

Name film: **Music Lives Here**  
Director: **Polina Stepanova**  
Writer: **Polina Stepanova**  
Producer: **Irkutsk region film foundation**  
Country: **Russia**  
Time: **26 minutes**

## **LOVE LETTER TO MUSIC**

This film is a love-letter to music of Irkutsk region. From the first minute you feel so much love was put into this film and you get completely immersed for the runtime that when credits roll you feel catharsis.

This film has a great structure, it's not meandering too much on points. It's entertainingly cut with great tempo and great rhythm. The structure of the film is trying to mimic the symphony. With fast build up, then it slows down and gets a little bit philosophical and it gets the pace up with some fancy-dancy passages, and the end, where we end with repeating of the statement in it's all glory. I think the audience will get touched by the amount of love these musicians speak about the music. I got goosebumps and even a lump in my throat.

Shots are composed beautifully, especially ones from the concerts - we get some sweeping wides and nice shallow close-ups of instruments, of hands playing, because it's all about the music. Sound mixing is great, with great synchronisation. I liked they didn't overdub the original Russian. The audience might learn some Russian words while watching. English subs are well done, they didn't disturb me and the translation was also really good.

In this docu film we can see, that Polina Stepanova worked for the TV, because in some places it feels like "made for TV" documentary, which is not to say that it detracts from the overall quality of the final product.

I think, that the passage with jazz and bar musicians could be left out, even tho I know it is there for a reason. I think that this film would benefit from it being there longer, or cut it entirely. Otherwise this is a great documentary with great philosophical statements. It will get the audience right in feels. 9.5/10