

AUDITION GUIDE

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Popular)



You will have a Classical Music audition (30 minutes) and separate Popular Audition (20-25 minutes) on the same day.

Classical audition (performers)

1. You will be asked to perform two prepared pieces which should be of grade 8 standard or equivalent and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. For all instruments/voice apart from piano, guitar and percussion, at least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.
2. You will be asked to sight read a short piece of music which will be given to you on the day.
3. You may also be asked to play or sing some scales and technical exercises as appropriate for your instrument and level during the audition. We will also ask you to answer some music theory based questions.
4. A short interview will form part of the audition after you have performed. Here we will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions etc.
5. If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.

Classical audition (composers)

1. You should bring at least two original Classical compositions for discussion with the panel. Please bring scores and computer realisations of your scores if you don't have live recordings. We will ask you about your influences, approach and ambitions etc.
2. You will be asked to perform one prepared piece of at least grade 6 standard.
3. You may also be asked to play or sing some scales and technical exercises as appropriate for your instrument and level during the audition. We will also ask you to answer some music theory based questions.

Popular audition

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 band playing skills and to work with other applicants on the day.

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 play unaccompanied?

For the Classical part of the audition, guitarists, percussionists and pianists may play unaccompanied. All other instruments may perform one piece unaccompanied but must perform one piece at least with piano.

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. We will be interested in your general contextual knowledge of the music.

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 a CD player or aux input for an MP3 player be provided at the audition?

A CD player and mini jack will be provided in the audition room for playing backing tracks/composition portfolios. 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, drum kit, selection of bass and guitar amps, and PA with microphone will be available in the room.

Entry Requirements (2019 entry)

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 8 (commensurate with ABRSM, London College of Music, Trinity College, Rock School (as appropriate for the pathway)).
- Composers/songwriters 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.