Audition Guidelines

BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Drums)
& Music Production

What to expect

Auditions last one hour and are 1-1 with a BIMM assessor. You will be asked some questions about yourself and will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the course.

What to prepare ahead of the day

- Please prepare a song to perform that you feel comfortable with that lasts around 3 minutes. It can be an original or cover. Performance to a backing track is preferred. Please ensure you bring this with you, or that it is available through a web browser, such as YouTube.The backing track must be a “drum-less” version but may include a click track. We will provide you with a drum kit and breakables to use in your audition.

- Please prepare approximately 16 bars of two contrasting styles to play at any preferred tempo. Examples include, rock, blues, punk, soul, metal, reggae etc.

- Your assessor will ask you to demonstrate the following exercises:

    - Single stroke roll (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-160 bpm
    - Double stroke roll (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-140 bpm
    - Paradiddle (16th notes/semiquavers) - 100-140 bpm
    - Straight pop groove with metronome at 100bpm OR shuffle groove with metronome at 80bpm

- You will be asked to work through some sight reading and music theory-based exercises. Please do not worry if your theory knowledge is limited. We offer a practitioner support scheme to those who need to brush up their theory in the first year of their course

- Please prepare two Music Production demos that are around 3 minutes long. The demos must have been programmed and mixed by yourself and any recorded elements managed by you (studio collabs are permitted). Please note, we do not expect you to have played any of the instruments recorded. You can bring your demos with you on a suitable device or send them to submissions@bimm.ac.uk ahead of your audition. Your demos will be marked on:

    - Quality of sequenced material
    - Ability to explain your work
    - Quality of recorded material (if applicable)
    - Quality of mix and arrangement

- Please come prepared with a track that you find inspiring. Be prepared to discuss the production techniques that you find interesting. The track can be a song, audio from a film, game or TV and should not be an original/your own work.

If you have any questions about what to prepare please email submissions@bimm.ac.uk

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