



BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Vocals) & Songwriting

Zoom Audition Guidelines & Submission Form

This guide will help you prepare for your Interview. 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 1 hour. This is your opportunity to tell us about you and show your skill set for the course of interest.

There are three parts to your audition:

1. Performance Audition – Vocals
2. Performance Audition – Songwriting
3. Theory & Sight Reading – assessor discretion/optional (please see notes in this section)

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.

Part 1 - Performance Audition (Vocals)

Prepared Piece

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.

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 metro nome 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 time signatures and intervals

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.

Part 2 - Performance Audition (Songwriting)

You must prepare an original song to perform live.

The course is both theoretical and practical therefore within the audition your assessor will be looking for both a satisfactory level of songwriting proficiency and performance ability or aptitude. In terms of musical accompaniment, applicants are welcome to use either a live instrument or backing track. If using a backing track this must differ to what you provide as your Demo Presentation.

Please ensure you have ready:

- Your own guitar/instrument of choice.
- A backing track, please ensure it is your own original composition/production and set up beside you.
- Lyric sheets, notebooks or workbooks (if applicable)

Demo Presentation

We also require you to submit in advance a multi-track demo recording of a fully realized song.

Submission form is on the following page.

Your demo:

- does not have to be mastered.
- should have at least two tracks on the demo creating the whole song.
- should be different to the song you will perform live in the audition.
- can be played out from your device or provided on a USB/Memory stick.

A multi-track recording can constitute:

- a) A 'live' demo recorded in a studio arranged by the candidate. or
- b) A D.A.W. home demo that clearly shows arrangement and programming skills

Submitting Your Demo

To submit your demo, 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 the 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 Demo Link

You MUST complete the form below. This is where you can provide your demo link in advance of your songwriting zoom interview. Once this has been filled in please double check that the link works. You will then need to save and name the document in capital letters with your full name followed by the word:

‘SONGWRITINGDEMO’ e.g JOHNSMITHSONGWRITINGDEMO.

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

SONGWRITING SUBMISSION FORM

FULL NAME

DEMO

Name of demo:

Link to demo: