

# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS AND UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM INFORMATION

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### Undergraduate Degrees Offered

- Bachelor of Music Education
- Bachelor of Music in Performance
- Bachelor of Music in Musicology
- Bachelor of Music in Music Theory
- Bachelor of Music in Composition
- Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Music

### ARRANGING A VISIT TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

In October, the School of Music holds a “Practice Audition Day” for interested students in grades 9-12. If you are able to attend this event, you may schedule a practice audition to help you get ready for a formal audition at a later date.

Brass, woodwind, and percussion students may want to visit the campus through participation in our annual High School Honor Band. This select honor band is scheduled for a weekend in early winter, with applications and audition recordings due by late autumn. For additional information visit [bands.osu.edu](http://bands.osu.edu).

Individual campus visits are also available for interested students. During an individual visit, a number of different options are available, including: gaining a general overview of the School of Music and the various degree programs in an appointment with the Admissions Coordinator or Associate Director, visiting with our performance faculty, observing our performing ensembles, attending a freshmen-level class, visiting the University Honors Center, and/or taking the two-hour general campus tour. Students interested in receiving more information about the general campus tour should visit [campusvisit.osu.edu](http://campusvisit.osu.edu). To arrange an individual visit to the School of Music, call the Undergraduate Studies Office at 614/292-2870, or email us at [music-ug@osu.edu](mailto:music-ug@osu.edu).

### ACADEMIC ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY

Academic admission to the University is separate from and in addition to the School of Music audition. High school seniors and prospective transfer students can apply online at [apply.osu.edu](http://apply.osu.edu). Though applications are accepted through February 1, it is highly recommended that applications be received by December 1. Freshmen applicants should take the ACT or SAT as early as possible (preferably by November) and request your scores be sent to The Ohio State University.

Visit the OSU School of Music website at:  
[music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu)

### ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Students planning to pursue **any** music degree program must complete an audition and the **Theory Placement Exam**. The School of Music audition process is designed to evaluate a student’s preparedness to pursue music at the college level and prospects for future development. It is not designed to be a formal presentation, such as a contest or recital.

There is no separate audition for music scholarships. Each student who auditions for entrance to the School of Music by mid-February may be considered for music scholarships. See the section on **Scholarships and Financial Aid**.

### THEORY PLACEMENT EXAM (TPE)

The questions on the **Theory Placement Exam** are of multiple choice or completion type and cover the fundamentals of music, music recognition, and written notation. Results are used to place students into the appropriate level of music theory. Transfer students with credit in music theory are not required to take the test but should contact the music theory area head for placement. For students who qualify for entrance based on a recorded audition, the TPE is postponed until arrival on campus.

### AUDITIONS

Auditions are scheduled on select dates, December-February. Audition dates can be found at [music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu). Students may select an audition date by completing an online application via [Acceptd](http://Acceptd). A link to the application may be found at [music.osu.edu/undergraduate-admissions](http://music.osu.edu/undergraduate-admissions).

Students from Ohio are expected to audition in person. However, out-of-state students who are unable to audition on one of the audition days may arrange a special audition appointment—on weekdays only—by writing or calling the Undergraduate Studies Office at 614/292-2870. The other option is to submit an audition recording (see section that follows for instructions).

**Accompaniment is required only for voice auditions**, and the School of Music will provide an accompanist. Voice students may provide their own accompanists if they prefer. Only the auditioning student and accompanist are permitted in the audition.

### AUDITION PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Selections for auditions should demonstrate the candidate’s present level of development in tone, technique, and musicianship.

In addition, sight-reading is included in all auditions with the level of difficulty no greater than the required solo material.

Transfer students with applied music credit must perform an entrance audition to determine whether they are admissible and at what level to enter. A listing of repertoire studied at the previous college should be prepared in advance. Select a representative ten- to fifteen-minute sample of that literature.

### Instructions for Recorded Auditions

Students from Ohio are expected to audition in person. However, non-Ohio residents may submit an audition recording in lieu of an audition in person. Admitted students can take the Theory Placement Exam during orientation (not required of transfer students with transfer credit in music theory). Listed below are the instructions for preparing an audition recording:

1. Prospective freshmen should submit their recordings no later than the last audition day. See music.osu.edu for a list of audition dates. Late applicants may be considered on a case-by-case basis, but auditions on or before the last audition date are advisable.
2. Recorded auditions should be uploaded to your Accepted application. Acceptable formats include:
  - Video: MPEG, MPG, MP4, OGG, MOV, AVI, WMV, M4V, VOB, FLV
  - Audio: MP3, OGG, M4A, WMA, WAV, AAC, FLACFor technical support with this process, call Accepted at 1-888-725-2122.
3. The recording(s) should be unaltered and prepared with the assistance of your school music director or private music teacher.
4. The recording(s) should include approximately 15 minutes of music chosen from the appropriate solo literature and study materials, as specified on the audition requirements listed below.
5. The recording(s) must also include about three minutes of sight-reading supervised by your school music director or private music teacher.
  - This section of the recording should be introduced by a verbal statement: "Sight-reading follows."
  - Your teacher should list the music used and certify that it was sight-read on your recording.
  - Please submit a hard or scanned copy of the sight-reading material with your recording.
6. Before each piece, please announce the title and composer.

