



UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

University of Oregon School of Music and Dance Undergraduate Music Major Audition Requirements

UNDERGRADUATE AUDITION & PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS Fall 2023 Admission

The purpose of the entrance audition is to provide an opportunity for you to represent as accurately and positively as possible your musical accomplishments and potential. It also qualifies you for potential School of Music and Dance (SOMD) performance scholarships.

Auditions are performances required for admission to a number of music degrees. *Portfolios* are recordings of electronic works submitted by Bachelor of Science–Music Technology applicants.

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GENERAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Auditions are required for admission to the following undergraduate degree programs:

- BM Performance
- BM Jazz Studies
- BM Music Education*
- BM Music Composition**
- BFA Dance

Details to note:

- Audition requirements vary by performance medium (instrument/voice). In general, you should be prepared to perform repertoire that best displays tone, technique, and overall musicianship. Scales and sight-reading may be required. Most auditions are between 10 and 15 minutes in duration.
- Accompaniment will be provided for vocalists but is not required or provided for instrumental auditions. If you have repertoire-specific questions, please contact the appropriate studio teacher directly. You can find faculty email contact information on the SOMD website.
- Admission to the BS Music – Music Technology program does not require an audition but does require a portfolio.
- For admission to our BA or BS programs in History and Culture, Music Theory, Popular Music Studies, or General Music, an audition is not required but may be performed for scholarship consideration if so desired.
- For admission to the BA or BS Dance degree, an audition is not required but is strongly encouraged.

RECORDED AUDITIONS & PORTFOLIO RECORDING SUBMISSIONS

We strongly encourage you to audition in person. In-person auditions provide an opportunity to see campus and connect with faculty, and typically provides the best audition experience. However, if an in-person audition is not possible, we can consider a recorded audition for admission consideration. You will have to option to choose your audition type (in-person or recorded) on the application. If you choose a recorded audition, we will send you details on how to submit your recording.

Along with each area listing, you will see an indication showing which type of recordings (audio, video, either) are permitted for that performance medium.

***MUSIC EDUCATION APPLICANTS – Introductory Meeting**

Applicants for the Bachelor of Music Education degree must attend a Music Education Introductory Meeting in addition to an audition on their instrument/voice. During the meeting, applicants will be meeting with our Music Education faculty and may be asked to speak about their goals for the degree program. This meeting will be held on each of our live audition days, and will also be available by Zoom (live) for those who cannot attend the in-person meeting.

****COMPOSITION APPLICANTS – Optional Portfolio for Placement**

All applicants for the BM Composition degree must audition. See your instrument listed within this document for audition requirements.

Those with previous composition experience are also encouraged to submit a portfolio of composed works. The portfolio is used for placement consideration in Composition courses, and is **optional**. Portfolio should include:

- 1–5 pieces; no specific length required
- A score for each piece, and recording of the piece if available
- We welcome you to submit music in whatever style represents your creative voice. This could be any genre or style, including instrumental, vocal, and/or music for media including film, animation, or video game music.

AUDITION/PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS BY AREA

VOICE

Required repertoire:

- Perform two classical pieces: one in English and one in a foreign language (Italian, French, or German preferred).
- Memorization of pieces is required, except for selections from the oratorio repertoire.

Details for live auditions:

- A pianist will be provided
- Please bring your music in a notebook or binder for your accompanist. No loose pages, please.

Details for recorded auditions:

- Accompaniment, live or pre-recorded, is preferred but not required. Selections may be performed a cappella. In the case of songs performed without accompaniment, it is acceptable to "skip over" sections during which the voice is silent.
- To create your video, we recommend using an iPhone, smartphone, or similar device.
- For optimal audio quality, placement of the microphone should be four to eight feet from the singer.
- Please stay centered in the frame and at a distance from the camera so that you are visible from the waist up.
- At the start of your video, please state (1) your name, (2) the title and composer of your selection and, if known, (3) the program to which you are applying (e.g., BA General Music, Music Education, Voice Performance, etc.).

