



## **In-person Audition Guidelines**

### **BA (Hons) Popular Music Performance (Keys) & Music Business**

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.

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### **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.

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### **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 joint honours audition:

1. Performance Audition – Keys
2. Music Business Presentation
3. 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.

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### **1. Performance Audition - Keys**

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 keyboard for you to use for your audition. You are welcome to bring your own but just bear in mind that this will take up time in 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 a travel adapter if they are not battery powered.

### **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 – Techniques & Theory

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

- Major and minor scales
- Major, minor, major 7th, minor 7th, dominant 7th chords
- Create a keyboard part for the following chord sequence, varying the part with each repeat (using different chord voicing and/or melodic lines)



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

- Diminished, half-diminished and 9th chords
- Modal scales
- Harmonic and melodic minor

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

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## 2. Music Business Presentation

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 relevant to the music industry
- A music 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 a 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.

### Submitting your Supporting Material - Presentation Piece

Please submit your supporting materials e.g. PowerPoint, Word document, videos through an online sharing platform such as:

- Google Drive
- One Drive
- Dropbox

When your material has been uploaded, please include a link 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 presentation, please do NOT send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments. Please use the submission form below only.

You can deliver your presentation in a 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.

### Your Links - Presentation Piece

You MUST complete the form below. This is where you can provide information and links ready for your interview. Once this has been filled in please double check that the links work. You will then need to save and name the document in capital letters with your full name followed by the word 'PRESENTATION'

E.g. JAMESSMITHPRESENTATION. Please return this via email only to [admissions@bimm.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bimm.ac.uk).

FULL NAME

Link to presentation:

### **3. 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.