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## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### Brass Instruments

1. One significant solo work. Memorization is optional.
2. Etude or etudes demonstrating legato and technical playing.
3. Orchestral excerpts of your choice are encouraged but optional.
4. All major scales.
5. Sight-reading.

### Harp

1. Two selections from memory comparable in difficulty to the following: (a) Salzedo's "Chanson dans la Nuit;" (b) Handel's "Passacaille;" (c) Haydn's "Theme and Variations;" (d) Grandjany's "Et Ron, Ron, Ron" or "Petite Suite."
2. An orchestral cadenza from the major harp orchestral repertoire, such as Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers" (with opening

arpeggios) or "Swan Lake", Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espanol" including the Fandango asturiano movement.

3. A basic knowledge of playing scales, arpeggios and glissandi.

### Percussion

Prospective students need only bring sticks, mallets and music. Instruments will be provided (snare drum, marimba, xylophone, timpani).

The audition should consist of the following:

(The pieces listed below are suggested works. Other repertoire of a comparable level is acceptable)

1. Snare drum: concert solo or etude (**Portraits in Rhythm** by Anothony Cirone, **Intermediate Snare Drum Studies** by Mitchell Peters). Students **may** also prepare a rudimental solo (**14 Modern Contest Solos** by John Pratt, **The All-American Drummer** by Charley Wilcoxon)
2. Mallet keyboard: two mallet solo or etude (**Furioso and Valse** by Earl Hatch, **The Whistler** by G.H.Green) **and** a four mallet solo or etude (**Yellow After the Rain** by Mitchell Peters, **Etude in B Major** by Claire Musser)
3. Timpani: solo or etude (**Sonata for Timpani** by John Beck, **Six Concert Pieces** by Bill Cahn)

### Piano

All compositions must be performed from memory.

1. All major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic minors) hands together, four octaves in 16<sup>th</sup> notes ascending and descending. A minimum speed of M.M. 88 for the quarter note is suggested.
2. One composition from the Baroque Period (Bach inventions or dance movements, a composition by Scarlatti, Couperin, Rameau, etc.).
3. A movement of a sonata from the Classical Period (Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven). It should be in sonata form with an exposition, development, and recapitulation.
4. A composition from the Romantic, Impressionist, or Contemporary Periods.
5. Sight-reading.

### String Instruments

1. One solo or movement from a large work such as a high school contest piece. Memorization is optional.
2. One of the following: Either an etude from any standard technique book or a composition of the applicant's choice, in addition to #1 above.
3. Major scales through four sharps and four flats, and relative minor scales.
4. Sight-reading.

### Voice

The singer should select two songs of contrasting styles which will show her/his voice at its best. Do not select music beyond your ability. One song must be in English; the other selection may be in a foreign language if you wish. Both songs should be memorized. It is recommended that at least one selection be taken from standard classical vocal literature. It is preferred that neither selection be performed via recording. An accompanist will be provided, but you may bring your own, if you wish. Be sure to bring your music.

**Voice Transfer Students:** Singers wishing to transfer to OSU with one or more years of voice at another institution should bring three selections. **At least one of these should be in a foreign language.**

## Woodwinds

1. Three solos, movements, or etudes of contrasting style.
2. All major scales.
3. Optional: Up to three orchestral excerpts of your choice are encouraged but are not required.
4. Sight-reading.

**Saxophones:** Applicants may play the above audition on alto or tenor saxophone. Applied music study in the School of Music may be on either instrument.

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## JAZZ STUDIES AUDITIONS

Students who would like to major in jazz studies should prepare the following for an audition. Material prepared for the jazz audition should be selected to demonstrate your present level of development in tone, technique, musicianship, jazz concept, and improvisation. **In addition, sight-reading is included in all auditions with the level of difficulty no greater than the required solo material.**

### Jazz Bass

Students auditioning to be jazz bass majors are not required to take a classical double bass audition.

1. Major scales and arpeggios, two octaves.
2. Required music selections from the School of Music, which are sent upon request.
3. Walking blues 4/4 bass line in all keys.
4. Improvising skills—blues and #3 on the School of Music selection sheet (see #2 above)

### Jazz Guitar

Bring your own acoustic or electric guitar. An amplifier will be provided.

