

Bachelor of Music

Piano 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 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:

1. Performing skills

You have prepared 3 pieces of music, preferably with your own band, in a variety of styles and characters.

The committee would like to hear you play the music to which you feel the closest affinity. However, the committee expects you to be open to broad development in both jazz and pop-oriented music, as well as all the other styles arising from non-classical music. Preferably, you will play one of your own compositions.

- You have prepared a two-part polyphonic work (level of Bach Inventionen), or a technical étude (level of Czerny, op. 299);
- Your playing must express a reasonable degree of rhythmic, melodic and harmonic insight. Repeating complete existing arrangements demonstrates little of your 'individuality' as a musician, so you will not be required to do so.
- You may be asked to play a piece as a soloist.
- The committee may interrupt a piece if they think the necessary information has already been provided (in view of the limited time for the entrance exam).

2. Aural, tempo/timing and sight-reading skills

The entrance exam may contain the following exercises:

- Improvising by ear to chords played in the audition (creativity test).
- Playing along by ear to a simple unfamiliar piece, without any directions being given (aural skills and musical insight test).
- Repeating by ear a line that is sung or played (aural skills test).
- Playing a part chosen yourself, based on a given tempo (clicktrack test for keeping tempo).
- Filling in a harmonic progression (accompaniment/solo) based on chord symbols (sight-reading skills and insight test).
- Sight-reading (playing/singing) a notated piece (sight-reading test).
- You may be asked to demonstrate that you can play all major and minor scales and triads at a reasonable tempo.

3. Assessment

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

- Improvisation talent, individuality and artistic expression.
- you demonstrate technical command of your instrument and reasonable sight-reading skills;
- Affinity with your instrument and with improvised music.
- Open and enterprising musical attitude.
- Good aural skills.
- Melodic, harmonic and rhythmic insight, and your playing shows that you can link this to your instrument;
- Ability to play with others.