



**andrés  
soto**

**the david g. berger  
master class series**



## about andrés soto

**Andrés Soto** is a Latin GRAMMY®-nominated composer from Costa Rica, currently based in Los Angeles. His versatile career spans film, television, video games and concert music. His concert works have been performed by prestigious orchestras worldwide, including the New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica. In 2024, his orchestral work “Rapsodia Aérea” received a Latin GRAMMY® nomination for Best Arrangement. Soto holds a Master’s degree in Music Composition and Film Scoring from New York University and a Bachelor’s degree in Music Composition with a minor in Film & TV Studies from Hofstra University.



## workshop overview

This masterclass introduced students to the art and craft of film scoring, led by acclaimed composer Andrés Soto. Participants explored how music enhances narrative and emotional experiences in film and other audiovisual media. The session included live demonstrations, discussions on industry tools and insights into Soto’s creative process.

### Learning Objectives

- Understand the fundamentals of film scoring, including composing music that complements a film’s mood, narrative and characters
- Gain insight into industry-standard tools, software, websites and online resources for film scoring
- Explore how music interacts with visual storytelling to enhance audience engagement
- Analyze examples of Andrés Soto’s recent work and other notable film scores for educational purposes

### Session Breakdown

- Introduction to Film Scoring (15 minutes):
  - Overview of film music history and its role in storytelling
  - Discussion on the emotional and narrative functions of a film score
- Composer’s Journey (15 minutes)
  - Andrés Soto shares his career path, influences and experiences in the industry
  - Insights into balancing work across film, television and concert music
- Tools of the Trade (15 minutes)
  - Demonstration of industry-standard software and tools used in film scoring
  - Overview of online resources and platforms for aspiring composers
- Case Studies: Music and Visual Storytelling (20 minutes)
  - Analysis of selected scenes from Soto’s works, illustrating how music enhances visual narratives
  - Comparative study of famous film scores for educational purposes
- Interactive Q&A and Discussion (25 minutes)
  - Open floor for student questions and discussions
  - Optional extension based on student engagement

# vocabulary

## Cue

A piece of music timed to begin and end at a specific moment in a scene

## Diegetic Sound

Sound that originates from within the world of a film (i.e. a radio)

## Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)

Software used for recording, editing and producing audio and music

## Film Score

Original music composed specifically to accompany a film or media piece

## Motif

A recurring musical theme associated with a character, idea or setting

## Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)

A digital format that allows instruments and computers to communicate

## Non-diegetic Sound

Sound that characters cannot hear, like the score or the narration

## Sample Library

A collection of pre-recorded sounds used in digital music production

## Sync Point

A specific moment where music lines up with on-screen action or emotion

## Temp Track

Temporary music placed in a film during editing before the final score is created

## Underscore

Background music that supports dialogue and action without overpowering it

# resources

## Andrés Soto Official Website

[andres-soto.net](http://andres-soto.net)

## Andrés Soto Music Reel

[youtube.com/watch?v=9wN6FCleFrY&ab\\_channel=AndresSotoMarin](https://youtube.com/watch?v=9wN6FCleFrY&ab_channel=AndresSotoMarin)

## Free DAWs

BandLab

[bandlab.com](http://bandlab.com)

Cakewalk by BandLab

[bandlab.com/products/cakewalk](http://bandlab.com/products/cakewalk)

Audacity

[audacityteam.org](http://audacityteam.org)

## Professional DAWs (Used by Film Composers)

Logic Pro

[apple.com/logic-pro](http://apple.com/logic-pro)

Cubase

[steinberg.net/cubase](http://steinberg.net/cubase)

Pro Tools

[avid.com/pro-tools](http://avid.com/pro-tools)

## Sample Libraries and Plugins

Spitfire Audio LABS (Free)

[labs.spitfireaudio.com/?Content=LABS](http://labs.spitfireaudio.com/?Content=LABS)

Native Instruments Komplete

[native-instruments.com/en](http://native-instruments.com/en)

EastWest ComposerCloud

[sweetwater.com/store/detail/CompCloudPlus--eastwest-composer-cloud-plus-annual-subscription-automatic-renewal](http://sweetwater.com/store/detail/CompCloudPlus--eastwest-composer-cloud-plus-annual-subscription-automatic-renewal)

## Learning Platforms and Tutorials

Film Scoring Academy of Europe

[eafa.iamu.edu](http://eafa.iamu.edu)

Berklee Online: Intro to Film Scoring

[online.berklee.edu/courses/film-scoring-101](http://online.berklee.edu/courses/film-scoring-101)

Coursera

[coursera.org](http://coursera.org)

## njpac staff

### Charles F. Lowrey

Co-Chair, NJPAC Board of Directors

### John Schreiber

President & CEO

### Dr. Sherri-Ann Butterfield

Senior Vice President, Social Impact

### Jennifer Tsukayama

Vice President, Arts Education

### Shannon Pulusan

Special Assistant to Vice President,  
Arts Education

### Rosa Hyde

Senior Director, Performances &  
Special Events Operations

### Victoria Revesz

Senior Director, Arts Education Operations

### Dr. Taylor Masamitsu

Senior Director, Research & Impact

### Dr. Patricio Molina

Senior Director, Faculty & Creative Practice

### Mark Gross

Director, Jazz Instruction

### Natalie Dreyer

Director of Curriculum &  
Collaborative Learning

### Roe Bell

Director of Program Operations  
& Advancement

### Kristine Marrone

Director, CRM & Business Operations

### Ashley Mandaglio

Assoc. Director,  
Professional Learning & Programs

### Treasure Borde

Senior Manager,  
Programming & Performances

### Steven Hayet

Senior Manager,  
CRM & Business Operations

### Daniel Silverstein

Senior Manager, On-Site Programs

### Alonso Blalock

Manager, In-School Programs

### Randal Croudy

Manager, Youth & Emerging  
Artist Development

### Angela Peletier

Manager,  
Professional Learning & Training

### Justin DePaul

Office and Facilities Manager

### April Jeffries

Outreach & Sales Manager

### Demetria Hart

Senior Coordinator, Faculty Relations

### Lucas Jeron

Coordinator,  
Youth & Emerging Artist Development

### Kendall Lipham

Coordinator,  
Programming & Performances

### Josef Woodson

Creative Lead, On-Site Programs

## the arts in your school

**In-School Residencies:** NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you'll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It's the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

**Professional Development:** Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC's forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you'll also have fun and be inspired.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at [artseducation@njpac.org](mailto:artseducation@njpac.org). Or visit [njpac.org/education](http://njpac.org/education)

Major support for the David G. Berger Master Class Series is provided by the Berger Family Foundation

Additional support provided by:



Major support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by Judy and Stewart Colton, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, and The John Strangfeld and Mary Kay Strangfeld Foundation

NJPAC Arts Education programs are made possible by the generosity of our endowment donors: The Arts Education Endowment Fund in honor of Raymond C. Chambers, The Joan and Allen Bildner Family Fund, Toby and Leon Cooperman, Albert+ and Katharine Merck+, The Sagner Companies/The Sagner Family Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation

Generous annual support for NJPAC Arts Education programs is provided by Judith Bernhaut, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., Jennifer A. Chalsty, Mimi and Edwin Feliciano, Don Katz & Leslie Larson, Devils Youth Foundation, M&T Bank, McCrane Foundation, Inc., care of Margrit McCrane, The MCJ Amelior Foundation, NJ Advance Media, NJM Insurance Group, PNC, David & Marian Rocker, Turrell Fund, and an anonymous donor

## study the arts at njpac

**Saturday Programs:** NJPAC's Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

**Summer Programs:** Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.