

AUDITION GUIDE

BA (Hons) Music (Popular with Classical)



Your audition will last approximately 40 minutes.

Popular audition

You will be asked to play two prepared songs/tracks that you have selected to demonstrate your playing in a Popular Music style. You should select these pieces to exhibit your individual musical strengths and identity. You may play original pieces of music or covers but covers should ideally be interpretative and not identical copies (i.e. you should put your own stamp on them). You may accompany yourself, play unaccompanied or use a play-along backing track.

Drummers: you are only required to perform one prepared piece with a play-along backing track rather than two. For your second task, you should be prepared to improvise various common beats and fills as instructed in the audition, eg. reggae, drum-and-bass, funk, blues shuffle, disco etc.

Classical audition (Performers)

1. Your third piece will be a Classical piece of grade 8 standard of your choosing, that you will perform with an accompanist provided for you on the day.
2. You will be asked to sight read a short piece of music which will be given to you on the day.

Classical audition (Composers)

1. You will be asked to perform a Classical piece of grade 6 standard of your choosing, that you will perform with an accompanist provided for you on the day.
2. Classical composers should also bring at least two original classical compositions for discussion with the panel. You should bring computer realisations of your scores if you don't have live recordings.

Classical audition (Performers and Composers)

1. You may 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 to ascertain your theoretical knowledge.
2. 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.
3. If you compose as well, you may wish to bring some examples to play for the panel as this may come up in conversation.

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 in terms of the technical, creative and compositional process as well as your influences and direction.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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)

BA (Hons) Music (Popular)

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)).

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.