

AUDITION GUIDE



BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting)

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting with Foundation Year)

Your audition will consist of two parts – an individual audition (30 minutes) and a group task (20-25 minutes).

Individual Task

1. You are asked to prepare three original songs in total for the audition. At least one of these should be played live in the audition to demonstrate your ability to play and/or sing as well as your compositional strengths and style. For the remaining two songs, applicants can choose whether they would prefer to play these live or bring in recorded versions on an MP3 playback device (a phone or laptop are fine).
2. A short interview will form part of the audition after you have performed and played your material. Here we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions etc. We will also ask you to answer some music theory based questions to ascertain your theoretical knowledge.

Group Task

You will participate in a band activity where you will be required to take part in a 20-25 minute practical group exercise. This will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your playing and collaboration skills, and to work with other applicants on the day. There is nothing to prepare in advance of this exercise. This task will not involve sight-reading, but we will be looking for evidence of creativity and original ideas.

Across all elements of the audition process we are looking for evidence of individual musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm for the subject.

FAQs

1. Will warm up time be provided prior to my audition?

Yes. You will be scheduled for 30 minutes of warm-up time before your audition.

2. Can I bring my band?

You cannot bring your own band to the audition. You may accompany yourself, play unaccompanied or use a backing track.

3. What will my interview involve?

It will involve discussing your pieces/compositions/songs in terms of the technical, creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction.

4. Do I need to send my compositions in advance?

You don't need to send any compositions in advance. The panel will listen to these recordings with you during the audition.

5. Will an aux input for an MP3 player be provided at the audition?

Yes, a mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks/songwriting portfolios through a P.A. A member of staff will help you set this up.

6. Will the panel ask me for any additional material on the day?

The panel may make a note if you have an online presence for your music but you will not need to submit any extra materials on the day.

7. What will be available in the audition room?

A piano, selection of amps, and PA with microphone will be available in the room.

Entry Requirements (2019 entry)

BA (Hons) Songwriting

Academic entry requirements:

- 96 UCAS tariff points from level 3 studies or equivalent, which normally include A Level Music or a BTEC Extended Diploma in a Music-related subject.
- A minimum of three GCSEs including English Language at Grade C / Grade 4 or above or equivalent international qualification, eg IELTS 6.0 (5.5 in each component).

Other entry requirements:

a. Performance standard (assessed at audition)

- Performers are expected to demonstrate at audition a playing/singing standard of Grade 6 (commensurate with ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, Rock School (as appropriate for the pathway)).

b. Musical theory standard (assessed at audition)

- Applicants' understanding of applied music theory will be assessed at audition where they will be asked questions about the theoretical elements of the pieces they have played to ensure that they are suitable for the course.

BA (Hons) Songwriting with Foundation Year

Academic entry requirements:

- 64 UCAS tariff points from level 3 studies or equivalent, which normally include A Level Music or a BTEC Extended Diploma in a Music-related subject.
- A minimum of three GCSEs including English Language at Grade C / Grade 4 or above or equivalent international qualification, eg IELTS 6.0 (5.5 in each component).

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b. Musical theory standard (assessed at audition)

- Applicants' understanding of applied music theory will be assessed at audition where they will be asked questions about the theoretical elements of the pieces they have played to ensure that they are suitable for the course and to identify those applicants who need to take a Theory module at Level 3.