

Audition FAQs

I want to audition for the programme, but I can't play Jazz yet.

You don't already have to be playing jazz to enroll in the programme. We accept musicians from a wide variety of musical backgrounds and styles.

What happens at the audition?

We'll ask you to play two pieces on your principal instrument, then we'll give you some basic ear-tests, and then we'll talk to you for a while.

What should I play?

You should have two pieces prepared. You should play something that shows you off to best advantage. In other words you should play something that you feel comfortable with, and that you think shows where your strengths lie. It is better to do this rather than do something that you think will impress, but which you're not comfortable with. Try to play something that you feel best represents your abilities. What we're looking for is to see where your strengths lie, and to see where you are in terms of your development as a musician.

Can I bring an accompanist?

While time limits are a constraint here, it is possible depending on the size of the group. To be accompanied on piano or guitar is no problem, but bringing an entire group is much more problematic, since there would be a setup time involved, and this could cause scheduling problems.

Can I use a backing track?

Absolutely. Please have your backing track recorded onto an audio CD, or on a portable device. You should bring a backup version of the backing track in case there are technical problems.

Will I be asked to do anything else at the audition?

You will be given some ear tests by the auditioner. These will consist of basic rhythmic and pitch tests – call and response patterns. The auditioner will play a simple two-bar phrase to you, and you play it back in the next two bars.

What will the interview part of the audition consist of?

We'll talk to you about why you want to do the course, your musical background, your aspirations for the future etc. During this section of the audition you really have a chance to show your enthusiasm for music and your personality, so you should try and engage with the auditioners as much as possible.

What equipment should I bring?

Obviously guitarists, bassists, violinists, flautists, saxophonists etc. should bring their own instruments. Electric guitarists and bassists should bring guitar leads with them. Drummers should bring their own sticks and can also use their own cymbals if desired, but there will be cymbals there if needed. Vocalists should bring their own microphone, where possible.