

Music Performance and Production Audition and Interview Guidelines

UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts September 2024 entry

Thank you for applying to join our Music Performance & Production course for September 2024. We understand that you may be as nervous as you are excited and want to make sure that you feel that you can present yourself and your work to the best of your ability. These guidelines are intended to help you prepare effectively, give you some information about what to expect on the day, and explain what happens next in the application process. Please read them carefully, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions that are not answered here.

We want to make sure that our application process is accessible to everyone and will make reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or particular requirement. If you have any questions about this, please contact Julie Humphreys at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232. This information can be made available in other formats – please let us know about any specific needs you have.

Any questions?

We wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your day with us. In the meantime, if you need any further information about any aspect of the audition and interview process, please contact Julie Humphreys at admissions@lipasixthformcollege.org or call us on 0151 330 3232.

Overview

Your audition and interview are intended to enable you to present yourself and your work in the best possible way. We understand how much you care about your work and how nerves inevitably play a part on such occasions, so we encourage you to view the day as a learning opportunity, both with the panel and with fellow candidates. Regardless of the outcome, there is much you can learn about yourself and your work from a day like this. The audition and interview schedule for Music Performance & Production is as follows:

Arrival and registration

Session A

Group workshop

This workshop will give you an idea of how it would feel to be in class as part of LIPA Sixth Form College should you be offered a place with us and allow us to assess how you engage with the collaborative song-learning process. There is no need to prepare for this, but please make sure you engage with the activities fully.

Session B

Audition and interview

During this time, you will be allocated a slot to present the piece of your choice and your prepared audition piece followed by a short interview. You will present your audition pieces individually before a small panel, followed by an individual interview to allow for the panel to ask further questions. Each candidate will have 10-15 minutes in total.

After you have completed your audition and interview you are free to leave.

The Audition (Part 1): Performance Piece of your Choice

You are asked to either:

1. Perform a piece of your own creation, prepared in advance - (this can be a song) - two minutes is the target and no more than three minutes maximum OR
2. Select and perform a piece of music or song by another writer or team - again, two minutes is the target and no more than three minutes maximum. This must be performed live. The style is entirely your choice.

If the piece you have chosen was originally performed as a solo instrumental or arranged in this manner (Such as acoustic guitar and piano pieces) then you can perform these without a backing track. All other performances should be to a backing track, this includes vocalists who must perform to accompaniment; we will not accept acapella performances. All pieces should be performed from memory. Remember preparation is everything for auditions and is the best help against inevitable nervousness. Also remember that we are not looking for excellence of composition or finished performing skill, but your ability to express yourself in your work.

Performance of Set Piece (Part 2) – Time limited

You will be asked to perform one piece of music from a set list. These pieces will be at the performance standard expected of our learners and will demonstrate a range of technique on your chosen instrument. Please use the backing track provided to perform to. The backing track will have your instrumental part missing to allow you to perform along to the track. You will receive an email with a link to the backing tracks you will need for the performance.

You will have two weeks to learn your chosen piece ahead of your audition date. You will receive an email giving details of the set pieces.

If you would like to audition on an instrument that is not listed in the email, please contact admissions with details and our Music team can arrange to send you a choice of set pieces for your instrument.

Backline (keys, drums, amps) will be available for instrumentalists. You may choose to perform solo or with a backing track as appropriate (we will provide the backing track for the set piece; you do not need to bring this with you). If you are using an iPhone 7 or later, you will need to also bring a connector, as we do not have any at college. All pieces should be performed from memory. Remember preparation is everything for auditions.

Questions on your instrument.

This section is designed to give us an idea of your knowledge of your instrument. It will include a few questions that will be answered with practical activities.

For example,

If you are a vocalist, we will play some notes and ask you to sing them back to check your pitching.

Guitarists could be asked to play a chord in two positions and play a major scale.

Drummers could be asked to play a single stroke roll, double stroke roll and paradiddle and perform a short back beat to a metronome.

Tips to help you prepare for your audition

- Consider the style of music that will allow you to demonstrate both your existing skill and your potential - a style you feel comfortable with, yet which

excites you and which you feel enables you to speak to your audience will help you perform to the best of your ability.

- Choose a piece that you find exciting, challenging and engaging.
- Do not try and copy a particular musician or their style of delivery – use your own style, your imagination, and your own emotions to find your unique way of delivering the piece. A friend or teacher can let you know if you are conveying what you want to in a way that is true to yourself.
- If you can, practice performing to a friend or teacher, who will be able to give you useful feedback.

Your interview

Your interview will have three questions as follows:

Question 1 refers to your audition piece:

- Why did you choose this work to present?
- How did you go about working on it?
- How do you think it went today and what can you learn from it?

Question 2 - What is your ambition?

Question 3 - How will coming to LIPA Sixth Form College help you to achieve this?

We have provided these questions so that you have time to think about what you want to say in advance. We want you to have the opportunity to speak honestly about yourself and your work.

Tips to help you prepare for your interview

Make some notes about each of the questions to help you shape your thoughts and responses – by doing this over some time, you may find that new ideas occur to you and that you can add to your answers the more you think about them.

- As with your application form, think about what makes you different – you may have wanted to be a musician since you were a small child, but what makes you stand out from everyone else? Why would studying at LIPA Sixth Form College - rather than elsewhere - set you on the path to achieving your dream? What are you looking for by applying to us, and how do you think we can help you?

- What can you bring to your studies, and to us as a college, if you were offered a place? Think about all the different ways in which you could make the most of the opportunity – not just in the music studio, but outside.
- Practice answering the questions in front of a mirror, or with a friend or teacher who you can trust to give you honest, useful feedback. The more you practice what you want to say, the easier it will be to speak naturally and with confidence on the day itself.
- Look again at the information you put on your application form, and make sure you can talk about it if asked to - being able to talk confidently about things you have done or seen will help you to be more natural and 'yourself' in an interview.
- Above all, relax and enjoy the experience – we want to know about you, and only you can tell us that.

What to wear

Please feel free to wear whatever you feel comfortable performing in.

What to bring

If you are auditioning with an instrument other than what we can provide (e.g., our basic kit includes keys, drums, amps), please bring that, and any other equipment required, (e.g., drum sticks, capo's etc) with you. If you choose to perform with a backing track, please bring this with you, it should be in mp3 format and can be on a playback device or a USB.

What happens next?

The panel will consider all four elements of your application together - your audition, your interview, your contribution within the group workshop and the information on your application form (including your predicted GCSE grades). They will reach a decision regarding your application collectively.

You will receive a decision email from us at the end of March/beginning of April 2024 which will state the outcome of your audition and interview.