

The University of South Carolina School of Music

GRADUATE AUDITION INFORMATION

All applicants for graduate music programs requiring applied studies are to complete an on-campus audition in the major area as part of the application process. The audition will normally take no more than 20 minutes, with the audition committee selecting portions of the applicant's audition repertory. If distance to the campus is a factor, an applicant may submit an audition recording for provisional admittance, but the on-campus audition must be completed before initial enrollment, normally on the second day of the Graduate Music Diagnostic Examinations. Students may submit audio cassette tapes or CD recordings of good quality. Video recordings may be in DVD or U.S.-standard VHS tape format. Each audio or video box should contain the name, address, and performance area of the applicant as well as a list of compositions performed and the date of the recording. Recordings cannot be returned by mail unless return postage is provided.

An applicant should submit to the University all necessary application materials (including a repertory list and copies of recital programs) at least two weeks before the audition date. It is especially important that the audition form included with the application packet be completed and returned to the School of Music before the audition. When necessary, an accompanist will be provided for voice auditions. Priority for graduate assistantships will be given to those who have auditioned by March 1.

CONDUCTING

Master's applicants: At least three works (or movements of works) of varied style and mood.

Doctoral applicants: Preliminary audition (video recording due by Feb 15) should include at least three major works (or movements of works) of varied style and mood recorded in a rehearsal or live performance (preferably with the camera facing the conductor).

Final audition (by invitation) - On-campus; repertory to be determined.

GUITAR

At least four compositions from different style periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary) that demonstrate tone, technique, and musical proficiency. Considerable flexibility will be permitted in the choice of literature when stylistic areas seem to overlap. The following may serve as a guide:

- A work by J.S. Bach
- A sonata (or movement of a sonata) or a set of variations
- A major 20th century work
- One composition of the applicant's choice

Except for an avant-garde works, all compositions should be performed from memory.

JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Play and improvise in at least three different jazz idioms (Swing, BeBop, Cool, Fusion, etc.) and perform one work from the "classical" repertory.

ORGAN

- One major work by J.S. Bach (such as a Prelude and Fugue or a trio sonata)
- One work each from the 19th and 20th centuries
- One work of the applicant's choice

OPERA PERFORMANCE

By invitation only after admission to the MM-voice program, on-campus audition consisting of two contrasting arias or solo scenes, one of which should be staged.

OPERA STAGE DIRECTING

By invitation only, an analytical presentation of an opera for production that includes information on the composer and librettist, with period and historical references, character analysis, set and costume concepts, and comments on the musical style; presentation of an impromptu movement audition.

PERCUSSION

At least four compositions that demonstrate abilities in snare drum, timpani, mallet/keyboard, and either drum set or multiple percussion. Sight-reading and timpani tuning will be evaluated.

PIANO AND PIANO PEDAGOGY

Applicants for MM degrees should prepare a program 30 minutes in length; for DMA degrees, 45 minutes is needed. The audition program should feature works in contrasting styles from the standard literature. *Except for avant-garde works, all compositions should be performed from memory.*

STRINGS

At least four compositions from different style periods (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th century) that demonstrate musical maturity and technique:

- One movement from a major concerto
- A major sonata
- A work (or movement of work) composed before 1750
- One composition of the applicant's choice

One of the works should be performed from memory, and one must be an unaccompanied work.

VOICE

- One art song from each of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th century
- One aria (from an oratorio or opera) sung in the original language
- The following languages should be represented: English, French, German, Italian

Except for an avant-garde works, all compositions should be performed from memory.

WIND INSTRUMENTS

At least four significant compositions (or movements) of contrasting styles. The works should demonstrate a mature grasp of phrasing, tone, contemporary techniques, articulation, and general technique. Memorization is not required.

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