



Zoom Audition Guidelines

BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Vocals)

This guide will help you prepare for your Zoom Audition. It is important that you read each section to give yourself the best chance of obtaining a recommendation for the course.

What to expect

Auditions/interviews are one to one with a BIMM Institute Assessor and will last up to 1 hour. This is your opportunity to tell us about you and show your skill set for the course of interest. There are four elements to the audition:

- Prepared piece
- Vocal Skills -Technique
- Instrument skills - Styles
- Optional Music Theory

During your audition you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the course, provide details on your musical background such as recording/performance experience, and discuss genres you have a keen interest in. Your assessor will also explore with you what you hope to gain from your studies and discuss your musical aspirations.

Performance Audition

Prepared Piece

You must prepare a song to perform. It should be around 3-minutes long and can be an original piece or a cover. Please be sure you select a song that:

- You feel comfortable with
- Demonstrates your technical ability
- Represents you as a performer

Please perform your song to a backing track or with an instrument. If you perform with a backing track, please ensure you have this prepared and set up in advance. Only accompany yourself with an instrument if you feel confident enough. This is to ensure it does not impact your Vocal performance, as this is what we will be assessing.

Please learn your song prior to the audition and memorize the lyrics. This will assist you with a better performance.

Vocal Skills – Technique

Your assessor may ask you to demonstrate the following exercises below. We recommend you become familiar with:

- Major and minor scales
- Intervals within one octave
- Harmony part for 'Lean on Me' (Bill Withers version)
- Sing a phrase, lick or exercise of your choice to a metronome (if you require a metronome within the audition, make sure it is set up beside you in advance).

If the theory of the above list is new to you, your ability to accurately hear and pitch the notes they contain will be assessed.

If these exercises are demonstrated successfully, your assessor may request some additional examples, such as:

- Pentatonic scales
- Head/chest/mixed voice
- Modal scales

These are not integral to the overall recommendation; however, they can strengthen your audition.

Instrument Skills - Styles

You will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic knowledge across **two** different genres. Your prepared piece can count as one of the genres, therefore the assessor will be looking for a different style for the second piece.

You should prepare a short example for each style you wish to perform, such as verse or chorus from a song. Example styles include (but not limited to): rock, pop, blues, punk, funk, soul, metal, reggae and jazz.

If you wish to sing along with a song, please have the backing track/song ready to play from either your phone or a USB stick.

Theory & Sight Reading

You may be asked to work through some sight reading and music theory-based exercises in order to gauge your musical knowledge and aptitude.

THEORY - You will be asked to demonstrate your understanding/level of music theory knowledge. If appropriate, you will be asked some questions on key signatures, intervals and chords.

SIGHT READING - You will be asked to demonstrate your understanding/level of notation reading. If appropriate, you will work through a short sight-reading piece with the assessor.

It is important to note that successful completion of your audition **does not** rely on these elements. We look at all aspects presented by applicants when making a decision.