

# Sydney Conservatorium of Music



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

*Postgraduate Audition Guide*  
2026



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# Course information

This guide will help you to start and complete your application to the Conservatorium, including audition preparation. Our postgraduate coursework degrees are designed to prepare you for the music industry, with a strong emphasis on perfecting your professional performance skills. The Sydney Conservatorium offers the following postgraduate coursework options:

## [Graduate Diploma in Music \(Performance\)](#)

The Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance) is designed to extend candidates' technical mastery of their instrument or voice while deepening their knowledge of repertoire and performance practice.

## [Master of Music Studies \(Performance\)](#)

This degree is aimed at musicians who wish to enhance their mastery in music performance, in preparation for a career at the highest levels of the performance industry. This degree provides ample opportunity to perform as both a soloist and as a member of a musical ensemble. This degree will also allow you to extend your theoretical knowledge and research skills, and tailor your learning through a range of elective subjects, seminars, workshops and internships.

## [Master of Music Studies \(Opera Performance\)](#)

Develop and refine the technical and interpretive qualities of the voice as an operatic instrument, developing self-sufficiency in repertoire choice and role selection, preparation, and performance, with a strong focus on text-related matters to foster skills as an interpreter in operatic languages.

The Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance) is designed to meet the needs of advanced graduates and young professional singers who wish to extend their performance skills and knowledge in the context of operatic repertoire and current professional practice.

# How to apply

## *The audition registration process*

Entry to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music is by application and audition. You'll need to submit an application for your chosen course via the [course page](#). Please refer to the course page for all details including application deadlines, costs, eligibility criteria, etc.

You'll also need to register and complete an audition in your chosen instrument area. Please note that you may also need to meet other requirements, such as sight-reading or attending an interview. Visit the website [here](#) to register an audition in Acceptd. If you get stuck, we have instructional step-by-step videos on registering your audition in Acceptd below.

### [Performance/Instrumental Auditions](#)

You will be given the option to schedule a live audition or, if you are not located in Sydney or are unable to attend live, you can upload your audition to Acceptd. More information on how to record an audition video can be found on page 7 of this guide.

For more information on our postgraduate courses and admission, please visit the [website](#).

# How to apply

## Key Dates

### Audition dates

Auditions are held in July, September, and December. You choose the round to audition in according to the semester you wish to commence studies in. August (semester 2) commencement would require an audition in July. An audition in September or December would be for March (semester 1) commencement.

### Application dates

A course application must be made in advance of your course starting; any applications submitted after the course has commenced (even if there was a successful audition during the audition period) cannot be processed.

Applications for the Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance) and the Master of Music Studies (Performance) must be submitted by 30 June 2026 (semester 2 2026 intake) or 26 November 2026 (semester 1 2027 intake).

Applications for the Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance) must be submitted by 15 November 2026 (semester 1 2027 intake).

Audition Round	Audition Registration Deadline
<b>Round 1</b>	
Live auditions - 6 to 10 July 2026 (Excludes Opera Performance - offered in round 2 and 3 only)	28 June 2026, 11:59pm
Jazz (by video audition only for round 1)	28 June 2026, 11:59pm
Collaborative Piano Video Submissions	1 June 2026, 11:59pm
Conducting Video Submissions	1 June 2026, 11:59pm
<b>Round 2</b>	
Live auditions - 28 September to 2 October 2026	13 September 2026, 11:59pm
Collaborative Piano Video Submissions	31 August 2026, 11:59pm
Conducting Video Submissions	31 August 2026, 11:59pm
<b>Round 3</b>	
Live auditions - 1 to 2 December 2026 (audition schedules open 12 October 2026)	15 November 2026, 11:59pm
Collaborative Piano Video Submissions	1 November 2026, 11:59pm
Conducting Video Submissions	1 November 2026, 11:59pm

# Video performance audition

## *How to record your audition*

Video auditions can either be uploaded to your Accepted audition or you can provide a link to an unlisted video uploaded to a video hosting service (such as YouTube, Youku, or equivalent) and cannot be larger than 5GB. The video types that you can upload are: MP4, M4V, AVI, FLV, MOV, WMV, MPG, MPEG, M2V, MKV, and WEBM. Please refer to the table below for instrument specific recording instructions.