1. Demonstrate ability to read chord symbols from a lead sheet and play accompaniment in the appropriate style.
2. Demonstrate ability to read basic jazz rhythms in all keys. (Suggested material for preparation: **Rhythms Complete** by Bower/Colin.)
3. Have one solo piece prepared from the jazz repertoire.
4. Perform blues progressions in all twelve keys.
5. Improvise on the blues progression in any key.
6. "Comp" (accompany) in various jazz styles (swing, Latin, Rock, etc).
7. Perform scales in all keys, two octaves ascending and descending, at least two fingerings and in a medium tempo. In addition, be prepared to play scales in thirds (1-3, 2-4, 3-5, 4-6, etc.) and broken style (1231, 2342, 4564, etc.).

#### Scale types:

a. Major	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
b. Mixolydian	1	2	3	4	5	6	b7	8
c. Dorian	1	2	b3	4	5	6	b7	8
d. Natural minor	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	b7	8
e. Harmonic minor	1	2	b3	4	5	b6	7	8
f. Blues	1	b3	4	b5	5	b7	8	

### Jazz Percussion

This audition is required for entrance to the Jazz Studies program with drum set as the principal instrument. Music Education students may be asked to take a classical audition. Please see studio teacher for updated requirements. Bring sticks, brushes, and your bass drum pedal (or one will be made available). The School of Music will provide a complete drum set with cymbals.

1. Demonstrate ability to read basic jazz rhythms.
2. Demonstrate ability to read and interpret a basic drum chart.
3. Demonstrate ability to play in the following styles:
  - a. Jazz 3/4, 4/4 and 5/4 at various tempos. Special attention should be placed upon keeping consistent "swinging" time.
  - b. Rock and/or Funk and/or Fusion.
  - c. Latin: Bossa Nova (medium tempo); Samba (fast tempo).

### Jazz Piano, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone

This audition is required for entrance to the Jazz Studies program. Music Education students may be asked to take a classical audition. Please see studio teacher for updated requirements.

1. About one-half page of music demonstrating lyric legato playing such as jazz ballad style.
2. About one half page of music demonstrating jazz technique, including articulation on the wind instruments, selected from any standard jazz composition.
3. Two or three choruses of blues improvisation in the key of your choice.

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## MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

All students who audition for entrance to the School of Music may be considered for music scholarships based on audition and Theory Placement Exam results. These scholarships may be combined with merit or other awards. Additionally, students should thoroughly investigate community or other local sources of scholarship funds through their high school guidance offices or music teachers. Special-eligibility scholarships are available. Students may apply to be considered for all of the University-administered special-eligibility scholarships by filling out one application available at [sfa.osu.edu](http://sfa.osu.edu). A search for external scholarships is highly recommended and can take considerable time. Many external scholarships can be found through search engines like [collegescholarships.com](http://collegescholarships.com). Additional resources for finding external scholarships include your high school guidance counselor, libraries, chamber of commerce, and place(s) of employment.

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

**How Do You Apply for a Music Scholarship?** Students who audition by early February are automatically considered for a music talent scholarship.

**Who is Eligible to Receive a Scholarship?** Incoming freshmen and transfer students are eligible to receive a scholarship. A student must be a music major to receive this scholarship.

**How Large are the Scholarships?** Music talent scholarships range from \$1000 per year to full, in-state tuition.

**Are the Scholarships Renewable?** Music talent scholarships awarded to freshmen are renewable for up to four years. To renew the scholarship, a student must maintain a good grade point average and good lesson grades, and continue to be a music major. All full-time music majors are expected, according to NASM guidelines, to participate in an ensemble each semester.

**When Do You Hear If You Were Awarded A Scholarship?** Scholarship offers are made at the same time student financial aid packages are awarded. This usually occurs in late March.

**How Long Do I Have To Decide?** According to the NASM Code of Ethics, a student's acceptance of financial aid, from an NASM institutional member, is not binding if signed before May 1. With that in mind, OSU gives students until May 1 to decide whether or not to accept a scholarship offer.

**Does OSU offer "out-of-state waivers" so students who are not Ohio residents only pay in-state tuition?** Unfortunately, OSU does not have "out-of-state waivers."

**What about Other Merit Scholarships for Out-of-State Students?**  
The National Buckeye Scholarship is available to non-Ohio residents who meet the eligibility requirements. Visit [undergrad.osu.edu](http://undergrad.osu.edu) for information.

Students who have questions about undergraduate degree programs in the School of Music should call or write:

School of Music, Undergraduate Studies  
The Ohio State University  
1866 College Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43210  
614/292-2870

e-mail: [music-ug@osu.edu](mailto:music-ug@osu.edu)

Visit the OSU School of Music website at:  
[music.osu.edu](http://music.osu.edu)