



**ZURICH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

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MEDIA RELEASE



Hildur Guðnadóttir / © Camille Blake

The ZFF honors composer Hildur Guðnadóttir

Zurich, June 5, 2025

Icelandic composer and Oscar winner Hildur Guðnadóttir will receive the Career Achievement Award at the 21st Zurich Film Festival (ZFF). The award will be presented to her on October 2, 2025, during the «Cinema in Concert» gala at the Tonhalle Zürich. Guðnadóttir will preside over the jury of the 13th International Film Music Competition (IFMC) and will also take part in a ZFF Masters session. She is best known for her compositions for films such as JOKER, A HAUNTING IN VENICE, TÁR, the video game BATTLEFIELD 2042 and the TV series CHERNOBYL.

The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) annually awards honorary prizes to significant filmmakers whose work have shaped and enriched the film landscape. This year, the ZFF (25.9.-5.10.) honors the career of **Hildur Guðnadóttir** with the Career Achievement Award.

«Hildur Guðnadóttir is one of the most innovative composers of our time. She knows how to use experimental sounds to shape mainstream pop culture and lend it atmospheric depth. She is an inquisitive musician who develops her scores in dialog with the filmmakers and their sequences, creating melodies that you might not hum to yourself on the way home, but which resonate deep within us and thus shape our experience of films such as JOKER or TÁR. Her unmistakable style makes her a groundbreaking artist and a role model for many young talents worldwide. It is a special pleasure and honor for us to be able to award her work», says festival director **Christian Jungen**.

Hildur Guðnadóttir is delighted to come to Zurich for the 21st ZFF: «Thank you so much Zurich Film Festival for this lovely acknowledgment! I am very excited to head over your way to listen to the beautiful Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and of course to get to see some of the great films and music at your festival! Thank you!»

Pioneer of film composition and musical talent of the present

Hildur Guðnadóttir is an award-winning Icelandic composer and cellist, who has earned a unique place on the contemporary music scene thanks to her virtuosity, versatility and originality. She has won an Oscar, a Golden Globe, an Emmy, two Grammys and a BAFTA. Her groundbreaking score for the HBO series CHERNOBYL won her an Emmy and led to her being named «Television Composer of the Year» at the World Soundtrack Awards. For the soundtrack to the film JOKER, she became the first solo composer to win a Golden Globe for Best Original Score and went on to win an Academy Award and a Grammy. Her work includes numerous film and television projects such as SICARIO: DAY OF THE SOLDADO, MARY MAGDALENE, WOMEN TALKING, JOKER: FOLIE Á DEUX and TÁR.

In addition to her film music, Hildur Guðnadóttir has released four solo albums and composed music for theater and dance performances. She has collaborated with renowned institutions such as the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, the British Film Institute and the Royal Swedish Opera. Guðnadóttir was born in Reykjavík in 1982 and grew up in a musical family. She began playing the cello at the age of five and studied at the Reykjavík Music Academy and the Berlin University of the Arts. She currently lives in Berlin and is collaborating with director Nia DaCosta on the films HEDDA and 28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE.



At the «Cinema in Concert» gala, the scores of the IFMC finalists will be played live. © Lucia Hunziker

Hildur Guðnadóttir at the IFMC

The Zurich Film Festival and the **Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich**, in collaboration with the Forum Filmmusik, will hold the International Film Music Competition for the 13th time this year. The task is to score the seven-minute short film **WILD LOVE** by Paul Autric, Quentin Camus, Léa Georges, Maryka Laudet, Zoé Sottiaux and Corentin Yvergnaux for a symphony orchestra.

The international jury will select three compositions from the submissions, which will be premiered by the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under the direction of **Frank Strobel** in the presence of the three nominees at the «Cinema in Concert» gala at the Tonhalle Zürich on October 2, 2025. «Looking to the future with the International Film Music Competition and giving young composers a stage is essential for their development and for us as an institution», says **Marc Barwisch**, Head of Artistic Operations at the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich.

The jury, chaired by **Hildur Guðnadóttir**, will select the winning composition on the same evening and award the **Golden Eye for «Best International Film Music 2025»**, endowed with CHF 10,000. Tickets for the event can be purchased [here](#).

The expert jury of the 13th IFMC consists of:

- **Hildur Guðnadóttir** (composer & musician, Iceland, jury president)
- **Frank Strobel** (conductor & Musician, Germany)
- **Balz Bachmann** (composer & musician, Switzerland)

Special thanks go to the Else v. Sick Foundation and the Freundeskreis Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich as well as the Fondation SUISA, SWISSPERFORM and the Stiftung Phonoproduzierende.

Cinema in Concert

The Cinema in Concert with the International Film Music Competition is organized by the Zurich Film Festival and the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich in collaboration with the Forum Filmmusik at the Tonhalle Zürich. Tickets and further information: [filmmusikwettbewerb.ch](#)

Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich

The Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich is the organiser of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and arranges more than 150 concerts of various kinds each season. In addition to concerts in Zurich, the orchestra goes on international tours, bringing Zurich's reputation as a vibrant music city to renowned music centers around the world. For more information: [tonhalle-orchester.ch](#)

Forum Filmmusik

The Forum Filmmusik promotes the exchange between musicians, sound designers, and filmmakers. It also implements projects that offer insights into past and present film music creation and sensitize the culturally interested public to the soundtrack. For more information: [forumfilmmusik.ch](#)

SoundTrack_Zurich

SoundTrack_Zurich is a three-day event on film and media music held as part of the Zurich Film Festival. The conference offers a series of panels, networking sessions, case studies, and workshops that address current topics in today's film and media music scene. SoundTrack_Zurich is curated by Michael P. Aust (SoundTrack_Cologne) and organized by Forum Filmmusik, in collaboration with the Zurich Film Festival, the Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich, the Zurich University of the Arts, and SoundTrack_Cologne. The 6th edition of SoundTrack_Zurich will take place from 30.9. to 3.10.2025. For more information : [soundtrackzurich.com](#)

Zurich Film Festival

The Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) is the second largest festival in the German-speaking world. Over 11 days in autumn, it presents the greatest discoveries and the year's most anticipated movies. The ZFF promotes exchange between upcoming directors, established filmmakers, the film industry and the general public. In the last 20 years, the festival has attracted a total of 1.35 million visitors. 500 of the 2,300 films screened celebrated their world or European premiere at the Zurich Film Festival.

The 21st edition will take place from 25 September to 5 October 2025.

More Information: [Zurich Film Festival](#) | [ZFF Industry](#)

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