If submitting a recorded audition, acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

PIANO

Live Audition

BA, BME, and BM Composition Degrees

- Audition repertoire should consist of three contrasting solo works selected from the Baroque, Classic, Romantic, or 20th/21st Century. Repertoire should be performed by memory. Solo piano works must be from the standard repertoire; no original or unpublished compositions may be used for the audition.
- Demonstrate competency in sight-reading.
- Demonstrate competency in playing major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic) and arpeggios, four octaves ascending and descending, hands together.

BM Piano Performance

- Audition repertoire should consist of three contrasting solo works selected from the Baroque, Classic, Romantic, or 20th/21st Century and should include at least one virtuosic work. Repertoire should be performed from memory. Solo piano works must be from the standard repertoire; no original or unpublished compositions may be used for the audition. Questions about repertoire should be directed to the chair of the Keyboard Area.
- Demonstrate competency in sight-reading
- Demonstrate competency in playing major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic) and arpeggios, four octaves ascending and descending, hands together, at the minimum competency level of Syllabus X.

Recorded Auditions:

- Audition repertoire same as above.
- If you are accepted on the basis of your recorded audition, you will play a second audition during the week before fall classes begin ("Week of Welcome")¹, which you will need to:
 - Demonstrate competency in sight-reading.
 - Demonstrate competency in playing major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic) and arpeggios, four octaves ascending and descending, hands together.
- *Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY*

ORGAN and HARPSICHORD

Students without prior organ or harpsichord training wishing to enter the UO organ and/or harpsichord program may do so using piano repertoire for their audition.

Live Audition:

- Audition repertoire should consist of three contrasting solo works selected from the Baroque, Classic, Romantic, or 20th/21st Century. Repertoire need not be performed by memory. Solo works must be from the standard repertoire; no original or unpublished compositions may be used for the audition. (Questions about repertoire should be directed to the organ/harpsichord faculty.)
- Demonstrate competency in sight-reading.

Recorded Auditions:

- Audition repertoire same as above
- If you are accepted on the basis of your recorded audition, you will play a second audition during the week before fall classes begin ("Week of Welcome")¹, which you will need to demonstrate competency in sight-reading.
- *Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO or VIDEO*

¹ In rare cases, the piano faculty may decide hear your live audition *after* the Week of Welcome. Generally, however, the student should plan to audition *during* the Week of Welcome.

STRINGS

See below for repertoire by instrument. Applicants are welcome to contact individual string faculty members for audition repertoire advice.

Violin

- Two three- or four-octave scales and arpeggios of your choice
- One movement of a concerto AND one movement or work of the applicant's choice (e.g., solo Bach, etude, encore piece, etc.) One of these works must be performed from memory.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

Viola

- Two three-octave scales of your choice
- Two contrasting movements from pieces of different periods

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

Cello

- Two three-octave scales of your choice
- Two contrasting movements from pieces of different periods

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

Double Bass

- Two three-octave scales of your choice
- Two contrasting movements from pieces of different periods

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

Harp

- Two contrasting works
- One etude (Pozzoli or Bach-Grandjany suggested)
- One orchestral excerpt

For recorded auditions, applicants will be contacted by the harp instructor for a remote video interview.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

WOODWINDS

Flute

- One movement from a standard concerto, sonata, or solo repertoire (i.e. Reinecke Concerto, Taffanel Andante Pastorale et Scherzettino, Gaubert Fantasie, Bach BWV 1035, etc.)
- Work of your choice.*
- All major and minor scales, and a 3-octave chromatic scale

*It is highly encouraged that you include a work in your audition repertoire by historically underrepresented composers from communities **including but not limited to:**

- Female
- LGBTQIA2S+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and Self-Identify)
- Non-Binary
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Latinx/Latin American
- First Nations and Inuit (Canadian Indigenous)

Here are a few resources that are dedicated to amplifying diverse voices in music:

- [Institute for Composer Diversity Database](#)
- [NFA Selected Flute Repertoire](#)
- [Flute Music by Black Composers](#)

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Oboe

- Two stylistically contrasting movements of solo repertoire (one of these may be an etude).
- An ascending and descending chromatic scale demonstrating your full range
- Be able to play major and minor scales through four sharps and four flats.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Clarinet

- Major scales through four sharps and four flats (two octave minimum, demonstrating a variety of articulations)
- Chromatic scale starting on low E to your highest note, back to low E
- Two etudes of contrasting style and tempo *or* two movements of contrasting style from the standard solo repertoire

