

Guidelines for Auditions

Undergraduate Applicants

The following are suggestions for appropriate literature for auditions performed for the USA Schools of Music group. Similar or more difficult works may be substituted freely. *Be prepared to have the examiners ask you to skip to the most technically difficult portions of the works performed, as there is a time limit on the auditions.*

Short examinations may be given at the end of each audition, time permitting, in order to obtain additional information on your background and other on your knowledge of basic theoretical material including ability to hear intervals and chord quality. As appropriate, you may be asked to play scales and arpeggios.

Graduate Applicants

Graduate applicants should prepare works similar to those performed on the recital presented at the end of the undergraduate program. The audition represents a “mini” recital. Graduates should consult with the undergraduate requirements listed here. Graduate applicants are not limited to the selections listed, but their audition repertoire should reflect similar periods and composers.

Composition

Composition students should prepare an audition following the same guidelines as those seeking admission as performance majors. Written compositions are mailed to each school when application is submitted. *Do not bring them to the audition.*

Piano

All music performed by pianists MUST be memorized.

- One composition by Bach
- A complete classical sonata (Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven). Note: Sonata in G Major, K. 283 and Beethoven Sonata, Op. 49 are *not acceptable* to fulfill requirement.
- One composition from the romantic period (Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Brahms).
- One composition from a 20th century composer (Debussy, Bartok, Stravinsky)

Voice

Vocalists must provide accompanist.

- Three classical selections from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.
- *One selection must be in English.*

Violin

Chamber music not acceptable.

- Bach solo sonata or partita
- Two contrasting movements from standard violin concerto (Bach not acceptable)
- Etude (Don't, Gavinies, Rode, Paganini, Kreutzer)

Viola, Cello, Classical Guitar

Chamber music not acceptable.

- Unaccompanied work (Bach)
- Standard work such as sonata or concerto (2 contrasting movements demonstrating technical facility).
- Etude
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Double Bass

- Two movements from a baroque sonata (Eccles or Antoniotti or comparable difficult work)
- Etude (to demonstrate technical ability)
- Orchestral excerpts (Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn symphonies)

Harp

Perform from memory 3 works from standard solo repertory representing different historical periods.

Flute

- 2 contrasting movements of baroque or classical sonata or concerto
- Virtuoso work (Dutilleux Sonatine, Faure Fantaisie, or similar)

Oboe

- 2 contrasting movements from standard oboe repertoire (Mozart, Saint-Saens, Handel)
- Etude (Barrett or Ferling)

Bassoon

- 2 contrasting movements from standard sonata or concerto
- 1 Milde or Weissenborn Concert Study

Clarinet

- 2 contrasting movements from sonata or concerto (Mozart, Weber, Stravinsky)
- Etude (Rose)

Classical Saxophone

- Etude (Ferling or Mule)
- 2 contrasting movements of sonata (Creston, Eccles/Rasscher, Heiden)
- Concerto (Glazounov, Ibert)

Trumpet

- 1 Arban Study
- 2 movements of standard concerto/sonata (Hummel, Haydn, Hindemith)
- Excerpts from standard orchestral literature

French Horn

- 2 contrasting movements of standard concerto (Mozart, Strauss)
- Orchestral excerpts (*Till Eulenspiegel*, Tchaikovsky, 5th Symphony, Brahms 3rd Symphony—slow movement)

Trombone

- 2 contrasting movements of standard concerto/sonata
- Orchestral excerpts

Tuba

- Etude (Rochut)
- Orchestra excerpt (Wagner)
- Solo demonstrating technical ability

Percussion

Percussion instruments are not available at the audition sites. Marimba may be brought to site, but arrangements must be made with contact person for the particular city. Due to limited time, only mallet keyboard performance can be heard in the live audition. Additional material demonstrating ability on all other percussion instruments must be sent directly to the school(s) when application is submitted.

Jazz applicants may audition. Review jazz requirements on the schools' WEBSites. Only solo works can be heard at the audition. A tape (audio or video) must be submitted when application is sent. This tape should contain applicant playing with a small ensemble in which the applicant is prominently featured. Works performed should be standard jazz works—not original compositions. You may be asked to improvise on a well-known melody at the live audition.