

3 BACKTHIRDAUDIO

Sound Foundations Mixing Seminar

Ever hear an awful screech on Sunday morning and wonder where it came from?

The **Sound Foundations Mixing Seminar** is a group course in mixing and the basics of live sound. This course is intended for church and school sound teams who need to gain an understanding of mixing and develop a common vocabulary. You learn together, as a group, at your facility in front of your mixer. The whole class takes a half-day. Students leave with a basic understanding of how to mix sound on a preinstalled sound system.

Our goal is to lay a good foundation – great sound is part art and part science, and it takes time and experience to do it like a pro. We can't make brilliant mix engineers in a morning. But we can point them in the right direction and send them on your way.

Topics to be covered include PA signal path, sound check and troubleshooting. But in the end, this is a **mixing seminar**. We'll talk about – and practice – EQ techniques, effects and the construction of solid mixes for both monitors and front of house.

This course is an abbreviated version of **Sound Foundations I: Stage Sound**, a month-long class we teach at Backthird Audio three times a year. The full class deals with mobile PA systems and delves further into setup and teardown, cables and connectors and basic stage setup. This group class assumes your team is using a pre-installed PA that already works. We teach you what to do once you're behind the console.

The **Sound Foundations Mixing Seminar** can be taught in four hours (which requires moving fairly quickly through material) or in five hours (which allows more time for demonstration and group practice). We provide each student with our 15-page workbook and a pen for taking notes. You provide the room, the sound system and any snacks you think we'll need.

Four-hour seminar: \$395 (up to 10 students)

Five-hour seminar: \$475 (up to 10 students)

Additional students: \$20 each

Classes are taught by studio owner Benjie Hughes.
Contact Backthird Audio at **630-264-2366** or visit **backthird.com/classes**.

3 BACKTHIRDAUDIO

Sound Foundations Mixing Seminar

- **Signal Path fundamentals**
 - What is a PA? What is signal path?
 - Mic, line and speaker level
 - Series and Parallel FX
 - Signal path problems and how to avoid them
 - Pops
 - Clipping
 - Feedback
- **Meet Your Mixer**
 - Signal path in your mixer
 - Pre-fader vs post-fader (and why it matters)
- **Mixing**
 - Elements in a mix
 - *Listening exercises*
 - EQ principles and guidelines
 - *EQ exercises – improving, separating, changing*
 - Reverb/FX
 - Stereo
 - Putting it together: Mixing in 3D
 - *Mix exercises*
 - Mix philosophy – what's yours?
- **Sound Check**
 - What and when?
 - Monitor mixing
- **Troubleshooting**
 - Signal-to-noise ratio
 - Buzz and hum: ground loops and electrical mysteries
 - Feedback revisited

Classes are taught by studio owner Benjie Hughes.
Contact Backthird Audio at **630-264-2366** or visit **backthird.com/classes**.