



Australian  
National  
University



# School of Music

## Auditions Guide

ANU College of  
Arts & Social Sciences

## Introduction

This guide is provided to support applicants in preparation for their audition at the [ANU School of Music](#):

- Entry to the undergraduate Performance courses and postgraduate Performance specialisation is by audition.
- Applicants wishing to enrol in these courses must register for an audition.
- Students unable to attend a live audition may submit a digital audition. See links below:

Undergraduate - <https://app.decisiondesk.com/clients/anumusundergrad2018/apply>

Postgraduate (Masters) coursework - <https://app.decisiondesk.com/clients/anumusicpg2018/apply>

*If you have not already done so, please register for your audition via the links above.*

## Key Dates

Applicants should refer to the University Admissions Centre (UAC) [website](#) for all key dates relating to their application.

Please note the following important dates for live auditions - **Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September 2017.**

18 August 2017	Live audition schedule notifications sent to applicants by email
7 September 2017	Live auditions commence
9 September 2017	Live auditions conclude

**All auditions, either live or digital should be registered using links specified above on the previous page.**

## Live Auditions

### What to prepare

Applicants attending a live audition should prepare a program of three contrasting pieces.

**In classical repertoire**, pieces should be contrasting by date of composition, i.e. 18th century, 19<sup>th</sup> century or 20<sup>th</sup> century and contrasting in tempo, style and character. For example, a classical vocalist might perform

1. A recitative and aria from Handel's *Messiah* (allegro)
2. A concert aria by Mozart (andante)
3. An operatic aria by Puccini or Britten, or a music theatre song by Bernstein.

### Jazz (pitched instruments)

- 1 Blues piece and 2 contrasting standards
  - Perform melody and improvisation
  - Rhythm section instruments may be asked to perform accompaniment (chords or bass lines as appropriate)
- Major and minor scales and arpeggios
- A short rhythm reading exercise

### Jazz voice

1 blues piece and 2 contrasting standards

**Contemporary** applicants should perform a Blues with improvisation and another 2 prepared pieces that demonstrate a range of styles and skills.

### Drums

- Knowledge of rudiments (26 standard rudiments)
- Repertoire - Prepared piece with a backing OR jazz style performance with accompanist or backing track
- Knowledge of rhythms -Rock/funk, Cuban, Brazilian, and West African styles
- Coordinated independence in the jazz style (syncopation methods or Jim Chapin *Advanced Techniques for the Modern Drummer*)

These works may be performed accompanied or unaccompanied. You may not be required to play all three works and will not be asked to play for longer than 15 minutes. Additionally all candidates will be required to complete a sight-reading exercise. Auditions will not last more than 30 minutes in total.

### What to bring to your audition?

- Photocopies of all scores (if available)
- Copies of any Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB), Trinity College etc. certificates (both performance and theory).
- Copies of any other evidence of your musical ability and interest that you wish to present. This may include compositions (notated and/or recorded), essays, sound recording projects etc.

# Digital Auditions

## What to prepare

Applicants submitting a digital audition should prepare a program of three contrasting pieces. These works may be performed accompanied or unaccompanied and must be presented **in an audio-visual format**. Submissions with audio only **will not** be considered. Applicants should introduce each work on camera. Applicants must register for an audition via the link provided in the previous page and upload their digital audition, or provide a link to an online audition video of high quality.

If you have difficulty in uploading your audition you must contact: [Decision Desk support](#)

## What to include in your digital audition application on Decision Desk?

- Your audition video/s.
- Copies of any Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB), Trinity College etc certificates (both performance and theory).
- Copies of any other evidence of your musical ability and interest that you wish to present. This may include compositions (notated and/or recorded), essays, sound recording projects etc.

**Please note:** *The School of Music is unable to accept digital auditions on DVD. If you are having problems uploading your audition then you must on the first instance contact [Decision Desk support](#)*

*If you need any further clarification you can contact us via*

**E** [music@anu.edu.au](mailto:music@anu.edu.au)

**P** +61 2 6125 5754

## Tips for a successful audition

- Select music that best demonstrates your technical and musical abilities. It is better to play a simple piece well, than to struggle with techniques above your skill level.
- Be prepared – practice – put in the time. Work with your private teacher on your audition pieces. The more comfortable you are playing your audition selections the less nervous you will be.
- Perform your pieces for others prior to your audition day. Record these performances. This is an opportunity to learn and improve, even if you are playing for friends and relatives.
- Practice your sight reading, and ask your teacher to assist you with sight reading exercises.
- Confirm with the School of Music via email at [music@anu.edu.au](mailto:music@anu.edu.au) once you have completed uploading the audition materials.

## Accompanists

It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange an accompanist for their audition. A list of Canberra based accompanists is provided below. Applicants should contact the listed artists directly to seek their availability and rates. Applicants do not have to use an accompanist from this list and may engage any artist of their choosing to support their audition. All accompanist fees are to be paid directly by the applicant.