Instrument	Recording tips
<b>Brass</b>	Do not point the bell directly towards the camera.
<b>Viola and Violin</b>	Face slightly to your left, to ensure the fingerboard is visible and not obstructed by a music stand. F Holes should point towards the camera.
<b>Violoncello and Double Bass</b>	Face slightly to your right, to ensure the fingerboard is visible and not obstructed by a music stand.
<b>Guitar</b>	Both hands visible and not obstructed by the music stand.
<b>Harp</b>	Face towards your right, to ensure both hands are visible. Foot pedals should also be visible.
<b>Piano and Collaborative Piano</b>	Angle the camera to ensure the keyboard is not obstructed by your body and hands are visible. Please make sure your face and hands are both clearly visible.
<b>Voice</b>	Position the camera to take full length body. Clarity of voice must be heard.
<b>Woodwind</b>	Ensure your hands are visible and keys are not obstructed by a music stand.

### When using your smartphone or other devices to record your performance:

- Record in one continuous take, without cuts or edits. You may choose to record individual pieces or movements separately
- Place your recording device in a horizontal, i.e. 'landscape' position
- Remember that audio quality is more important than video quality
- Ensure the room you record in is well lit and quiet. Avoid bright side light or back light. The best location to film is usually with you facing a window
- Place your device on a tripod or makeshift stand, i.e. not handheld
- Check that Flight mode is turned on and Wireless is turned off, so you receive no calls or messages during the recording
- Note that while you can use recording software such as Adobe's Premiere Rush to record yourself, the standard Camera applications on iOS and Android devices are usually sufficient to obtain good quality results
- Make sure your camera is set to record at 720p HD at 30fps, if you are using an iPhone or an Android device. This is set in the Camera Settings within the Settings application. Recording at higher quality settings is not necessary for evaluation and will significantly impact the upload time of your final recording.

# Find a collaborative pianist

If you are attending a live audition and your work requires accompaniment, you must provide your own collaborative pianist. If circumstances prevent you from attending a live audition, you may submit an audition recording. While it is preferred that you play with an accompanist, there will be no disadvantage if you submit a recording of your unaccompanied performance.

If you do not already have one, and if you have registered for a live audition, the following information can assist you in finding an accompanist.

[Accompanists' Guild of NSW - Find an Accompanist](#)

## Please note:

- Any arrangement for payment is solely between the applicant and collaborative pianist.
- The Sydney Conservatorium of Music is not responsible for any services and fees.
- This suggested list is optional only, and there is no requirement to engage with a collaborative pianist from the list provided.





Image: The Sydney Conservatorium of Music building

# Brass - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Instruments offered include:

Horn

Trumpet

Trombone and Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course

You are required to prepare a program presenting various styles and periods. This should include:

1. At least one major 19th or 20th-century concerto
2. One work originally written with piano accompaniment
3. One unaccompanied work
4. Two characteristic excerpts from the standard orchestral repertoire.

All works should be originally written for your instrument (no transcriptions or arrangements).

Note for Tuba candidates Tuba candidates should demonstrate both the F or Eb tuba and the CC or BBb tuba.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Organ - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

You are required to prepare a well contrasted 50-minute recital program, which includes:

1. A major work of J.S. Bach
2. A major Romantic composition.

It is expected that you will perform the chosen works to a high level of excellence and will also display well-advanced console management skills.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Percussion - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

You are required to prepare a 40 to 50 minute program that represents the area in percussion performance that you are intending to focus on.

### Audition examples

- If you plan to focus on the marimba, you should perform major works or concerti for marimba.
- If you plan to focus on orchestral percussion, you should perform:
  - i. Orchestral excerpts on snare drum, timpani, mallet keyboards, aux percussion
  - ii. A J.S. Bach transcription on marimba.

If you are interested in studying a wide range of repertoire, you should perform pieces reflecting this diversity: for example, works for mallet keyboards, timpani, and multiple percussion.

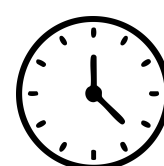
**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Piano - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

You are required to prepare a 50-minute recital of freely chosen works which must include a major work of at least 15 minutes. Any complete major work of a minimum 15-minute duration by any composer will be acceptable.

All works should be performed from memory, except for complex contemporary works.

### Sight Reading Requirement

There is a sight-reading component to this audition.

If you are auditioning live, you will be asked to perform a sight-reading on the day.

