



Zoom Audition Guidelines

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

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 two parts to your audition:

1. Performance Audition – Vocals
2. Music Business Interview

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

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 to a backing track or with an instrument. If you wish to 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 memorise 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 (can be one of the above. BIMM will supply a metronome).

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.

Vocal 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. These should be short examples such as a verse or chorus from a song. You can choose which styles you perform but try to showcase different aspects of your vocal ability. 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.

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

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. 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. The assessor may choose to take you through some of these exercises purely to see what level of knowledge you have and understand how you may approach this type of musical work.

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.

Part 2 - Music Business Interview

Please prepare a 5-minute presentation covering one of the following topics:

- A current development or issue within the music industry
- An area of the music business, a company or brand that interests you
- A prominent entrepreneur
- A marketing campaign that caught your attention

The presentation will help create a discussion centre piece for your interview. It is not designed to test your presenting skills, but to encourage thought and conversation which will help determine suitability for the course.

You can deliver your presentation in any way you feel is effective to communicate your thoughts and ideas. For example; PowerPoint, video, a written piece you can talk through, or a series of blogs you have written. Please note, the above examples are recommendations only. You are able to deliver your presentation without supporting material.

Submitting your Supporting Material (Music Business only)

Should you wish to provide supporting material (as outlined above) to strengthen your interview, please submit through an online sharing platform such as:

- Google Drive
- One Drive
- Dropbox

Once the following submission form has been filled in, please double check that the links work and your number is correct. You will then need to save and name the document in capital letters with your full name followed by the word 'BUSINESSSUBMISSION' e.g. JOHNSMITHBUSINESSSUBMISSION.

Please return this via e-mail to admissions@bimm.ac.uk.

Your Links

FULL NAME

LINK 1