

# MONOM

## **What is MONOM, and what does it specialize in?**

MONOM is a collective, a convergence of artists, technologists, studios, and venues exploring the possibilities of spatial sound as an artistic and experiential medium. From sound art and music to theater, opera, dance, and the immersive realms of virtual and augmented realities, our mission is to provide space and time for artists to expand the dimensions of their creative practice and to enrich communal and individual experiences of sound and art.

Founded in 2017, MONOM's headquarters and production studio in Berlin is home to the original 4DSOUND system. This technology, which enables the production of audio holograms, is a platform for building intricate and refined sonic worlds and immersive multimedia experiences. These new worlds of sound are designed not only to be heard, but to be embodied.

Collaborating with over 150 artists, together we have pushed the boundaries of this innovative technology and instrument, becoming the leading studio in the world producing and presenting works in 4DSOUND. Our partnerships span a wide spectrum of festivals, institutions and collectives, enabling us to pioneer the development and presentation of listening based experiences, both within Berlin and internationally..

## **What is 4DSOUND?**

Since 2007, 4DSOUND has been at the forefront of some of the most creatively challenging and technically complex projects using spatial audio in the context of architecture, music, opera, fashion and research. Building on more than a decade of art-driven research, development and experimentation with spatial sound technology, 4DSOUND has pioneered the design of fully omnidirectional sound environments, and developed an extensive set of features used to create spatializations, immersive performances, compositions, interactive installations, and more.

4DSOUND technology combines custom hardware and software, rendering omnidirectional sound environments that push the boundaries of spatial sound as a creative medium.

## **Can you explain more about the 4DSOUND system and its significance in your programs?**

We've chosen to integrate the 4DSOUND system because more than being a state-of-the-art sound system, we believe it is the most advanced and intuitive instrument currently available for composing expansive sonic worlds and constructing multi-sensory ecosystems. This system adeptly merges various technologies and mediums, offering an unparalleled creative tool for composition and experience.

Although the Bloomline Omniwave speakers we use in our studio are the best for producing realistic audio holograms, every sound work developed in 4DSOUND at MONOM can be adapted to any multichannel sound-system - from binaural headphones to 100+ channel systems. In order to adapt a work to a different system, 4DSOUND can create a specific setup file for the speaker configuration of the intended venue. Additional engineering support for touring productions and on-site mixing is needed in some cases. If you're interested in utilizing these services for your work, please reach out to us, and we'll be happy to provide an overview of the options and associated costs.

## **Why is this program a pilot?**

Since the inception of MONOM, our focus has been on developing sustainable models that benefit all participants in the creative development process and presentation process. Our goal is to establish a licensing system that not only broadens exposure for artists but also provides them with fair compensation. This endeavor has been, and continues to be, a process of trial. We firmly believe that the most effective method to discover optimal practices involves experimenting and gathering feedback from the artists and partners we collaborate with. This approach allows us to continually enhance our residency program. Consequently, the program isn't fixed; it's evolving. We anticipate making adjustments that will ultimately advantage everyone.

## **How does the MONOM archive function?**

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Every project added to our archive becomes a candidate for licensing either by MONOM or our associated partners. As soon as an artist or a project gets the green light for our residency program, we begin an archive process. This file gathers detailed information about the project, encompassing press images and videos for promotion. Upon the project's completion, it is incorporated into our archive, which is then accessible to all our partners who can choose to license the work. If your work catches the interest of our network and is chosen for further showcasing, we'll reach out to you to ensure you're on board with the specific context of the presentation. In cases where there's an opportunity to feature your work as a live performance, we facilitate direct communication between you (or your representative) and the interested partner to negotiate terms and fees for the live performance between yourselves. MONOM is only involved in negotiating the fee of the playback.

## **How does inclusion in MONOM's spatial sound archive benefit me as an artist?**

Inclusion in MONOM's spatial sound archive can significantly benefit you as an artist through increasing your exposure and visibility, as your work becomes part of a curated collection accessible to industry professionals, curators, venues with multichannel sound systems, and other artists. This exposure can lead to further showcasing, licensing and performance opportunities, including the potential for live presentations where you can charge your standard fees. Your work's presence in the archive is a validation from MONOM that your work is of a high standard. Our archive is there to ensure that your work is recognised as part of the ongoing exploration and innovation in spatial sound and artistic practice in general. Furthermore, if your work is mixed in Binaural, your work has the possibility of generating income from digital sales which are promoted online and physically when people experience your work at one of our partner venues or festivals. Beyond the commercial benefits, being part of this archive can enhance your professional portfolio, adding a credibility that is beneficial when applying for grants, residencies, or other professional opportunities..

