

VCC Music Application & Audition Requirements

Bachelor of Applied Music (International)

2022



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Step 1: Apply to VCC International and submit the [Supplemental Music Application Form](#) to study@vcc.ca

Step 2: Once VCC International has approved your application, **submit your letter of intent and two letters of reference** by email to music@vcc.ca. You can find more information on letter requirements on the [Bachelor of Applied Music](#) page under Admission Requirements.

Step 3: Audition Video

- Prepare a video performance of contrasting pieces, as specified by your major study area below, demonstrating a level equivalent to the completion of a Music Diploma, the depth of your musical influences, and strong potential for successful completion of a Music Degree.
- In the video, demonstrate any technical exercises specified by your major study area below.
- If you require accompaniment, you may use either pre-recorded or live accompaniment in your video.
- The video should be sent to music@vcc.ca as an unlisted YouTube video ([click here for tutorial](#)). Do not attach files.
- **Academic Stream majors:** submit one recent 2500-word paper written in the 12-month period preceding the application to the Bachelor of Applied Music. Academic Stream majors must also demonstrate facility in one of the Major Study Areas below by submitting a short audition video performance of one piece.
- Once you have completed steps 1 through 3, the Music department will schedule you for an audition interview.

Step 4: Audition Interview (15 minutes on Zoom)

- During the audition interview, be prepared to discuss your educational background, musical interests, your career goals, your desired major study area, and any objectives you wish to pursue during your degree.

MAJOR STUDY AREAS

Voice Arts

- Classical Voice
- Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Voice

Academic Stream

Composition Arts

- Composition (includes classical, jazz/contemporary/pop, electronic, and other forms)
- Singer-Songwriter (vocalists who write original material)

Instrumental Arts

- Classical Guitar
- Classical Keyboard
- Drum Set
- Electric Bass/Jazz Double Bass
- Hand Percussion
- Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Guitar
- Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Keyboard
- Strings
- Winds & Brass

More Choices

If your area isn't listed here, please email music@vcc.ca to discuss possibilities. Past instruments include accordion, tap dance, Persian tar, mallet percussion, etc.

Audition Requirements for Major Study Areas (listed alphabetically)

Classical Guitar

- Perform three pieces of contrasting styles and tempos (minimum level: Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 6)
- Repertoire could include a transcription, an etude, or an original composition or arrangement (with scores)
- It is encouraged to present works of contrasting musical styles, unless the applicant is intending to study in specialized idioms where a suite of works by the same composer may be appropriate. Memorization and historical knowledge of each selection is expected.
- Auditioning students new to classical guitar study, with a background in other guitar idioms such as Jazz, Rock, Latin, Flamenco, etc. may provide examples of their work in these styles.

Classical Keyboard

- Perform three pieces from the following repertoire, from memory (minimum level: Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 10):
 - A prelude and fugue, a toccata, or two movements from a suite by J.S. Bach.
 - Two contrasting movements of a Classical sonata, one of which is in sonata form.
 - A composition of the Romantic period.
 - A 20th Century work – preferably Canadian (contact the Canadian Music Centre for repertoire ideas if needed).
 - An etude (fast tempo).
- Demonstrate technique at a Grade 10 Royal Conservatory of Music level.

Classical Voice

- Perform three memorized pieces in contrasting styles (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary) and in contrasting languages (English, French, Italian and German).
- Repertoire could include Oratorio, Opera, French Melodie, German Lied, and 20th Century song repertoires.

Composition

- Audio or video recording of three contrasting compositions/arrangements, written within the 12-month period preceding the application to the Bachelor of Applied Music program.
- Copies of all scores must be provided (if applicable).
- Composition majors must demonstrate facility on a secondary instrument (piano, guitar, etc.).

Double Bass

Perform three prepared pieces of contrasting styles and tempos

- An etude from Storch-Hrabe, Simandl, Nanny, etc.
- Opening movement of a sonata or a movement from a solo Bach cello suite
- One standard orchestral excerpt

Drum Set

Perform three contrasting pieces including:

- At least one piece from the jazz standard repertoire with accompaniment, including accompanying a soloist, and either soloing over the form or trading 4's or 8's over the form.
- The other two selections can include jazz or non-jazz repertoire, e.g. swing, Latin, funk, or rock, but must demonstrate your technique, range and facility in different styles, feels, and/or time signatures.

