

Bachelor of Music

Voice Jazz & Pop

Requirements for practical entrance exam

Audition

At your audition, you can play either with your own band or with students from the J&P course (consisting of piano, guitar, bass and drums). In the latter case, bring easily readable parts for all band members, in the correct key.

The audition room will contain the following items: microphone, sound installation(s), grand piano, basic drum kit (make sure your drummer brings his own cymbals, clutch and felt pads) and music stands.

The live audition takes about 30 minutes and consists of three parts:

Musical skills

- You have prepared 3 pieces of music, preferably with your own band, in a variety of styles and characters, including one a capella piece (read more about this further on) and no more than one piece from the preliminary round. You will play the pieces by heart.
 - In choosing your pieces, ensure that they show off your voice optimally.
- The committee would like to hear you play the music to which you feel the closest affinity. You perform different styles at different tempi, including a maximum of one of your own compositions, preferably one of your own compositions.
 - The committee expects you to be open to broad development in both jazz and pop-oriented music.
- Your playing must express a reasonable degree of rhythmic, melodic and harmonic insight.
 - If desired, the committee can do an exercise with you on the spot.

Musical versatility

For the purpose of assessing this, you must choose one piece from the list of standards below and rehearse it. At the audition, the committee will ask you to sing the piece you have chosen a capella in a particular tempo/feel/key.

- I thought about you (J. Mercer – J. VanHeusen)
- This masquerade (L. Russell)
- Black coffee (P.F. Webster – S. Burke)
- Here's that rainy day (J. Burke – J. VanHeusen)
- But not for me (G. Gershwin – I. Gershwin)
- Close to you (Burt Bacharach)
- Big yellow taxi (Joni Mitchell)
- Too late now (Carol King)
- I guess that's why they call it the blues (Elton John)
- Moondance (Van Morrison)

Listening skills

These skills can be tested at the audition through a short practical aural test.

Assessment

The committee will take the following aspects into account in their assessment:

- Feeling for text and language.
- Feeling for melody and harmony.
- Feeling for rhythm and phrasing.
- Posture and breathing.
- Playing together and communication.
- Personal interpretation and improvisation.
- Technical singing skills
 - vocal development (registers and smoothness)
 - strength of the voice
 - versatility and flexibility
 - sound formation and articulation
 - any vocal weaknesses you may have