



BMUS (Hons) Popular Music Performance Online Audition Guidance for 2023 Entry

BMus candidates should read the following information carefully before submitting their two online audition videos.

The audition process is designed to assess your ability in popular music performance, production and composition. Places on the course are offered based on the demonstration of your potential to develop in these areas over the three years of the course.

1. BMus candidates should perform **one** set piece appropriate to their instrument/voice from the list below, and **one** option from the 'Notes on your 'free choice' piece' guidance below;
2. Vocal candidates should be sure to read the 'Additional notes for Vocal Candidates' below;
3. You should perform to a backing track for the set piece of music as part of the online video audition, or you may accompany yourself with a vocal or instrumental arrangement of the set pieces;
4. Instrumental candidates may 'play along' to the original recording, but in these cases your own instrumental part should be clearly audible in addition to points (5), (6) and (7) below;
5. Candidates should be physically visible in shot during the video performance. In other words, we need to see you performing your instrumental and/or vocal part;
6. It is not necessary to edit together a video of multiple shots - a single video of you taken on a smartphone or computer camera will be sufficient;
7. **Audition recordings of the set piece and free choice should be made specifically for the purpose of this audition.** Please do not send previously recorded videos of yourself performing in band settings which may obscure your own musical performance.

ONLINE AUDITION VIDEO 1:

You should choose **one** of the set pieces from the list below, as appropriate to your instrument/voice, and record and upload a video to either YouTube, Vimeo or Weibo:

BASS GUITAR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Scar Tissue</i> - Red Hot Chili Peppers 2. <i>Hysteria</i> - Muse
DRUM KIT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Fire</i> - Jimi Hendrix Experience 2. <i>I Got You (I Feel Good)</i> - James Brown
GUITAR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Slow Dancing in a Burning Room</i> - John Mayer 2. <i>Are You Gonna Go My Way</i> - Lenny Kravitz
KEYBOARDS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Life On Mars</i> - David Bowie (featuring Rick Wakeman) 2. <i>Pinball Wizard</i> - Elton John & The Who
VOCAL <i>*see "additional notes for vocal candidates" on page 2 below</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>When the Party's Over</i> - Billie Eilish 2. <i>Someone You Loved</i> - Lewis Capaldi

ONLINE AUDITION VIDEO 2:

In your second video, you should demonstrate your production and/or composition skills. You should perform one of the following and record and upload a video to either YouTube, Vimeo or Weibo:

- a) An original song or instrumental composition of your own, performed live by you to a backing track of your own making;
- b) An original song or instrumental composition of your own, performed live and accompanied by yourself.
- c) An interpretation of an existing song or instrumental composition performed and re-arranged by you (either performed live to a backing track of your own making, or accompanied by yourself).

You should also provide some form of musical notation for the music you present in **Online Video Audition 2**, whichever option you choose. This might be either a score, or a chord/melody chart, or a rhythm chart, or a lyric sheet with chords written over the words, or a part sheet, or some combination of these as appropriate.

Additional notes for Vocal Candidates:

Vocal candidates are not required to perform their choice of the set pieces in their original key.

You do not have to sing the songs in the same key as the recordings made famous by the original recording artists. Instead, you should identify the keys that would suit your voice and allow you to perform to the best of your ability, and download a backing track in the relevant key from a site such as the below:

www.karaoke-version.co.uk - Billie Eilish - When The Party's Over

or

<https://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/custombackingtrack/lewis-capaldi/someone-you-loved.html>

Note that at the bottom of the webpage, next to the pricing icon, is the ability to change the key of the backing track to suit your performance.

The choice of songs is designed to allow you to demonstrate your vocal control in expressing the song with presence and emotion.

You are not required to perform a note-for-note, breath-for-breath facsimile copy of the original artist's recorded performances. Instead, we would much prefer you to interpret whichever song you choose for your performance in a way that perhaps makes the song your own.

Also: do not forget that the set piece is only **one** of the two songs that being asked to perform. The second song is entirely of your own choosing and may even be of your own composition. So, this second piece is an opportunity to perform with energy and presence, and to demonstrate your strengths in performance and creativity.