Type(Instrument)	Name	Phone	Email
General (Piano)	Anthony Smith	+61 2 6278 6960	<a href="mailto:anthony.smith@anu.edu.au">anthony.smith@anu.edu.au</a>
Classical Fortepiano, Harpsichord, Piano	Colleen Rae-Gerrard	+61 416 121 592	<a href="mailto:ribbonwood31@optusnet.com.au">ribbonwood31@optusnet.com.au</a>
Classical, Contemporary Piano	Kimberley Steele	+61 412 334 660	<a href="mailto:pianist@kimberleysteele.com">pianist@kimberleysteele.com</a>
General (Piano)	Meriel Owen	+61 432 586 632	<a href="mailto:merielowen@yahoo.com">merielowen@yahoo.com</a>
General (Piano)	Natalia Tkachenko	+61 431 060 036	<a href="mailto:natalia.tkachenko@westnet.com.au">natalia.tkachenko@westnet.com.au</a>
Jazz/Contemporary Guitar	Aron Lyon	+61 401 242 974	<a href="mailto:aronlyon@hotmail.com">aronlyon@hotmail.com</a>
Jazz Bass Guitar, Double Bass	James Luke	+61 419 293 497	<a href="mailto:James.luke@anu.edu.au">James.luke@anu.edu.au</a>
Contemporary, Jazz Bass Guitar, Guitar	Lachlan Coventry	+61 404 168 086	<a href="mailto:lachlan_coventry@hotmail.com">lachlan_coventry@hotmail.com</a>
Contemporary, Jazz Drums	Mark Sutton	+61 416 250 404	<a href="mailto:mvsutton@dodo.com.au">mvsutton@dodo.com.au</a>
Contemporary, Jazz Piano	Wayne Kelly	+61 409 593 549	
Contemporary, Jazz Guitar	Greg Stott		<a href="mailto:gregory.stott@anu.edu.au">gregory.stott@anu.edu.au</a>
Contemporary, Jazz, Other Piano, Voice	Damien Slingsby		<a href="mailto:damienslingsby@gmx.com">damienslingsby@gmx.com</a>
Classical Piano	Katherine Day		<a href="mailto:Katherine.Day@anu.edu.au">Katherine.Day@anu.edu.au</a>
Contemporary, Jazz Guitar	Greg Stott		<a href="mailto:gregory.stott@anu.edu.au">gregory.stott@anu.edu.au</a>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are auditions accompanied or unaccompanied?

You may present a program of accompanied and/or unaccompanied repertoire during your audition.

### Will the school provide an accompanist for my audition?

No, it is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange an accompanist for their audition. A list of accompanists who regularly work with current students of the School is available on **the previous page** of this guide.

Applicants should contact the listed accompanist directly to seek their availability and rates. Applicants do not have to use an accompanist from this list and may engage any artist of their choosing to support their audition. All accompanist fees are to be paid directly by the applicant.

### I would like to use a recording to accompany my audition. Is this allowed and what facilities are available to support this?

All audition venues will be configured with portable device playback from the performer's location. (ie. smartphone/laptop/media player). CDs are **not** recommended.

### I am a drummer or percussionist. What should I prepare for my audition?

Applicants auditioning for the ANU School of Music on drums and percussion should demonstrate basic proficiency on core instruments: snare drum, drum set, keyboard percussion and timpani:

If you are auditioning in **Percussion Performance** (orchestral player, solo performer, etc.) the expectations are higher and you should be able to perform more advanced literature including 4 mallet keyboard solos and orchestral excerpts as in AYO Young Symphonists.

All applicants will sight read on snare drum and marimba at the audition and play scales. You should select pieces that best showcase your ability level.

If you are auditioning on **Drum Set** you should perform the following for an audition:

A snare drum solo or etude and sight-reading; a short marimba or vibraphone solo (can be a jazz or classical selection), sight-reading and scales.

The applicant should demonstrate skills in rhythmic improvisation in swing/be-bop, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian, and funk styles over blues and AABA tune forms. In addition, jazz big band experience should be demonstrated. It is suggested applicants bring an additional DVD of a performance with a jazz combo or big band. The applicant will be asked to sight read a big band part in the audition.

## Frequently Asked Questions cont...

### Will I be required to sit an aural and theory test as part of my audition?

Students are not required to sit a formal theory and aural test as part of the audition process. However, students may be asked some more general, informal questions as a means of gauging their areas and levels of musical competency.

All new students will be required to sit a formal theory and aural streaming test in Orientation Week 2018. Details of this test will be available on the School of Music website during January 2018 and will be sent by email to all successful applicants once the main round offers from UAC have been released.

### I am not able to upload my digital performance audition. What do I do?

Contact for help via: [Decision Desk support](#)

## Contacts

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

### **Dr Paul McMahon**

Performance

Convenor

P: +61 2 6125 5770

E: [paul.mcmahon@anu.edu.au](mailto:paul.mcmahon@anu.edu.au)

### **Craig Edwards**

Senior Student

Administrator

P: +61 2 6125 5754

E: [craig.edwards@anu.edu.au](mailto:craig.edwards@anu.edu.au)

*All academic related enquiries*

### **Professor Ken Lampl**

Head of School

P: +61 2 6125 1449

E: [hos.som@anu.edu.au](mailto:hos.som@anu.edu.au)