In-person Audition Guidelines
BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Bass) & Songwriting

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

Please also refer to our handy checklist to ensure nothing is missed and you are best prepared.

BIMM Institute - Core Values

We here at BIMM Institute believe in empowering our students, and encouraging creativity regardless of Gender, Race, Religion, Age or Disability.

We are a community of creatives with a passion for Music, so what does it take to be part of BIMM Institute?

As a BIMM Institute student you will be creative, collaborative, innovative, professional and continue to push the boundaries of the Music Industry.

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 four parts to your joint honours audition:

1.   Performance Audition – Bass
2.   Performance Audition – Songwriting
3.   Songwriting Demo submission
4.   Theory & Sight Reading

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.

1. Performance Audition - Bass

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 bring this with you along with any other effects that you require.

We will have a Bass amp and lead for you to use for your audition. If you are planning to use any pedals, please make sure you bring any extra leads you will require and an English power supply or travel adapter if they are not battery powered. This will ensure your audition runs smoothly.

Styles Knowledge Performance

You will be asked to demonstrate your stylistic knowledge across genres. These should be different styles to your prepared piece and do not require a backing track. You can choose which styles you play but try to showcase a different aspect of your playing.

Examples include (but not limited to): ROCK, POP, BLUES, PUNK, FUNK, SOUL, METAL, REGGAE, LATIN, JAZZ and DRUM & BASS.

You must pick from __TWO__ of the above examples playing each at any preferred tempo for approximately 16 bars each.

more information on next page

Instrument Skills - Technique & Theory

Your assessor will ask you to demonstrate a series of technical exercises. We recommend that you become familiar with the following:

- Bass line, riff or exercise of your choice to a metronome (can be one of the above). If you require a metronome within the audition please make sure this is set up in advance
- Major and minor scales
- Major and minor pentatonic scales

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

- 7th chords
- Arpeggios
- Modal scales
- Harmonic and melodic minor
- Slap bass technique

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2. Performance Audition - Songwriting:

You must prepare an <u>original song</u> to perform live. The song must be different from the song you submitted as your recorded demo. 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 a backing track. If using a backing track this must differ to what you provide as your Demo Submission (see below).

Please ensure you have ready:

- Your own instrument of choice. We will have amps and leads for you to use for your audition as well as a keyboard if needed. If you are planning to use any pedals, please make sure you bring any extra leads you will require and an English power supply or a travel adapter if they are not battery powered.
- If using a backing track, please ensure it is your own original composition/production and you were involved in the production process. This must be on a suitable device with a standard headphone jack or lead connector.
- Lyric sheets, notebooks or workbooks (if applicable to share via the chat function).
- Anything else that supports your creative process.

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3. Your Songwriting Demo Submission:

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

A multi-track recording can constitute as a 'live' demo recorded in a studio arranged by the candidate OR a D.A.W. home demo that clearly shows arrangement and programming skills**.**

You will need to upload it to your preferred website. We recommend one of the following third party sites:

- Soundcloud
- Spotify
- YouTube
- Vimeo

Please note we cannot download your demos, please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments. When your audio has been uploaded, please include a link to the demo using the below form. You need to complete this by the deadline given to you. Late submissions may not be considered. If you're concerned please speak to someone in the admissions team.

Applicant Demo Submission Form

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 'SWDEMO' e.g. JOHNSMITHSWDEMO.

<u>Please return this via email only to admissions@bimm.ac.uk.</u>

Your name:

Name of Demo:

Link to Demo:

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4. Theory & Sight Reading

You will 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 deciding on making the appropriate course recommendation.

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