Electric Bass/Jazz Double Bass

Perform three contrasting pieces, including:

- At least one song from the jazz standard repertoire, including melody, walking bass, and solo improvisation.
- Other selections could include jazz or non-jazz repertoire (pop, rock, funk, classical, or an original composition).
- One solo transcription, or one etude from the Storch-Hrabe 57 Studies V1 book.
- Required technical level: major, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales, in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves; arpeggios of major and minor triads and 7th chords (dom7, Maj7, min 7, min7(b5), dim7) in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves.

Hand Percussion

Perform three pieces in contrasting styles/feels on at least one Latin percussion instrument

- A variety of tones, rhythmic patterns in a variety of meters at varying tempos, including familiarity with all forms of clave. Demonstrate knowledge of timbale stick technique, two and four-mallet techniques, and drum set stick technique, including rudiments.
- Applicants with experience on other types of hand drums, such as the djembe, ashiko or other traditional hand drums should demonstrate the technique specific to those instruments.
- Improvisation

Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Guitar

Perform three contrasting pieces, including:

- At least one song from the jazz standard repertoire, including performance of the melody, chordal accompaniment, an improvised solo, and a transcription if possible.
- Other selections could include jazz or non-jazz repertoire (pop, rock, funk, classical, or an original composition).
- Required technical level: All diatonic modes played over two octaves and paired with a corresponding 7th chord voicing and arpeggio. All diatonic modes of the jazz minor (ascending melodic minor) scale played over two octaves and paired with a corresponding 7th chord voicing and two octave arpeggio.

Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Keyboard

Perform three contrasting pieces, including:

- At least one song from the jazz standard repertoire, including performance of the melody, chordal accompaniment, an improvised solo, and a transcription if possible.
- Other selections could include jazz or non-jazz repertoire (pop, rock, funk, classical, or an original composition).
- Required technical level: major, harmonic minor and traditional melodic minor scales, in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves; arpeggios of major and minor triads and 7th chords (dom7, Maj7, min 7, min7(b5), dim7) in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves.

Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Voice

Perform three contrasting pieces, including:

- At least one song from the jazz standard repertoire, demonstrating your ability to adapt the song to your range and style, and create an arrangement including these elements: introduction, improvised solo, and ending.
- Other pieces could include jazz or non-jazz repertoire, e.g. musical theatre, folk, soul, R&B, original composition, etc. and demonstrate the depth of your musical influences.
- Sing the modes of major, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales, i.e. Dorian, Superlocrian, and Lydian dominant, using numbers (e.g. one, two, flat three etc.) or solfa syllables (do, re, mi).
- Sing arpeggios of major and minor triads and 7th chords (dom7, Maj7, min 7, min7(b5), dim7), using numbers (e.g. one, two, flat three etc.) or solfa syllables (do, re, mi).

Singer-Songwriter

- Perform three contrasting original songs, including scores and lyrics, written within the 12-month period preceding the application to the Bachelor of Applied Music program.
- Copies of all scores/sheet music must be provided (if applicable).
- Singer-Songwriter majors must demonstrate facility with vocal elements including resonance, vowel formation, diction, breath control, and ability to fit your compositions to your voice type.
- Demonstrate awareness of melody-writing strategies, approaches to harmony, lyric setting concepts, and familiarity with various music traditions and song forms.

Strings

- Perform three contrasting pieces from classical and/or contemporary repertoire
- Suggested Resources: Popper, Kreutzer, Kaiser, Galimianian, Hoffmeister

Winds & Brass

Perform three pieces from the following repertoire (minimum level: Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 8)

- One movement of a sonata or concerto
- One etude
- One 20th Century work
- For jazz/contemporary/pop-oriented players, demonstrate the ability to improvise
- Required technical level: major, harmonic minor and traditional melodic minor scales, in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves; arpeggios of major and minor triads and 7th chords (dom7, Maj7, min 7, min7(b5), dim7) in 12 keys, ascending and descending, two octaves.