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Bassoon

- An ascending/descending chromatic scale throughout your available range
- Major scales through four flats and four sharps.
- At least two movements from different examples of solo repertoire (one may be an etude).
- Demonstrate familiarity with playing in both bass and tenor clefs.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Saxophone (Jazz Studies applicants: see the Jazz Studies section later in this document)

- One fast etude of your choice from W. Ferling's *48 Etudes* (Leduc)
- 12 major and 12 harmonic minor scales. Scales should be slurred, using the full range of the saxophone. All scales should be memorized. One-octave scales are not acceptable.
- Play two contrasting movements from a sonata or concerto.

Suggested repertoire for alto saxophone: Alexander Glazunov / Concerto in Eb, Op. 109 (Leduc); Paul Creston / Sonata Op.19 (Shawnee); Paule Maurice / Tableaux de Provence (Lemoine); Bernhard Heiden / Sonata (Associated Music Publishers).

Suggested repertoire for tenor saxophone: Antonio Vivaldi / Sonata in G Minor (McGinnis & Marks); Antonio Vivaldi / Concerto in Bb, F. VIII, No. 35 (MS); Garland Anderson / Sonata (Southern Music); Jean-Baptiste Singelee / Concerto No. 1 for Tenor Saxophone (Alfred); Arthur Frackenpohl / Sonata (Dorn); James Di Pasquale / Sonata (Southern Music).

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

BRASS

Horn

- Two solos of any genre (selections, etudes and non-conventional pieces are allowed) that showcase the applicant's musical range. No memorization or accompaniment required
- Major scales 2 octaves
- Possible sight reading

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Trumpet (Jazz Studies applicants: see the Jazz Studies section later in this document)

- Two solos of any genre (selections, etudes and non-conventional pieces are allowed) that showcase the applicant's musical range
- Two orchestral excerpts
- All major and minor scales

For more information and helpful tips, please visit: <http://blogs.uoregon.edu/trumpet/audition/>

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Trombone (Jazz Studies applicants: see the Jazz Studies section later in this document)

- Two contrasting solos or etudes that showcase your ability. Accompanist and memorization is not required.
- Major scales, two octaves
- Possible sight reading

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Euphonium

- Two contrasting excerpts from a solo or etude(s)
- All major scales
- Sight-Reading

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

Tuba

- Two contrasting excerpts from a solo or etude(s)
- All major scales
- Sight-Reading

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

PERCUSSION

(Jazz Studies applicants: see the Jazz Studies section later in this document)

Applicants should demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental techniques of percussion and timpani. They should be prepared to perform:

1. One work on timpani
2. One two-mallet work on marimba or xylophone
3. One four-mallet work on marimba
4. One work on snare drum

Applicants must possess a good ear and be able to sing and recognize all intervals. Basic drum set skills are desired, but not required.

For Live auditions:

Please bring your own mallets, sticks, and copies of audition repertoire sheet music. Instruments will be provided for warm up and the audition. If desired, applicants may bring their own snare drum. Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate their ability to sight-read.

Please contact Prof. Pius Cheung at pius@uoregon.edu with any questions about repertoire, or if you have limited access to instruments which may prevent you from making a full recorded audition on all instruments (if auditioning by recording).

Acceptable recorded audition formats: VIDEO ONLY

GUITAR (CLASSICAL)

Classical Guitar (Jazz Studies applicants: see the Jazz Studies section later in this document)

(Classical guitar is not currently being offered.)

Jazz Guitar

(Please see the Jazz Studies section below.)

JAZZ STUDIES

All Applicants (Including Drummers)

Applicants should prepare three or four jazz pieces in varied styles (ballad, swing, straight 8th, etc.). Pieces should be performed by memory, including the melody and two or more improvised choruses.

Accompaniment will be provided for all in-person auditions.

Instruments Other Than Drum Set

Instrumentalists should be prepared to perform all major and harmonic minor scales in all 12 keys by memory. Scales should be performed at a steady tempo of the applicant's choosing.

For jazz saxophonists, all scales should be slurred, using the full range of the saxophone. (One-octave scales are not acceptable.)

