Zoom Audition Guidelines - BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Keyboards) & BA (Hons) Music Production

The following guidelines are for the BIMM 2020/21 **BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance & Music Production (Keyboards)Joint Honours Undergraduate course**. Please read through them carefully and prepare each section to give yourself the best chance at obtaining a recommendation for the course you are applying for.

Auditions/interviews are expected to last 60min and will be one to one with a BIMM Institute Assessor. Within this time slot, you will get to talk about the course, your musical background, goals, perform your prepared piece, go through some basic musicianship tasks and have a chance to ask questions about the curriculum and BIMM generally.

BA (HONS) POPULAR MUSIC PERFORMANCE (KEYS)

As part of your audition you will be required to answer questions about your musical background, performance experience, genres you have a keen interest in, any recording experience you may have and general questions about why music excites you. Your assessor will also explore with you what you hope to gain from the course and discuss your musical aspirations.

PERFORMANCE AUDITION

All applicants will be required to perform a song of their choice. It can be anything you are comfortable with playing - something that represents you, your approach to the instrument and your overall technical ability. It can be a solo, to a backing track, original or cover. It should be around three minutes minimum in total (it doesn't need to be a full song). You can perform your song solo or to a backing track. Please ensure you have this prepared and set up in advance of your audition time along with any extra percussion or equipment that you require.

In order for the audition to run smoothly, please have your keyboard/piano set up prior to the audition slot. If you are planning to use any pedals it is advised to have extra leads on hand to use if needed.

INSTRUMENT SKILLS - TECHNIQUE

Your assessor may ask you to demonstrate the following exercises below, therefore we recommend you become familiar with:
- Major and minor scales
- Major, minor, major 7th, minor 7th, dominant 7th chords
- Create a keyboard part for the following chord sequence, varying the part with each repeat (using different chord voicings and/or melodic lines)

- If the above exercises are demonstrated successfully, your assessor may request the following. These are not integral to the overall recommendation. However, they can of course strengthen your audition results if the assessor chooses to explore these exercises:
- Diminished, half-diminished and 9th chords, modal scales, harmonic and melodic minor.

INSTRUMENT SKILLS - STYLES

You will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic knowledge ideally across three different genres in total. Your performance piece can count as one of the genres. Therefore, within this section of the audition, the assessor will be looking for two different styles to your main audition piece.

These should be short examples such as riffs or sections from songs. You can choose which styles you play but ideally these would showcase a different aspect of your playing. Example styles include (but not limited to) rock, pop, blues, punk, funk, soul, metal, reggae, jazz etc.

THEORY & SIGHT READING

Your assessor may choose to work through some sight reading and music theory-based exercises with you. **It is important to note** that successful completion of your audition **does not** rely on these elements. We look at the overall applicant profile and make a decision based on all aspects presented. We may want to look at some theory and sight reading purely to further gauge your musical knowledge and aptitude. If the assessor decides to explore these areas they will involve:

THEORY - You will be asked to show what your level of music theory knowledge is and, if appropriate, asked to answer some questions on key signatures, intervals and chords.

SIGHT READING - You will be asked what your level of notation reading is and, if appropriate, work through a short sight-reading piece with the tutor.

BA (Hons) Music Production - INTERVIEW

PORTFOLIO – DEMOS/RECORDINGS AND A FAVOURITE PRODUCTION

You will be required to provide 3 examples of your Music Production work - each with a duration of at least 3 minutes. You are expected to have programmed & mixed the tracks yourself and any recorded elements should also have been managed by you although studio collaborations are permitted. However, you do not necessarily have to have played any of the instruments recorded. You will be expected to discuss your demos in depth with the assessor, examples of this could be mixing & programing techniques among other production topics. Below are some examples of the areas that your demos will be marked on:

- Quality of sequenced material
- Quality of Recorded Material (If applicable)

- Ability to explain you work
- Quality of Mix & Arrangement

The demos should be accessible on a streaming platform such as Soundcloud/Youtube/Spotify. Below you will find a submission form for all of your tracks. You are welcome to screen share DAW project files but only if this doesn't affect your device performance.

We highly recommend including screen shots with your submission showing applicable aspects of your workflow such as mixing, programming, synthesis, audio recording etc. These can be sent alongside your submission.

YOUR FAVOURITE PRODUCTION

The assessor will also want to know about what music production styles and techniques you find interesting and inspiring so for this reason you will also be required to provide a link to one of your favourite productions. This could be a production with a music element that you really like or maybe a track where you feel that mixing or programming is super interesting or just really good! Feel free to submit a track where you also have questions on the production but be prepared to have your own take on what makes this particular track production / technique interesting to you.

Submitting Your Portfolio

To submit your demos, you will need to upload it to your preferred website. We recommend one of the following sites:

- Soundcloud
- Spotify
- YouTube

When your audio has been uploaded, please include a link to each video/demo in the below form. You need to complete this by the deadline given to you. Late submissions may not be considered. We cannot download your demos, please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments. Please use the submission form below only.

Your Links

You MUST complete the form below. This is where you can provide information and links ready for your submission to be considered. Once this has been filled in please double check that the links work. You will then need to save and name the document in capital letters with your full name
followed by the word 'PRODUCTIONDEMOS' e.g JOHNSMITHPRODUCTIONDEMOS.

Please return this via email only to admissions@bimm.ac.uk.

FULL NAME

SONG 1
Name of Piece:

Link to first piece:

SONG 2
Name of Piece:

Link to first piece:

SONG 3
Name of Piece:

Link to first piece:

Production Piece - what inspires you?
Name of Piece:

Link to fourth piece: