

VCC Music Application & Audition Requirements

Music Diploma & Preparatory Music Certificate

2023



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Step 1: [Apply to VCC](#) online and select “Music” from the dropdown menu

Step 2: Submit your [Supplemental Music Application Form](#) to music@vcc.ca

Step 3: Audition Video

- Prepare a video performance of contrasting pieces, as specified by your major study area below, demonstrating your musicianship, artistry, and technical ability in your study area.
- 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.

Step 4: Theory Exam

- Once you have completed steps 1 through 3, the Music department will send you a link to complete an online theory exam and schedule you for an audition interview. (Those applying to Preparatory Music are exempt from writing the exam.)

Step 5: Audition Interview (15 minutes on Zoom)

- During the audition interview, your aural skills will be assessed. You will be asked to sing a scale, match pitches and intervals, sight-sing a short piece, and sight-read rhythms. You will not be asked to sight-read on your instrument.
- Be prepared to discuss your educational background (including piano skills), musical interests, and your career goals.

MAJOR STUDY AREAS

Voice Arts

- Classical Voice
- Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Voice

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

Suggested Level: Royal Conservatory of Music, Grade 4 or 5 minimum

- Two contrasting repertoire selections, or etudes by Sor, Giuliani, Carcassi, Brouwer demonstrating technical and musical ability.
- Memorization is suggested, but not required.
- Demonstration of technical ability with major and minor scale forms according to Grade 4 technical requirements in the current RCM technique book.
- Auditioning students may also present one selection demonstrating fingerstyle technique on nylon-string guitar including: Fingerstyle Jazz, Bossa Nova, Latin or World music styles, or arrangements of popular music.

Suggested Resources: Emilio Pujol *Guitar School A Theoretical-Practical Method for the Guitar*, Aaron Shearer *Learning the Classic Guitar*, Robert Benedict *Sight Reading for the Classical Guitar*

Classical Keyboard

Suggested Level: Royal Conservatory of Music or Conservatory Canada, Grade 8 minimum

- Two contrasting repertoire selections, one of which could be an etude, demonstrating technical and musical ability.
- Memorization is suggested, but not required.
- Demonstration of technical ability according to Grade 8 technical requirements in the current RCM technique book.

Classical Voice

Suggested Level: Royal Conservatory of Music, Grade 5 minimum

- Sing one song in English and one in a foreign language
- Perform from memory

Composition

Suggested Level: Presentation of recent pieces, composed by the applicant within the past six months, containing several contrasting works that demonstrate originality and creativity.

- Submissions should also contain scores/lead sheets to accompany the audio/video recordings submitted.
- Pieces can be performed by the applicant themselves or by/with other musicians, or using computer audio software.

Double Bass

Suggested Level: ability to perform the following elements

- An etude from Storch-Hrabe, Simandl, Billé, etc.
- One orchestral excerpt
- Major and minor scales in two octaves
- Arpeggios of major and minor triads

Drum Set

Suggested Level: ability to perform the following elements

- One prepared piece demonstrating facility in and familiarity with at least one approach to drum set utilizing any feel or genre (including but not limited to: jazz swing, funk, rock, or afro-latin.) Appropriate examples include a written or memorized drum set transcription or etude, a drum cover, play-a-long or a complete rendition of a jazz standard, with or without accompaniment.
- One prepared snare drum etude demonstrating technique and rudiments. Suggested repertoire: C. Wilcox, M. Goldenberg, F. Albright, J. Tompkins, V. Firth, M. Peters

Suggested Resources: T. Reed, J. Chapin, G. Chester, J. Riley

Electric Bass/Jazz Double Bass

Suggested Level: Ability to perform all of the following elements

- A walking bass line over a standard jazz form like a 12-bar blues or "I Got Rhythm" changes, or another typical jazz tune. Include the melody and an improvised solo.
- A second contrasting bass line, e.g. a cumbia, bossa nova, rock, funk, early jazz, reggae, jazz fusion, jazz waltz, "2-feel", ballad, samba, or other style
- Major and minor triad arpeggios within an octave, in a variety of keys, including inversions
- Major scales in 12 keys and all the modes (Dorian, Mixolydian, Lydian etc.)
- Etude from Simandl, Bottesini, etc.

Suggested Resources: "The Improviser's Bass Method" by Chuck Sher, "The Evolving Bassist" by Rufus Reid, "The Jazz Bass Book" by John Goldsby, "Standing in the Shadows of Motown" by Alan Slutsky, or "Essential Styles for Drums and Bass" by Houghton/Warrington.

Hand Percussion

Suggested Level: Ability to perform the following elements on conga drums

- Open tones, slap tones, bass tones, heel-finger hand rocking, muffled tones, rhythmic patterns in 4/4, 2/4 and 6/8 meter at varying tempos, including familiarity with the basic concepts of clave. Demonstrate knowledge of timbale stick technique or drum set stick technique.
- 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

Suggested Level: Ability to perform the following elements

- One piece that demonstrates a single note melody, chord melody, and basic improvisation of a jazz or blues standard, and a second piece which can be of any genre (pop, rock, funk, classical, etc.)
- One octave major and natural minor scales (all forms) demonstrating two fingerings starting on the 6th string and two fingerings starting on the 5th string.
- The following chords with the root located on the lowest string as well as the second lowest string: C major 7, C minor 7, C dominant 7, C minor 7 flat 5

Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Keyboard

Suggested Level: Ability to perform the following elements

- One piece that demonstrates a lead melody, chord melody, and basic improvisation of a jazz or blues standard. The second piece could be a contemporary pop, rock, funk, or classical piece, or an original composition.
- Memorization is suggested, but not required.
- A variety of scales, modes and chords (arpeggios and solid inversions)
- All types of 7th chords (dominant 7th, major 7th, minor 7th, half diminished 7th, diminished 7th)

Jazz/Contemporary/Pop Voice

Suggested Level: Ability to perform the following elements, by memory

- One song from the jazz standard repertoire using a “swing” style (e.g. “All the Things You Are”, “Stella by Starlight”, “Autumn Leaves” etc.), demonstrating improvisation ability if possible.
- A second song from jazz or non-jazz repertoire, e.g. musical theatre, folk song, soul, R&B, original composition, etc.). Extra consideration will be given for improv ability (e.g. scat solos).
- sing the major and natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales at any pitch using numbers (e.g. one, two, flat three etc.) or solfa syllables (do, re, mi)

Singer-Songwriter

Suggested Level: Ability to perform the following

- Two contrasting original songs, including original lyrics, demonstrating ability to create structure and develop thematic and harmonic material.
- Submissions should also contain scores/lead sheets/lyric sheets to accompany the audio/video recordings submitted, if possible.
- Pieces can be performed by the applicant themselves or by/with other musicians, or using computer audio software.

Strings

Suggested Level: Royal Conservatory Grade 6 minimum, and ability to perform the following elements.

- Two pieces from different styles, periods, or genres (including jazz/contemporary/pop/folk or originals if applicable).
- Demonstration of technical ability according to Grade 6 technical requirements in the current RCM technique book.

Winds & Brass

Suggested Level: Royal Conservatory Grade 6 minimum, and ability to perform the following elements

- A classical piece or etude, and a jazz standard including improvisation.
- Demonstration of technical ability according to Grade 6 technical requirements in the current RCM technique book.
- Scales (slurred or with articulations), arpeggios and range demonstration (for brass players).