Sight-reading: You may be asked to play written lines, interpret chord symbols (where appropriate), and improvise from chord changes on sight.

Optional:

- Students may also perform a solo transcription or jazz etude. (Performances should be no longer than 1 minute.)
- Lead trumpet players may also perform a prepared excerpt from a big band chart.

Drum Set

Drummers are not expected to perform scales at their audition, but are expected to perform all basic rudiments (on snare drum) as well as common swing, Latin, and rock feels on drum set.

You may be asked to sight-read written big band charts and/or small ensemble drum parts.

Composers/Arrangers

Optional: In addition to the performance audition, composers/arrangers may choose to upload one or two writing samples along with their application.

Items to bring to your live Jazz Studies audition:

- Your instrument
- Three copies of lead sheets in concert key for songs that you wish to perform
- Drummers: cymbals; hi-hats; sticks; brushes
- Guitarists and Bassists: bring your own cords

Items we will provide for your audition:

- Amplifiers
- A drum set
- A piano
- A stereo system

Jazz Audition by Recording:

We strongly encourage a live audition. However, in the absence of a live audition, a recording may be submitted for admission and scholarship consideration.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (PORTFOLIO RECORDINGS)

For applicants to the Bachelor of Science-Music Technology program *only*.

Applicants who wish to enter the Music Technology Program must submit a Music Technology portfolio that includes:

1. Audio or video recordings of recent compositions (at least three) that best demonstrate creativity, originality, and breadth of work. These must be uploaded to our Admissions File Upload page. (If you have already completed MUS 447 and MUS 448 at the University of Oregon, you need only submit two examples of your work.)
2. A statement (from 100 to 500 words) that describes your intention, aesthetics, and software used in the creation of these original works. You are encouraged to reflect on any context or issues connected with your portfolio.

Our faculty believe that a strong Music Technology portfolio demonstrates:

- original music — the sounds, the form, and other aspects of musical composition.
- fully realized compositions (not incomplete elements)
- understanding of digital audio and sound design software
- sounds created from “scratch” (instead of off-the-shelf sounds)
- basic musique concrète techniques
- applied understanding of musical balance and mixing
- breadth of creative work

For Music Technology, we value the demonstration of a creative mind. We value originality, completeness, and breadth of work. For example, we value being able to listen to a full song complete with all elements instead of just a single element like the beat. The demonstration of a creative mind can be expressed in many ways; we value all genres of music and the breadth of creative work. We value a demonstration of whether you created the sounds yourself (instead of off-the-shelf components such as VST plug-in presets and third-party samples), whether you did the mixing and mastering yourself (instead of a service), and whether you have complete work (instead of elements of an unfinished work).

A demonstration of original and creative efforts is essential. In that spirit, basic recordings of traditional forces (e.g., drums, guitars, keyboards) can make it difficult for us during the admission review because they often involve many collaborators that hide efforts. Who did what? Your portfolio should illustrate the technology-related musical knowledge and skill we need to evaluate. Use the statement to address the efforts, intentions, and aesthetics of your original works. Citations of any samples are essential and, if used, must be included in your statement.

Acceptable recorded audition formats: AUDIO OR VIDEO

As part of your SOMD (School of Music and Dance) application, be sure to answer the music technology-related questions you will find there.

Dance

Auditions **are required for BFA Dance applicants**, and are **strongly encouraged for BA Dance and BS Dance applicants**. Audition will consist of the following:

- Technique class: All auditioning dancers (BA, BS, and BFA) must participate in a technical assessment class in four idioms: African, Ballet, Contemporary, and Hip Hop. Each focused segment will last about 30 minutes and will include combinations in one of the four idioms.
- Solo (BFA only): Please prepare a 1-2 minute solo, which shows you at your best. It may be choreographed or improvised. Bring your music, if needed.
- Interview (BFA only): Please prepare for a 15-minute interview with the UO Dance faculty. You will be asked about your goals and aspirations in dance and how you might achieve those at the University of Oregon.

Dress code: No specific apparel required. Dancers may wear shoes for ballet and hip hop but can be barefoot otherwise.

For questions about the audition, please contact dance@uoregon.edu