If you are submitting an audition video, a short study will be sent to you two weeks prior to the application deadline via your Acceptd inbox that you will need to upload to your audition registration.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Collaborative Piano - Classical

## *Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

## *Master of Music Studies (Performance)*



Audition run time:  
60 minutes

### Audition Requirements for Performance Course

There are two parts to the Collaborative Piano audition:

**Part 1:** Submit a video recording of the repertoire (deadline for video submission available on pg. 5)

**Part 2:** Live audition for invited applicants

#### Part 1

In your video, you are required to perform:

- The first movement of a Sonata for Piano and Violin by Mozart or Beethoven; OR
- The first movement of a Sonata for Piano and Cello by Beethoven
- One movement from a Sonata for Piano and another instrument by Brahms, Franck, Faure, Debussy, Poulenc, or other Sonata-Duo work in the Romantic, Impressionist, or Early 20th Century/modern style
- 6 art songs, representing at least three different languages and styles All repertoires must be performed with instrumental or vocal associate artists

All repertoires must be performed with instrumental or vocal associate artists.

#### Part 2

If you pass Part 1:

1. You will be invited to present a live audition at the Sydney Conservatorium to play the repertoire as presented in Part 1.
2. You will also be emailed a short quick-learn project one week prior to the live audition. You will learn the quick study and deliver it in your live audition.

You are encouraged to bring your own associate artist/s, however we understand that this might not be possible for interstate or international applicants. In these situations, we can provide the names of local musicians for you to organise directly with those associate artists, including payment.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Strings - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Instruments offered include:

Double Bass

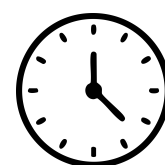
Guitar

Harp

Viola

Violin

Violoncello



Audition run time:

30 minutes

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course

**Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass**

You are required to prepare a 50 minute program including:

1. A major sonata or concerto, or movements from either
2. A virtuoso piece
3. A movement of solo Bach

### Guitar

You are required to prepare a 40 to 50 minute program of contrasting works, including:

1. A 20th-century sonata (complete, or one or more movements)
2. A work by J.S. Bach

### Harp

You are required to prepare a 50 minute recital of varied styles, including at least one major solo or concerto repertoire work, at the level of a senior undergraduate or final recital.

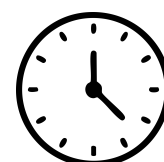
Any works with accompaniment should be presented with Piano.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Voice - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

## **Audition Requirements for Performance Course**

You are required to prepare a program comprising a 30-minute recital of advanced and varied works in at least four languages (e.g., Italian, German, French, and English) performed to a high level of excellence.

The audition would generally include a representation of the general art song repertoire.

All works should be performed from memory.

In an interview following the performance, a proposed plan of study will be discussed.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Woodwind - Classical

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Instruments offered include:

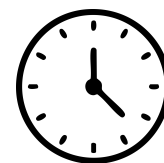
Bassoon

Clarinet

Flute

Oboe

Saxophone



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course

You are required to prepare a 30-minute recital of advanced and varied works, performed to a high level of excellence. Up to 15 minutes of this recital can be unaccompanied. The recital must include one major work from the repertoire.

If you would like more advice about appropriate repertoire choice, please contact the staff listed for your instrument [here](#).

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Intercultural Music

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

You are required to prepare a 40 to 45 minute recital including one ensemble work of your own choice and three contrasting solo works as specified below:

As outlined in the below list, we offer study for musicians trained on Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Mongolian, and Persian musical instruments, and others by application.

1. One traditional solo piece e.g. *A flowery moonlit night by the Spring River* for Pipa
2. One contemporary piece (after 1980s) e.g. *The Scenery of Tianshan Mountain* for Erhu
3. One improvisational work e.g. *Innovate within the framework of tradition ('now avaran-e sonnati: bringing newness to tradition')* for Tar

### Aerophones:

- Shakuhachi
- Sheng
- Zhudi

### Percussion:

- Minzu dajii
- Tabla

### Lutes (bowed):

- Erhu
- Morin khuur

### Zithers:

- Konghou
- Koto
- Yangqin
- Zheng

### Lutes (plucked):

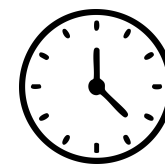
- Pipa
- Satsuma- biwa
- Sitar
- Shamisen
- Tar
- Zhongruan

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Historical Performance

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

## Audition Requirements for Performance Course

You are required to prepare a program of works totaling 30 minutes of material at the level of a senior undergraduate or final recital, demonstrating musical and technical excellence.

You are also required to have specialised accompaniment at the audition - clavichord, harpsichord, fortepiano, or nineteenth-century piano. Please specify your keyboard instrument for accompaniment in your audition application.

If you experience difficulties in obtaining an accompanist, you may contact [Dr Daniel Yeadon](#), Senior Lecturer in Historical Performance.

