

AUDITION GUIDE

BA (Hons) Music (Jazz with Production)



You will have a Jazz audition (approximately 30 minutes) and separate Production interview (approximately 30 minutes) on the same day.

Jazz audition (performers)

1. You will be asked to perform a prepared piece: a Jazz standard (with the ensemble) chosen from the repertoire list (see below), demonstrating your skills in Jazz improvisation and your ability to play with an ensemble.
2. You will be asked to sight read a short piece of music which will be given to you on the day.
3. You will be asked to improvise over a given chord progression, at sight, in an ensemble setting.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.

Jazz audition (composers)

You will have a structured interview based on your portfolio of compositions (you need to bring scores and any recordings if appropriate). The portfolio should consist of at least two contrasting compositions (or part thereof) - maximum length 10 minutes in total.

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.

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

Repertoire List (for Jazz Ensemble piece)

- A Child Is Born Thad Jones
- All The Things You Are Kern/Hammerstein
- Autumn leaves Kosma/Mercer
- Beautiful Love Young/King/Alstyne/Gillespie
- Blue Bossa Kenny Dorham
- Just Friends Lewis/Klemmer
- Ladybird Tadd Dameron
- Night And Day Cole Porter

- Satin Doll Ellington/Strayhorn/Mercer
- Softly As In A Morning Sunrise Hammerstein/Romberg

FAQs (Jazz)

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 for specialist study songwriter?

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.

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 involve

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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.