selection process by email after the application deadline.

Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course. Admitted students must enroll via their personal page on [iscrizioni.accademiascala.it](https://www.iscrizioni.accademiascala.it) by the following deadlines:

FIRST SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
March 21, 2025

Enrollment no later than
March 28, 2025

◇ SECOND SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
October 24, 2025

Enrollment no later than
October 31, 2025

Candidates wishing to apply for the scholarship must complete the application form by October 31, 2025. A valid ISEE certification must be also attached. Applications received after this deadline or sent by email will not be accepted. Notification regarding the possible award of the scholarship will be sent by November 6, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Applicants who pass the selection process and are not residents of an EU member state must submit all documents required by law on or before the day that lessons begin (application for residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the course with attendance of at least 75% and pass the final exam will receive:

- ◆ a **Diploma** issued by the Academy
- ◆ a **Certificate of Competency** issued by the Region of Lombardy. The competence certification system allows each person to enhance their human and professional capital in terms of competences, knowledge and skills.
- ◆ a **Certificate of Completion** of the Workplace Safety course (8 hours)

The Academy may also issue a Certificate of Merit to outstanding course participants, who will be selected by uncontested judgment of the Office of the Director and the Teaching Committee.

ALUMNI

Students who complete the course may join the community of La Scala Academy Alumni, a platform providing a series of exclusive services to former Academy students: job offers, networking, post-Academy training initiatives, mentorships, events, project incubators, as well as special rates and discounts.

Find out more at alumni.accademiascala.it



MEET THE STAFF

◆
Angelica Lorefice
Teaching Coordinator

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

◆
OPEN DAY

Register at
bit.ly/OpenDayATS

For information on the admissions process: Giovanna Coletta - Teaching Office.

☎ +39 02 85451160/22

✉ segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it