

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AUDITIONS

Overview

The mission of the instrumental music department is to present the finest degree of musical training available to high school students, emphasizing the development of the whole musician. We encourage strong academic students who are talented and passionate about the arts to apply. Instrumental music students will focus on classical and jazz styles, with some electives in pop and rock. In addition to a full program of theoretical and historical study, master teachers from the community will work with ensembles during the school year. Upon entering the program, students will automatically become members of various ensembles including: Jazz Lab Band, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, small instrumental combos, or choir (piano students to help accompany) depending on their major instrument.

The audition process includes an audition that consists of playing excerpts from two contrasting pieces, sight-reading a short passage appropriate for your instrument, and scales. We will be listening for an accurate rendering of the music, good intonation, flexibility, expressiveness, articulation, changing dynamics, overall musicality, and potential. There will also be a brief interview. You should dress appropriately for your audition.

The Performance Audition

Woodwinds, Brass, and Symphonic Strings

- Perform major scales (2 octaves if possible for your instrument) up to 4 flats and 4 sharps (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A, and E), and the chromatic scale
- Bring excerpts from two pieces, contrasting in style (must be Classical, musical theatre or jazz style ONLY). You must provide TWO additional copies of this music. Playing time should not exceed 6 minutes.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

Guitars and Bass Guitars

- Perform Major Scales, Minor Scales, and the Blues Scale in **2 octaves**.
- Perform Open position Major and minor chords (Guitarists), you will be asked to play a series of chords: one measure per chord.
- **Choose the guitar entrance piece sent in this packet.** Decide between Level 1, 2, or 3. Students are encouraged to push themselves to his/her appropriate level. There is only one entrance piece for the bass guitar.
- Bring excerpts from a select solo piece, contrasting in style. It can be classical, musical theatre or jazz style. A rock piece may be substituted. You must provide TWO additional copies of this music.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

Percussionists

- You must bring sticks/mallets to the audition.
- Bring excerpt of one solo piece showing knowledge of steady beat, basic beat patterns, fills and mastery at the drum set. Jazz style piece is highly recommended. You must provide TWO additional copies of this music.
- Know basic rudiments on the snare drum. (Flams, rolls, drags, paradiddles, etc.)
- Sight-read a 16 measure drum set piece.
- Play another excerpt using another percussion instrument (i.e. congas, bongos, xylophone, snare drum)

Pianists

- Know major scales up to 4 flats and 4 sharps (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, and E), and chromatic scale (Scales must be played in two octaves each with both hands simultaneously).
- Bring excerpts from two pieces, contrasting in style (must be Classical, musical theatre or jazz style ONLY). You must provide TWO additional copies of this music. Playing time should not exceed 6 minutes.
- Sight-read 16 measures appropriate for your instrument.

Singing Instrumentalists

There is always opportunity for instrumental majors to sing in ensembles once they attend the school. The staff will encourage the person auditioning to match pitch along with a simple melody to get a sense of the person's musicianship. This will not play a major role in the audition but still acts as a valuable assessment tool.

Music Theory Placement Test

Part of your audition will be a Theory Placement exam. The test has questions about several aspects of theory: key signatures, rhythm, intervals, scales, triads, inversions, harmonic writing, and analysis. We suggest www.musictheory.net as a good study source for this test. We accept students of ALL levels because we offer theory classes at ALL levels.

Interview

The final portion of your audition will be a brief interview by the auditioning committee.

Attire

Please dress appropriately for your audition.

For more information regarding the instrumental music auditions, please email **Mr. Andy Bauer, Director of Instrumental Music** at abauer@charterarts.org