

AUDITION/INTERVIEW GUIDE

BA (Hons) Music (Classical with Production)



You will have a Classical Music audition (approximately 30 minutes) and separate Production interview (approximately 30 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 be asked for scales/technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.
4. You will have a short interview, where we will explore your general musical knowledge and interests.

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, which should be 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.

Production interview

You should bring a portfolio on hard drive or memory stick (not laptop or iPod) of your own work to the interview. The portfolio should be no longer than 10 minutes and must include a variety of material, including at least one of your own original compositions. Accompanying notated examples of at least one your own pieces must also be included. You will have a structured interview based on your portfolio.

FAQs (Classical)

- 1. Will warm up time be provided prior to my audition?**
Yes. You will be scheduled for 30 minutes warm-up time before your audition, which will include a run through with your designated accompanist.
- 2. How long should my chosen audition pieces last?**
No longer than 10 minutes in total.
- 3. Do I have to provide my own accompanist?**
No, the conservatoire will provide any accompanists needed. You will need to bring copies of your music for both the accompanist and the panel to your audition.
- 4. What will my structured interview involve? (Composers)**
It will involve discussing your compositions in terms of the creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction.

5. How long does my composition portfolio need to be for the composition pathway?

There is no set limit, but the panel will consider approximately 10 minutes of music.

6. Can I perform my own composition?

Yes, however you should provide a fully notated score for the panel and accompanist where appropriate.

FAQs (Production)

1. How many questions will I be asked at interview and what will they be?

There will not be a set number of questions asked at the interview, as these will be based on the work presented and the individual discussion that is conducted between the applicant and the interviewers. General areas of questioning will include:

- Your knowledge of production/ recording techniques;
- Your experience of working with music technology;
- Questions regarding your own composition/ songwriting arrangements;
- Your knowledge of music theory (notation, chord symbols etc).
- Your knowledge and experience of working with others within a musical context.

2. What examples of music should I bring?

- You must bring music examples of music you have composed and examples you have produced.
- You must also bring notated musical examples (notation, chords etc) of at least one piece you have written.
- You must be prepared to discuss at length the processes involved.

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 and interview)

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