



## **Zoom Audition Guidelines**

### **BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Guitar)**

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

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

You can perform your song solo or to a backing track. If you wish to perform with 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 guitar amp and lead set up prior to the audition slot. If you are planning to use any pedals, it is advised to have the extra leads on hand to use if needed.

#### **Instrument Skills - Technique**

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

- Rhythm guitar part/riff 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.
- Major and minor chords in two different positions
- Major and minor scales
- Major and minor pentatonic scales

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

- 7th chords
- Arpeggios
- Modal scales
- Harmonic and melodic minor
- Finger style
- Picking

## Instrument Skills – Styles

You will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic knowledge across **two** different genres in total. Your prepared piece can count as one of the genres.

These should be short examples such as riffs or sections from songs. You can choose which styles you play but try to showcase a different aspect of your playing.

*Example styles include (but not limited to): rock, pop, blues, punk, funk, soul, metal, reggae and jazz.*

This may also take the form of an improvisation over a blues progression played by your assessor; this is something that can be discussed and agreed during your audition.

## 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.