

Live audition requirements Bachelor of Music – Jazz Performance

Audition duration: 15 minutes

Bass, drums, guitar, keyboard, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, flute, violin

What is the audition panel looking for?

- Applicants with good listening skills
- Applicants who are team-players
- Applicants who are adaptable and open to change
- Applicants with a solid rhythmic approach, a sense of 'jazz' style and phrasing in their interpretation of melodies, and an awareness of the importance of the jazz traditions
- Applicants who show a hint of originality budding in their playing

Note: You do not need to be fully formed yet! We want students who are motivated to develop their skills in music through studying jazz.

Pieces performed: three contrasting pieces, typically a blues, a Latin piece and a swing 'standard'.

Scales: all (12 keys) major scales and at least two types of minor scales are expected.

Chords: applicants will be asked to arpeggiate chords (triads, seventh chords).

Sight-reading: you will be asked to sight-read. Drummers will be asked to sight-read drum notation in a Big Band chart. All other jazz instrumentalists will be asked to sight-read melodies in a leadsheet or Big Band chart. Pianists and Guitarists will also be asked to sight-read chords symbols in a leadsheet or Big Band chart.

Aural: you will be asked to recognise chord qualities (triads, seventh chords).

Pitch-matching: you may be asked to listen to a simple melody sung/played by the panel and sing it back

Accompanist / rhythm section: it is preferable for applicants to bring rhythm section players to the audition, or drum applicants to audition with a band, to give the panel an opportunity to evaluate the applicant's interaction with other musicians. However, if this is not possible, online backing tracks (or USB) are acceptable.

Equipment: music stands, a vocal PA and mic, bass amplifier, guitar amplifier and drum kit with cymbals are provided in the audition venue. Drummers should bring their own sticks. Please note that the warm-up rooms only have an amplifier

Voice

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Accompaniment: it is preferable for applicants to bring rhythm section players (just a pianist or guitarist is also fine) to the audition but if that is not possible, you will either perform along with a backing track of some kind or pre-recorded accompaniment or iRealPro.

Pieces performed: sing one medium swing tempo song, preferably from the standard jazz repertoire - see the [Jazz Standards](#) site for ideas.

No more than twice through the form of the song, please! Wordless improvisation (scatting) isn't required, but you may if you wish, just limit it to half a chorus and sing the melody for the remainder of the form so you still end up with only 2 total choruses. No instrumental solos please.

Sing one ballad (jazz straight 8th ballad, slow bossa nova, very slow swing feel, etc.), with the first 8 bars of the song performed unaccompanied (a cappella), and one time through the form of the song ONLY.

Sight reading: applicants will sight read short rhythmic and melodic examples from the AMEB syllabus, grade 3 minimum.

Aural: respond to aural testing (tonal memory, chord tone recognition, etc.)

Scales: you must be able to sing major scales, and at least two of the minor scales (harmonic, melodic & natural)

Vocalize through your full vocal range and demonstrate proficient vocal technique.

Equipment: music stands, a vocal PA and mic, bass amplifier, guitar amplifier and drum kit with cymbals are provided in the audition venue. Bring your own leads please.

Recorded audition submissions

Prepare for the same requirements as live auditions, but without the sight reading and aural test. You may be required to complete an interview via Zoom.