

Mustafa Sandal & maNga with Epic Symphony 2025 - Monitor Engineer

[Instagram Link 1](#) | [Instagram Link 2](#)

Ülker Sports Arena hosted an ambitious concert featuring Turkish rock band maNga, pop star Mustafa Sandal, and the symphonic ensemble Epic Symphony, conducted and arranged by Tuluğ Tırpan on February 22, 2025. The line-up also included the opening band 4x4, making for a dynamic and complex production. Epic Symphony accompanied both maNga and Mustafa Sandal during their sets and, a special duet between Ferman Akgül, the frontman of maNga, and Mustafa Sandal...

As monitor engineer for maNga, my main role was ensuring the band had a well-balanced in-ear monitoring mix and a reliable stage setup. Additionally, I supported all technical crews in planning and troubleshooting, conducting consecutive meetings to ensure smooth and efficient execution.



Five mixers were requested from the supplier in total, one dedicated to 4x4, two for FOH (Front of House), and two for monitor mixing. For maNga and Mustafa Sandal, we preferred Yamaha CL-5, chosen for its speed and practicality, while a separate CL-5 was dedicated to the symphony alone. The monitoring system included six stereo IEMs for maNga, six additional IEMs for the production crew, eight stage monitors, and Side-Fill (hanging Line-Array). To achieve the best sound quality, we preferred microphones from DPA, Neumann, Schoeps, Shure, and Sennheiser.



During technical meetings, we realized that maNga and Mustafa Sandal's wireless systems were set up with completely different configurations, which required us to establish two independent wireless systems.

The symphony orchestra included the following: 30-piece strings, ten first violins, eight second violins, six violas, six cellos; 10-piece brass and percussion, three French horns, three trumpets, two trombones, one percussion, one timpani; and 30-people choir. The symphony orchestra was positioned on the left side of the stage, away from the drum kit, allowing for better communication between maNga and the conductor. To accommodate the orchestra's monitoring needs, a separate monitor system was used for the symphony,

with IEMs provided for section leaders. The signal routing was planned by me, ensuring that a mixed channels of maNga was sent to the symphony while the symphony's outputs were returned to the main mix.

To maintain a clear and balanced stage sound, I implemented the following strategies:

- Kept maNga's amplifier levels low and opted to eliminate stage monitors to prevent excessive stage noise.
- Created a dedicated Side-Fill mix for the symphony, including only the essential instruments (drums, bass, guitar, backtrack, and vocals) to help them stay in sync with the band.
- Used a plexiglass shield in front of the drum kit to minimize the bleed into the symphony's microphones.
- Refined the symphony and choir placement throughout rehearsals to ensure optimal self-hearing among musicians.



Challenges & Improvements

One of the biggest challenges of this event was accommodating multiple bands and a full symphony orchestra on stage while ensuring smooth transitions between performances. Efficient stage management and precise technical planning were critical to maintaining a seamless changeover process within the scheduled timeline.

The other challenge was achieving a balance in monitoring preferences as the symphony musicians preferred to hear less of the band, while the conductor needed to hear the symphony more prominently. Also, due to their lower natural volume, the string section was the most difficult to monitor, which could be further improved in future productions learning from this experience.

If given the opportunity to refine the setup, I would request additional rehearsal time to fine-tune monitoring balances. As we struggled to achieve even sound distribution with stand-mounted speakers I would prefer to use Line-Array speakers for symphony monitoring.

Key Takeaways

From a sound engineering perspective, the concert was a success. The integration of a rock band, a pop artist, and a full symphony orchestra within the same stage layout required precise coordination, but the final result was seamless. Despite these minor challenges, the concert ran flawlessly due to strong collaboration between teams. The attached materials include the concert recording, musician mixes, and stage photos.

The mix in the attachment was made on request by the performers. Since the band was not able to have enough rehearsals with the symphony crew, they requested to hear them in the mix less so the symphony is less audible in the standard mixes. The files were not compressed nor edited. The out from the mixer through the concert was recorded and sent as it is. The audio files are in .mp3 format. One of the voice recordings was added as an attachment.