## **How can I prepare for my residency?**

To ensure you are fully prepared for your residency and can make the most of your time with us, we recommend participating in one of our comprehensive 4-hour master introduction classes. These sessions are designed for larger groups and provide an immersive experience into the 4DSOUND system. You'll have the opportunity to listen to works from our archive and learn about the instrument's capabilities, which will give you a solid foundation and inspiration for your own creative process. Attending this master class before starting your residency is highly beneficial, as it allows you to arrive prepared and aware of the vast possibilities that our technology offers. Information about upcoming introduction sessions can be found on our website, newsletter, and social media channels.

We also recommend reviewing the videos and documentation available on the [4DSOUND website](#). This preparation helps in maximizing the creative and productive use of time during the residency hours. If you want to record acoustic instruments during the residency this is possible, however we do recommend for shorter residencies especially, to record and compose as much as you can before coming, to ensure that time in the studio is spent mixing on the system, rather than recording instruments.

## **What kind of support and resources will MONOM provide during the residency?**

**4DSOUND License:** You'll be granted a license for the 4DSOUND system, which isn't yet available publicly. This license is valid for six months, starting one month before and extending up to 11 months after the completion of your residency.

**Expert Guidance:** You will work alongside a MONOM spatial sound engineer who will provide full technical support in spatial sound during your residency hours.

**Equipment Access:** 57 Omniwave Speakers built by bloomline acoustics, MONOM's Mac Studio equipped with latest Ableton version and 4DSOUND software and Max 4 live devices necessary to control the spatialisation through Ableton.

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**Private listening session:** 1-hour private listening session for friends and family for residents longer than 40 hours.

## **What does an R&D license entail?**

A 4DSOUND R&D license grants you using a constraint version of the software for non-commercial applications. This means that you do not earn any revenue for using the software, but you can explore it freely. You will be joining a select group of users and find support in our extensive documentation. Personal support is only provided to commercial license holders, however, if you have questions or feedback we are very happy to hear from you.

## **Can I continue to use my license after the residency ends?**

Yes, an R&D license is valid for a year, and can possibly be extended. If you want this please get in contact with 4DSOUND Technologies BV.

## **How can I acquire a commercial license?**

Commercial licenses are either project based or annual, and therefore context dependent. You can inquire with 4DSOUND Technologies for acquiring a commercial license.

## **How does the complimentary 4DSOUND software license work? What are its limitations?**

After you sign our agreement, we'll provide you with the software license along with installation instructions. Should you encounter any difficulties during installation, our team is available to assist you remotely. It's important to note that the complimentary license is for non-commercial use only and should not be used for any commercial purposes.

## **Who typically applies for the MONOM residency program?**

We welcome proposals from any individual or group keen on exploring spatial sound as an expressive or experiential medium. Our program is ideal for those involved in various disciplines where sound creation and research are integral to their growth and professional work. We also encourage applications from those interested in ecological perspectives and environmental issues, as well as individuals engaged in the scientific, technical, political, or cultural studies of sound environments. This broad scope aims to enrich our understanding and application of spatial sound across diverse fields and practices.

## **What are the requirements to apply for the MONOM residency?**

The process simply involves filling out an application form, reading, and agreeing to the terms and conditions. After your application is submitted, the MONOM team will review it and notify you within one month regarding your selection.

Selection for the residency is primarily based on the uniqueness and originality of your concept, the anticipated outcome of your project, and how well these align with the studio's curatorial vision. Periodically, the studio may issue open calls focusing on specific themes. Outside of these thematic calls, the selection process remains flexible throughout the year, catering to a diverse range of creative ideas and projects.

## **Are there specific disciplines or backgrounds you prefer in your applicants?**

We are open to applicants from all disciplines and backgrounds. In our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion, we particularly encourage applications from women, as well as members of the LGBTQ+ and BIPOC communities. We also have a strong interest in projects centered around the preservation of

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natural environments and those aimed at creating significant social impact. Our goal is to cultivate a rich, varied creative environment that embraces and amplifies a multitude of voices and perspectives.

## **Is the program suitable for artists at the beginning of their career, or is it more geared towards established professionals?**

The selection is based on the originality and feasibility of the proposed idea, rather than the artist's background in music production. Technical assistance is provided to help translate concepts into sound, making it suitable for artists who may not have extensive experience in sound production. We also welcome research residencies that may not culminate in a public showing.

