

UNDERGRADUATE JAZZ PERFORMANCE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance)

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Key information follows for undergraduate jazz performance auditions. Auditions have the same general format; however, see the specific requirements for your instrument or voice.

AUDITION PROCESS

There are steps to auditioning:

1. Apply to study at Victoria University of Wellington via Pūaha and select your degree and major
2. A School Administrator from NZSM will email you regarding your audition
3. Submit your audition recording and other materials
4. Following your audition, you may also be invited to attend an interview

See your instrument guidelines for specific requirements.

APPLY TO AUDITION

Domestic students: Read about entry requirements then apply via Pūaha and select your degree and major: <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm/study/entry-requirements>

International students: apply to study, through <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/international>

RECORD AND UPLOAD YOUR AUDITION

Auditions will be submitted as recordings. Guidelines for a recorded audition can be found at <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm/study/entry-requirements/audition/recorded> along with instructions for uploading an unlisted video to YouTube.

THEORY PRE-REQUISITE FOR MUSC 166

The theory pre-requisite for MUSC 166 can be met a number of ways, as detailed at: <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm/study/entry-requirements/musc166-entry-requirements>

If you wish to sit the NZSM theory entrance test, please email music@vuw.ac.nz to arrange this. It comprises a written theory of music test at approximately Grade 5 level (ABRSM). Examples of this test can be found at the link above. The theory test will be arranged by email and can be sat remotely at your secondary school. It may be possible to sit it at NZSM.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you are an International student, please contact the international office to begin the application process, at <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/international>

CONTACT US

For any questions not answered within this document contact either the appropriate academic faculty staff or music@vuw.ac.nz

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

All auditions will include:

Recorded material

Follow the guidelines for your instrument and for recording and record yourself playing:

1. Jazz standards
2. Blues in F
3. Prepared piece/etude.

Written material

4. Write a 200-word (or more) essay describing what your ambitions are as a musician and in the field of music more broadly, and how studying at the NZSM fits into your plan. Attach this essay in the email where you share your YouTube link.

Separate guidelines follow for drums, vocals and all other instruments. For full details of the audition process see <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm/study/entry-requirements/audition>

ALL INSTRUMENTS EXCEPT DRUMS AND VOCALS

Music and sound files for this audition will be emailed to you by NZSM once you have applied via Pūaha and selected your degree and major. International applicants must email music@vuw.ac.nz to receive the files.

Jazz standard (all from Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Vol. 54 “Maiden Voyage”)

Perform one jazz standard from the list of songs below:

- Autumn Leaves — key of G minor (first chord C minor).
- Satin Doll — key of C major (first chord D minor).
- Doxy — key of Bb.

Perform the melody in a jazz style and play one or two choruses of improvisation over the form of the tune. There is no need to play the melody again at the end of the tune.

- Bassists: perform the melody and walk through the chord changes in ‘two’ and ‘four’ as well as solo.
- Guitarists and pianists: demonstrate accompanying skills by comping for one chorus in addition to soloing.

Blues in F

Perform ‘Blues in F’:

- Horn players: improvise a solo over the chords.
- Guitarists and pianists: play (comp) the chords then improvise a solo over the chords.
- Bass players: play in 2/4 over the chords for one chorus, then walk in 4/4 for one chorus, and then improvise a solo over the chords.

Prepared piece/etude

Download the prepared piece/etude appropriate to your instrument as listed below. Prepare this along with the recording and try to duplicate phrasing, time feel, nuances etc.

- Saxophone (all) — Chromatic scale and *Billie's Bounce* (melody and one chorus of transcribed Charlie Parker Solo (see chart)).
- Guitar — *Four on Six*.
- Piano — *Freddie Freeloader*.
- Trombone — *Autumn Leaves*, trombone etude score.
- Trumpet — *But Not for Me*.
- Bass — *Three and One*.

Essay

Write a 200-word (or more) essay describing what your ambitions are as an instrumentalist and in music more broadly, and how studying at the NZSM fits into your plan. Attach this essay in the email where you share your YouTube link.

VOCALS

Music and sound files for this audition will be emailed to you by NZSM once you have applied via Pūaha and selected your degree and major. International applicants must email music@vuw.ac.nz to receive the files.

Jazz standard (all from Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Vol. 54 “Maiden Voyage”)

Perform one jazz standard from the list of songs below:

- Autumn Leaves — key of G minor (first chord C minor).
- Satin Doll — key of C major (first chord D minor).
- Doxy — key of Bb.

Contextualise the piece with a brief introduction. Then sing the melody in a jazz style and scat one or two choruses of improvisation over the form of the tune. There is no need to sing the melody again at the end of the tune.

Blues in F

Improvise a solo over the chords of ‘Blues in F’.

Musicianship is a form of communication that should ultimately reach the crowd, when possible, connect with your audience (see link below).

* Link to exemplify musicianship and interplay:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o2RS8WfcbY

* Link to exemplify connection with the audience: <https://youtu.be/snFZFw2y9Gk> 3.

Prepared piece/etude

Sing the melody of ‘Take the A Train’.

Essay

Write a 200-word (or more) essay describing what your ambitions are as a vocalist and in music more broadly, and how studying at the NZSM fits into your plan. Attach this essay in the email where you share your YouTube link.

DRUMS

Music and sound files for this audition will be emailed to you by NZSM once you have applied via Pūaha and selected your degree and major. International applicants must email music@vuw.ac.nz for the files.

Any questions please email Drum Lecturer, Lance Philip: lance.philip@vuw.ac.nz

Jazz standard

- Play 'Little Rascal on a Rock' with the backing track.
- Play the snare drum solo 'Yo was down' but add the hihat to your performance (with the foot) on the quarter note pulse.
- Trade solos using jazz drumming vocabulary (8's, 4's, 2's, 1's) with the backing track.

Blues

Scat sing the blues tune 'Blues by Five', by Charlie Parker (no lyrics, just the melody). You will need to source this tune yourself.

Prepared piece

Perform on the drum set something of your own choice that reflects your strengths.

Essay

Write a 200-word (or more) essay describing what your ambitions are as a drummer and in music more broadly, and how studying at the NZSM fits into your plan. Attach this essay in the email where you share your YouTube link.

CONTACT US

Please contact music@vuw.ac.nz if you have any general queries with regards to your application or see the NZSM website <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm>