Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Postgraduate Audition Guide

When:
30 September live vocal performance auditions.

Video audition in classical, jazz, historical, non-western performance.

Where:
1 Conservatorium Rd, Sydney.

Register:
sydney.edu.au/music

More information:
con.apply@sydney.edu.au
Tel: (02) 9351 1222 - press option 6

Auditions and Interviews

Application Deadline

Audition is by video submission.
Vocal applicants will also attend an interview (live or via Zoom) on 30 September.

18 September 2022 for semester 1 2023 entry
• Graduate Diploma in Music (Opera Performance)
• Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance)

30 November 2022 for semester 1 2023 entry
• Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
• Master of Music Studies (Performance)

• Postgraduate coursework: apply to the University of Sydney, register audition to the Sydney Conservatorium ACCEPTD audition portal.

• Postgraduate research: apply to the University of Sydney, supply audition material in your University of Sydney application.
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How to submit your audition application

1. Click **register audition** via the Sydney Conservatorium website. You will be taken to the audition portal: **acceptd**

2. Start your application by selecting the degree level, degree, and program. Click **apply** then follow the guidelines outlined on the right-hand side

3. Sign-up to create a new account or use your Facebook account to sign-in

4. Pay the audition fee and schedule your video audition in the relevant schedule.

**Performance applicants** supplying a video audition will upload audition material and schedule a time for the panel to view the audition video. Attendance is not required.

**Voice (Classical) and Opera Performance applicants** supplying a video audition will schedule an appointment to interview on Zoom. Live audition applicants will interview in their audition.
Find a Collaborative Pianist

Sydney Conservatorium of Music
Alan Hicks alan.hicks@sydney.edu.au
Theresa Leung theresa.leung@sydney.edu.au
Ingrid Sakurov ingrid.sakurov@sydney.edu.au

Accompanists’ Guild of NSW – Find an Accompanist
http://accompanistsguildofnsw.org.au/accompanists/

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.
Postgraduate research
Composition

Master of Music (Composition)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

When applying for entry to postgraduate research in composition, please submit at least three compositions (in different performance media) which represent your present level of achievement as a composer, present a 1500-2000-word summary of your proposed area of research/creative work and attend an interview.

After receiving your compositions, Conservatorium staff will invite you to attend an interview to discuss your compositions, background as a composer, commitment to musical composition and your goals. On the basis of the compositions, proposal and the interview, Conservatorium staff will assess your potential for the course for which you have applied.
Conducting

Master of Music (Performance)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

You will be required to submit the following:

• Conducted repertoire list
• Three contact numbers and emails for references
• Audio recording of your own ensemble (10-15 minutes) with a variety of repertoire (Wind conducting only)
• Conducting work shown by video internet links (YouTube or similar URLs) or DVD with no regional ZONE CODE): 10-15 minutes of rehearsal, 10-15 minutes of performance (frontal view) with a variety of repertoire
• A Research proposal of your desired topic to be worked on throughout your degree: 500-1000 words minimum for coursework, 1500-2000 words maximum for research.
• A brief two-page analysis to assess how you write and how you think about music from the following repertoire:

Symphony Orchestra
• Master of Music
• Doctor of Musical Arts
Conducting

Master of Music (Performance)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

Wind Symphony
• Master of Music - Holst’s First Suite in Eb, First Movement
• Doctor of Musical Arts - Hindemith’s Symphony in Bb, First Movement.

Opera

Symphony Orchestra and Opera candidates
• Aural skills assessment including identification of intervals and chords; melodic and rhythmic dictation; terminology; score I.D.
• Interview with the conducting and research faculty
• Sight-singing Repertoire
• Rehearse and conduct given sections of F.J Haydn’s Symphony N° 94 in G Major, G. Rossini’s La gazza ladra , Debussy’s Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune
• For DMA candidates, rehearse and conduct any of the above-mentioned excerpts by Haydn, Rossini and Debussy plus Tchaikovsky’s Fifth Symphony

For further information please contact Dr Stephen Mould
Conducting

Master of Music (Performance)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

Wind Symphony candidates
• Aural skills assessment including identification of intervals and chords; melodic and rhythmic dictation; terminology; score I.D.
• Interview with the conducting and research faculty
• Sight-singing
• A twenty-minute live audition with the SCM Wind Symphony: MM candidates First Suite in Eb mvt. 1-Gustave Holst; DMA candidates Symphony in Bb mvt. 1-Paul Hindemith. Conduct through the movement, receive feedback, rehearse for the remaining time.

For further information please contact con.apply@sydney.edu.au

Choir candidates
• Aural skills assessment including identification of intervals and chords; melodic and rhythmic dictation; terminology; score I.D.
• Interview with the conducting and research faculty
• Sight-singing
• Conduct and rehearse the designated piece(s) with the Conservatorium Chamber Choir.

For further information please contact Dr Paul Stanhope.
Music Education

Master of Music (Music Education)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

You will present a 1500-2000-word summary of your proposed area of research; and attend an interview (in person or via phone). You should be prepared to discuss your background and research interest in music education.
Musicology

Master of Music (Musicology)
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)

MMus (Musicology)
You will provide a statement of research interest and intent; and present a folio of academic writing. You will then be interviewed to discuss your interest in musicology and your commitment to musical research. On the basis of the written work and the interview, the Conservatorium will assess your potential to undertake musical research at a basic professional level.

PhD
As part of your application, you will present a 1500–2000-word research proposal, together with examples of academic writing. You will then be interviewed to discuss your research interest and your preparation for musical research at the doctoral level.