For those aiming to become proficient with the 4DSOUND system and interested in a career as a spatial sound engineer, we highly recommend our trainee program and various educational offerings throughout the year. These are designed to provide in-depth knowledge and practical experience, accommodating different levels of professional development in sound engineering for both studio and live environments.

## **If my project requires integration with lights or other mediums, can MONOM provide assistance or guidance?**

Integrating additional elements like lighting or other mediums is not included in the services we offer as part of the residency. Our studio specializes in spatial sound, and that's the focus of our technical support. If you have additional needs, we can look into what might be possible and potentially recommend other experts. However, the management and logistics for incorporating these elements will need to be handled on your end.

## **Can I bring my own equipment or instruments to use with the 4DSOUND system?**

Yes, you are welcome to bring your own equipment or instruments. Please ensure that you communicate this in the application form so we can prepare accordingly and support your needs during the residency. If it's a complex setup we recommend you booking 8-hour sessions to have enough time to prepare.

## **Why does the residency cost 100€ + VAT per hour? Can you break down this cost?**

The studio's hourly rate totals 200€. This rate comprises 120 EUR for studio rental of 600SQm of studio space, which includes administrative expenses and building / rental costs, and 80 EUR for the expertise of a senior spatial sound engineer. However, for those invited to join our residency and co-production pilot program, we offer a special rate of 100 EUR per hour.

This discounted rate is part of our commitment to supporting artists and their creative endeavors, leading to the total cost of 2000€ + VAT for a 20-hour residency or 2000€.

## **I noticed MONOM covers 50% of the project development costs. Why doesn't MONOM cover more, given the financial constraints of many artists?**

As a self-funded entity, MONOM's capacity to offer financial support is limited which is why we are only currently able to offer very limited fully subsidized residencies per year. However, we do assist artists in applying for external funds by providing letters of intent and other necessary support. We are working in the future to be able to contribute more to lower the barriers of access.

## **What if I want to learn more about the 4DSOUND software, but can't fund a residency or the training program?**

What if I'm interested in learning more about the 4DSOUND software but am unable to finance a residency or training program?

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Educating artists and sound engineers in the use of 4DSOUND is part of our mission. Currently, the training program is fully booked until the end of March 2024. We will announce a call for applications for the training program in January 2024.

## **Are there additional discounts or financial considerations for residencies longer than 40 hours?**

Yes, we actively encourage longer residencies as we believe they lead to better outcomes. If you're considering an extended residency, please get in touch with us to discuss the possibilities and any potential financial considerations or discounts that might be available.

## **Are there any hidden costs or additional fees I should be aware of?**

No, there are no hidden costs or additional fees in the standard residency program. However, if an artist wishes to utilize instruments or elements beyond what is provided in our technical rider, and this requires extra support from us, we will provide a separate quote for these additional services.

## **Why do you need to showcase my work three times before royalty payments begin?**

Generally, the cost to present works of emerging artists is greater than the income for us and our partners - ie if we or they cannot sell more than 200 tickets to the event, it is not feasible to be able to play the work. Our approach is designed to foster emerging artists' creations by initially shifting the focus away from ticket sales and minimizing the obstacles to presenting their work. Doing this not only helps in elevating the visibility of the artists' work but also strengthens their applications for grants and funding. By increasing the likelihood of premiering the sound works developed in our program, we aim to provide more substantial support and opportunities for the artists we collaborate with. In the cases for artists that sell more than 300 tickets, an event can be organized separately and another arrangement can be made depending on the scope of the collaboration.

## **Will I retain the rights to the music or sound art I create during the residency?**

Yes, you will retain the rights to the music or sound art that you create during the residency. However, as part of the residency terms, you will grant MONOM the rights to use the music and sounds as they are recorded in the multichannel and binaural outputs produced using the 4DSOUND technology during your residency. Additionally, MONOM will retain the Ableton session files to enable the mixing of your work for other systems and spaces. Should your work be presented in other venues or formats, you will be compensated in accordance with the licensing agreement established between you and MONOM. This agreement ensures that while you maintain ownership of your creative output, MONOM can also utilize the recordings to promote the work and the technology, and you receive appropriate remuneration for such uses.

## **How are licensing and royalties handled for works created during the residency?**

For works created during the residency, licensing and royalties are managed in a structured manner. Every six months, you will receive a report detailing where your work has been presented. This report will include all the necessary information for you to issue an invoice to us. This process ensures that you are kept informed of the use of your work and that you are compensated accordingly for any licensing agreements that have been arranged during that period.