As outlined in the below list, we offer study in:

### String instruments:

- Bass
- Viola
- Viola de gamba
- Violin
- Violoncello
- Violone

### Wind instruments:

- Bassoon
- Clarinet
- Cornetto
- Flute
- Oboe
- Recorder

### Plucked instruments:

- Guitar
- Harp
- Lute
- Theorbo

### Keyboard:

- 19th-century piano
- Chamber organ
- Clavichord
- Fortepiano
- Harpsichord

### Brass Instruments:

- Horn
- Sackbut
- Trumpet

### Vocal:

- All voice types

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Jazz Performance

## Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)

## Master of Music Studies (Performance)

### Instruments offered include:

Bass  
Brass  
Drums  
Guitar  
Piano  
Vibraphone  
Woodwind  
Voice



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

### Audition Requirements for Performance Course

You are required to prepare:

#### Repertoire

Play or sing two jazz standards of your choice, including in each standard:

- 1 chorus of melody; and
- 2 choruses of improvisation

No lead sheets are permitted during the performance.

### Technical Work

Play or sing the following scales (each from a different root note of your choosing):

- Major scale
- Melodic minor scale
- Diminished scale (whole-half step version)

Play or sing the chord arpeggios of each scale degree of a major scale and melodic minor scale, each in a different key of the candidate's choosing.

For example:

- C major scale: Cmaj9, Dm9, Em7(b9), Fmaj9, G9, Am9, Bm7(b9)b5
- G melodic minor scale: Gmin(maj9), Am7(b9), Bbmaj9(#5), C9, D+9, Em9b5, F#7(#5#9)

### Technical Work (cont.)

All scales and arpeggios should be played over two octaves (or one octave for vocalists) ascending and descending, in quavers, at crotchet = 100bpm.

Arpeggios should be played in the following pattern: 1-3-5-7-9 (then in the next octave) 1-3-5-7-9.

### Written Statement

Applicants are also required to write a statement (max 500 words) outlining:

- Their background/experience with Jazz Performance;
- Their skills in Jazz ensemble arranging and/or composing (including a single PDF score, where appropriate), and;
- Their future career aspirations

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Conducting

*Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)*

*Master of Music Studies (Performance)*



Audition run time:  
60 minutes

## Audition Requirements

There are two parts to the Conducting audition:

**Part 1:** Video submission + portfolio upload (deadline for video submission available on pg. 5)

**Part 2:** Call-back, invited applicants only will audition and interview

### Part 1

Candidates are required to prepare:

#### Video Submission

Video recording (YouTube link) of you conducting an ensemble. This should include 10- 15 minutes of rehearsal and 10- 15 minutes of performance with a variety of repertoire. The camera should show a frontal view of the conductor

#### Portfolio

Your portfolio should include:

- List of conducting experience
- List of conducted repertoire
- Three contact numbers and emails for references

### Part 2

You will be notified of the result of your part 1 submission. Successful applicants will then be invited to a live call-back audition and interview at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

#### Audition

- Rehearse and conduct 2 pianos. Repertoire will be sent to you one week prior to audition
- Aural skills assessment including identification of intervals and chords, melodic and rhythmic dictation, musical terminology, music recognition and sight-reading

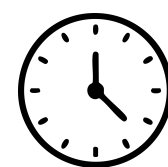
#### Interview

You will attend an interview with the conducting faculty following your audition.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Opera Performance

## *Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance)*



Audition run time:  
30 minutes

### Audition Requirements

#### Audition

You are required to present a varied program of at least three arias (in at least two different languages) at an advanced level of difficulty and to a high standard of excellence. All pieces must be performed from memory.

You will also be required to present the text of one of your arias as a spoken declamation in the original language and in English translation.

#### Interview

In an interview following your performance, a general discussion of your current experience and future goals will be explored.

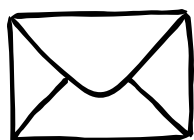
If you are auditioning via video submission, please present in your audition video (or as a separate video) your full name, the degree and program area you are applying for, and provide a summary of your music academic qualifications and/or work experience, as well as your future goals.

**Please note:** You are required to prepare the full audition program as detailed above. The panel may choose what they would like to hear you play from the required repertoire.

# Contact Us



**+61 2 9351 1222 (option 6)**



**con.apply@sydney.edu.au**



**sydney.edu.au/music**



**1 Conservatorium Road, Sydney**  
(just off Macquarie Street - look for the castle)

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