

Requirements for practical entrance exam Bachelor of Music

Piano Jazz & Pop

Audition

At your audition, you can play either with your own band or with students from the J&P course. In the latter case, please bring along four copies of legible parts in the correct key (the ensemble will consist of students; don't make the pieces too hard to play). 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. You will have taken a theory test prior to the live audition. 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.

3.3. Assessment

If you pass both the theory test and the live audition, the committee may declare you admissible. This is a provisional result. You will be informed as soon after the audition as possible whether you have actually received a place on the course.

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

- you demonstrate improvisation talent, individuality and artistic expression;
- you demonstrate technical command of your instrument and reasonable sight-reading skills;
- you demonstrate great affinity with your instrument and with improvised music;
- you have an open and enterprising musical attitude;
- you demonstrate good aural skills;
- you demonstrate melodic, harmonic and rhythmic insight, and your playing shows that you can link this to your instrument;
- you demonstrate an ability to play with others.