## **What happens to my project after the residency ends?**

Upon completion of your residency, your project might be chosen to become a part of MONOM's spatial sound archive. This opportunity can offer additional exposure and preservation of your work within the innovative field of spatial sound. In the cases where you have been selected for the subsidized residency, in most cases you will become a part of the archive.

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## **Does completing a residency guarantee that my work will be performed or showcased by MONOM?**

Completing a 40-hour residency guarantees a one-hour private listening session for up to 30 people. While we can't assure a public premiere date, but it's definitely our intention to showcase completed works. We strive to provide opportunities for public exposure, but specific arrangements will depend on the opportunities available and scheduling.

## **Can you tell me more about the 1-hour listening session for friends and family? What does it entail?**

The 1-hour listening session at the end of your residency is a unique, private event. It's not advertised through MONOM's public channels, which creates an intimate setting for listening for your friends, family, and colleagues. As the artist, you have the freedom to share details about the session with your invitees, but it's important to keep specific information like the exact time and date discreet. This session is complementary and includes access to our studio for a complete listening experience, along with the use of our lounge area as a comfortable waiting room and for light refreshments. We provide basic amenities such as water, coffee, and tea for you and your guests. You're welcome to invite friends, family, members of your label, press, or anyone else who you feel would benefit from or enjoy the experience. This session is an excellent opportunity to showcase your work, gather feedback, and network with people important to you.

## **Is there an opportunity for further collaboration with MONOM after my residency?**

If your work is selected for the archive, then we will continue to be involved in the presentation of the work. If the work is not, you are still welcome to continue your project, or create a new one. Additionally, you can delve deeper into 4DSOUND by participating in our training programs. Through these programs, you could become a skilled spatial sound engineer, which would enable you to work independently in the studio and potentially reduce the cost of future residencies. Training as a spatial sound engineer could also open up opportunities for you to work in one of the increasing number of 4DSOUND studios and 4DSOUND enabled spaces and venues. This path not only enhances your technical skills but also broadens your professional opportunities in spatial sound and the creative industries in general.

## **How flexible are the residency hours and schedules? Can they be tailored to individual needs?**

Our residency sessions are structured into 4-hour blocks, running from Monday to Friday. We typically organize the artist's work into 4-hour sessions each day, available during the following time slots: 09:00 to 13:00, 13:00 to 17:00, 17:00 to 21:00, and in some special cases, a late-night slot from 21:00 to 00:00. If you have specific scheduling needs or requests, reach out to our team. We'll do our best to accommodate your requirements and ensure the residency works for you.

## **Can I schedule my residency sessions during the weekends instead of weekdays?**

We typically dedicate weekends to MONOM projects. If you need to work during the weekend, we can discuss this possibility, but please be aware that the pricing may vary from the standard weekday rates.

## **Is it possible to opt for 8-hour sessions instead of the standard 4-hour ones? How would that affect the cost and scheduling?**

Yes, it is possible to arrange for 8-hour sessions instead of the standard 4-hour format, this is specially recommended if you intend to also record live instruments. The price would be the same.

## **What arrangements do I need to make for travel, accommodation, and meals?**

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All arrangements for travel, accommodation, and meals are the responsibility of the artist. However, there are some mobility funds available in Europe that you might find helpful. We recommend researching these options to potentially offset your expenses.

## **Are there restaurants nearby?**

Yes, within the Funkhaus complex, there are two restaurants. Milchbar offers Italian and traditional German cuisine and coffee and drinks and is open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Zola, a Neapolitan pizzeria, is open from 12:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Residents of our program enjoy a 10% discount at both of these restaurants.

## **What are the local amenities like near the residency location?**

The studio is located in the iconic Funkhaus in Rummelsburg, right beside the river. This area is known for its scenic beauty and historical significance. You'll find a tranquil environment conducive to creativity, along with some basic amenities nearby due to its historical and somewhat secluded location. For more extensive dining, or entertainment options, you might need to travel a bit further from this serene riverside setting.

## **Recommendations for Prospective Residents:**

- **Live Instrument Recording:** If your project involves recording live instruments, we advise booking 8-hour sessions. This extended time frame will provide ample opportunity for setup and sound checks, ensuring the best quality for your recordings.
- **Focus on New Creations:** Our funding is primarily directed towards the creation of new works. While we may occasionally subsidize the spatialization of existing pieces, our main interest lies in supporting the development of innovative, original content.
- **Introduction Session:** We strongly recommend attending our introduction session if it's accessible to you. These sessions are invaluable for gaining a comprehensive understanding of the 4DSOUND system. By participating, you can significantly enhance your preparation, allowing you to fully utilize your residency time with us.