



ORCHESTRAL ANATOMY: EPISODE INDEX

MODULE 1: LOCK & LOAD, GETTING READY

□ **EP. 1 Introduction**

Runtime: 5:32

Summary: In this introduction, we discuss the humble beginnings of my composing career in Los Angeles. We talk about the concept of “production anatomy” and chat about how we’ll reverse-engineer orchestral production by dissecting style, form, orchestration, software, and theory in a practical and hands-on approach.

□ **EP. 2 Software**

Runtime: 15:36

Course Materials: [Sample Guide and Checklist](#)

Summary: “What sample library should I buy?” is the most common question I get asked by students. In this lesson, we explore industry-standard sample libraries, and talk about how to pick softwares that best suit your needs as a composer. We also take a look at a real-life example of how I picked a new virtual instrument while facing a commercial deadline for a production company.

□ **EP. 3 Style & Form**

Runtime: 15:46

Course Materials: [Anatomy of a Trailer](#)

Summary: Learning a musical style is a lot like learning a language or exercising; fluency and ease come with practice and effort! On the other hand, a style’s form is a lot like a roadmap that can help us know where to go next as we write. In this lesson, we take a closer look at the relationship between style, form, and cinematic orchestral music.

We also introduce the cinematic form of the film trailer and lay the foundation for understanding this form before we begin writing our own bombastic, full-throttle film trailer.

□EP. 4.1 Templates Pt. 1: Introduction to Templates

Runtime: 3:27

Summary: Templates, or preset sessions full of our go-to instruments, are the starting point for many media composers. This lesson introduces these “sonic color palettes” and start down the road of exploring my composing template in Logic.

□EP. 4.2 Templates Pt. 1: Choir, Brass, & Winds

Runtime: 19:06

Course Materials: Sample Guide & Checklist

Summary: In episodes 4.2-4.4, we explore my entire template with unadulterated detail. Reviewing each patch, sampled instrument, effect and preset. This detailed breakdown includes a patch-by-patch walkthrough of every instrument, effects insert, and audio plug-in.

We begin this part of the course by examining choirs, brass and winds.

□EP. 4.3 Templates Pt. 1: Strings

Runtime: 11:46

Course Materials: Sample Guide & Checklist

Summary: Strings are among the most challenging samples to program authentically. In this episode, we take a closer look at the strings I have in my orchestral arsenal.

□EP. 4.4 Templates Pt. 1: Perc and Synths

Runtime: 25:56

Course Materials: Sample Guide & Checklist

Summary: BOOM! Time for percussive blasts of intensity and aggressive synthesizers as we examine cinematic percussion and creative approaches to synthesis.

□EP. 5 Templates Pt. 2: The Next Dimension, Panning & Reverb

Runtime: 11:38

Course Materials: Panning and Reverb Companion

Summary: Panning and reverb increase the realism of our orchestral mockups, but they also help us communicate dimension, mood, and space. In this lesson we talk about how to enhance the dimension and performance of our compositions by implementing panning and reverb into our template workflows.

CONTINUE TO MODULE TWO...

MODULE 2: DOWN TO BUSINESS, WRITING PROCESS

□EP. 6 Track Autopsy

Runtime: 10:12

Summary: In this episode, we dissect one of my original tracks entitled, *Last to Fall*. By pulling this composition apart section by section, we get a look at the inner workings of my approach to synthesis, orchestral arrangement, and instrumental programming.

□EP. 7 Creating Your Intro

Runtime: 30:18

Course Materials: Seeking Inspiration—How to Get Going!

Summary: Many students complain of having a hard time generating new musical ideas. We start this lesson by discussing a few ways to start your creative process by improvising rhythms, chord progressions, and melodies. The expanded course materials include improvisational exercises to help guide you through the process of improvising chords and melodies in orchestral styles.

With these concepts in mind, we exit the classroom and enter the writing phase of the course. Writing a track that follows the form of a film trailer, we begin utilizing our orchestral templates and begin scoring on the computer. Watch as we improvise our introduction in realtime and set the groundwork for the track that will carry us through the remainder of the course.

□EP. 8 Writing Your Theme

Runtime: 25:17

Summary: With our intro taken care of, we move next into creating the main theme of our film trailer track. Come along as we explore some of the stylistic nuances of this style of orchestral music and continue our writing process.

□EP. 9.1 Building to the Breaking Point, Pt. 1

Runtime: 5:06

Course Materials: Building Bigger, Better Crescendos

Summary: In this introduction to crescendos, we talk about building drama in our orchestral music by adding elements over time, working with countermelodies, and experimenting with rhythmic complexity.

□EP. 9.2 Building to the Breaking Point, Pt. 2: Writing Session

Runtime: 27:10

Summary: In this third writing session, we continue composing our film trailer track by taking the musical elements we established in Ep. 9.1 and expanding them into a full-fledged cinematic build.

□ **EP. 10 All Together Now! – The Finale**

Runtime: 32:47

Summary: In this final writing session, we round out our trailer track and complete the compositional elements of our sketch. Strap in for bombast and a full-on orchestral assault as our entire ensemble comes together for a big finish!

□ **EP. 11.1 Mixing & Mastering: Intro to Mixing**

Runtime: 23:27

Course Materials: *Mixing and Mastering Companion*

Summary: With the writing process completed, we touch on some broad concepts of mixing orchestral sounds. We balance our instrumental sections, tweak levels, and even make time to highlight mix tricks meant to get you started down the road of orchestral mixing.

□ **EP. 11.2 Mixing & Mastering: Intro to Mastering**

Runtime: 8:38

Course Materials: *Mixing and Mastering Companion*

Summary: In this introduction to mastering, we explore a streamlined workflow to polish, sonically improve, and finalize your orchestral track. Watch as we simplify the mastering process, explore effects chains, and create professional mixes that are ready for the screen.

□ **EP. 12 In Closing**

Runtime: 1:50

Summary: The real work has truly just begun! Becoming fluent in any style of music is highly challenging, and mastery comes with time, effort, and determination. In this short episode, we wrap up our course and send students on their way with new skills and shortcuts designed to make their scoring journeys easier and more direct.