Before submitting your application, you will need to make contact with an appropriate supervisor. For further information about the submission and interview requirements for musicology, you may contact the Associate Dean (Research Education), Dr Christopher Coady.
Postgraduate Coursework
Opera Performance

Graduate Diploma in Music (Opera Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance)

You will present a varied program of at least three arias at an advanced level of difficulty and to a high standard of excellence. In an interview following your performance, a general discussion of your current experience and future goals will be explored.
Brass

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will prepare a program totalling 50 minutes, representing various styles and periods. That should include at least one major 19th- or 20th-century concerto, one work originally written with piano accompaniment, and one unaccompanied work, as well as two characteristic excerpts from the standard orchestral repertoire. All works should be originally written for your instrument (no transcriptions or arrangements).

Tuba candidates should demonstrate both the F or Eb tuba and the CC or BBb tuba.
Historical Performance

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will prepare a program totalling 50 minutes of material at the level of a senior undergraduate or final recital of works at an advanced level of difficulty to a high standard of excellence. The audition panel retains the right to curtail the performance and select excerpts of the works presented as it sees fit. You are also required to have specialised accompaniment at the audition. If you experience difficulties in obtaining an accompanist, you may contact Dr Daniel Yeadon lecturer in Historical Performance.
Non-western performance

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will prepare a 10-15 minute recital with three contrasting works (own choice).

Pipa (traditional Chinese instrument)
You will prepare a 10-15 minute recital with three contrasting works (own choice).

• sections from “civil” or “intellectual” (wen, 文) piece.
• sections from “martial” or “military” (wu, 武) piece.
• contemporary piece: required to have specialised accompaniment at the audition.
• set excerpts (both in Western staff notation, 五线谱 and Chinese simplified notation, 简谱) (To be released after the application accepted).
Jazz Performance

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

We offer study in bass, brass, drums, guitar, piano, vibraphone, woodwind and voice.

You will be required to complete an audition lasting approximately 20 minutes comprised of selections that reflect your musical interests.
Organ

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will prepare a well contrasted 50-minute recital program, which includes a major work of J.S. Bach as well as 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.

Your proposed program should be submitted to the Coordinator of Organ Studies, Philip Swanton for approval at least three months prior to the start of the semester in which you hope to commence postgraduate studies.
Percussion

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform a 40-50-minute program that represents the area in percussion performance that you are intending to focus on.
If you plan to focus on the marimba, for example, you should perform major works or concerti for marimba.
If you plan to focus on orchestral percussion, you should perform orchestral excerpts on snare drum, timpani, mallet keyboards, aux percussion and 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.
Piano

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform a 50-minute recital of freely chosen works which must include a major work of at least 15 minutes. All works should be performed from memory, except for complex contemporary works.

Any complete major work of a minimum 15-minute duration by any composer will be acceptable.

In addition to the 50 minute recital, you will be sent a short study to prepare in your audition. The piece will be sent to you on receipt of your application.
Collaborative Piano

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform:
• A work for solo piano with at least two contrasting movements or two different contrasting works
• At least two contrasting art songs with a vocalist (the applicant to provide the vocalist)
• At least two contrasting movements from a sonata with an instrumentalist (the applicant to provide the instrumentalist). These could also be a contrasting movement from two different sonatas.

In the audition you should also be prepared for:

• Sight reading with an associate artist (provided)
• Sight singing and reading simultaneously.

The duration of the audition will be approximately 50 minutes.
Strings

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

Principal study is available in Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. You will prepare a 50-minute program including a major sonata or concerto, or movements from either, plus a virtuoso piece and some movements of Bach.
Guitar

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform a 40-50-minute program of contrasting works, which includes:

- a 20th century sonata (complete or one or more movements)
- a work by J. S. Bach.
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Harp

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform 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.
Voice (classical)

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

You will perform a program comprising of a 30-minute recital of advanced and varied works performed to a high level of excellence and exhibiting a variety of languages. The audition would generally include a representation of the general art song repertoire. In an interview following the performance, a proposed plan of study will be discussed.
Woodwind

Graduate Diploma in Music (Performance)
Master of Music Studies (Performance)

Principal study is available in bassoon, clarinet, flute, oboe and saxophone. Please refer to the Historical Performance page for audition requirements for recorder and Baroque flute.

You will 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.
How to video your audition

At the beginning of each video submitted, please announce the following details: a) Your full name and instrument you are auditioning in; b) the work you will be performing.

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<th>Instructions</th>
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<td>Do not point the bell directly towards the camera.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violin &amp; Viola</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cello &amp; Bass</td>
<td>Face slightly to your right, to ensure the fingerboard is visible and not obstructed by a music stand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>Both hands visible and not obstructed by the music stand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harp</td>
<td>Face towards your right, to ensure both hands are visible. Foot pedals should also be visible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice</td>
<td>Position the camera to take close shot from chest up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodwind</td>
<td>Ensure your hands are visible and keys are not obstructed by a music stand.</td>
</tr>
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How to video your audition

Smartphone or Tablet Recording
When using your smartphone to record yourself perform, try to ensure that –

- Each work is recorded in one continuous take for the duration of the video
- 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
- Make sure the background of the room in which you film is not distracting
- Your device is placed on a tripod or makeshift stand, i.e. not handheld
- Flight mode is turned on and Wireless is turned off, so you receive no calls or messages during the recording
- While you can use specialise 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
- If you are using an iPhone, make sure your camera is set to record at 720p HD at 30fps. 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
- If you are using an Android device, make sure your camera is set to record at 720p HD at 30fps or the next lowest possible video resolution. Recording at higher quality settings is not necessary for evaluation and will significantly impact the upload time of your final recording.