

Audition Guidelines

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music

The Music program at UCCS is proud to support a diverse community of musicians. Current students are active across many styles of music, including jazz, hip hop, classical, folk, rock, experimental, electronic, game music, and more! We welcome all students to audition to join this vibrant place of exchange and collaborative learning.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Music requires a music-specific application in addition to the general application to UCCS. For the Music application, please complete the form sent by the Co-Director of Music and submit TWO musical selections (maximum of three selections) with a maximum combined running time of 10 minutes. The purpose of this audition is to share something of your current practice. Choose selections that best exemplify your talent, technical skills, artistry, and versatility. If applicable, one of your pieces may be an original work, improvisation, or electroacoustic piece. See below for details based on your primary instrument or medium.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the respective contact person.

Keyboard (piano, organ)

Submit both of the following:

- Two or three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your skills and versatility. One may be an original work.
- Two scales of your choice: two octaves, ascending and descending.

Email Kelly Zuercher with any questions. (kzuerche@uccs.edu)

Strings (violin, viola, cello, bass (acoustic and electric))

Submit both of the following:

- Two or three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your skills and versatility. One may be an original work.
- Two scales of your choice: at least two octaves, ascending and descending.

Email Martha Muehleisen with any questions. (mmorris4@uccs.edu)

Voice

Please submit two to three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your vocal range, skills and versatility. One may be an original work.

While it is not required, we welcome repertoire in languages other than English. All styles are welcome including pop, classical, jazz, gospel, musical theatre, rap, etc. In order to best display your technical skills and breadth, one work from the classical repertoire is encouraged. If you have never sung classical vocal music and are unfamiliar with the repertoire, we suggest you choose a song from the collection *Twenty-four Italians Songs and Arias* (published by G. Schirmer), which is widely available for various voice types.

Videos of performances such as recitals and concerts may be submitted for consideration.

You may email Solveig Olsen (solsen@uccs.edu) or Haleh Abghari (habghari@uccs.edu) if you have any questions.

Guitar (classical, acoustic, and electric)

Please submit two or three selections that showcase your playing strength and breadth.

Possible options for audition pieces include:

- a work for classical guitar
- a work of any genre arranged in a solo (i.e. chord melody) style
- a work of any genre (e.g. jazz/rock/metal) performed with a backing track
- an original work for solo guitar

Email Colin McAllister with any questions. (cmcallis@uccs.edu)

Brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium, tuba)

Submit two or three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your skills and versatility. Applicants may audition in classical, jazz, mariachi, ska, R&B, or any style.

If preparing classical pieces, choose pieces from three different periods. They may be solo pieces, etudes, movements from concertos, orchestral excerpts, brass quintet, concert band, or drum & bugle core literature. It is recommended that one be from the 21st century.

Email Glen Whitehead with any questions. (gwhitehe@uccs.edu)

Woodwinds (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone)

Submit two or three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your skills and versatility. One may be an original work.

If preparing classical selections, they may be orchestral excerpts, chamber music pieces, études, or other solo pieces.

Feel free to request a free 30-minute in-person or remote lesson or consultation with Dr. Jane Rigler jrigler@uccs.edu prior to your audition!

Percussion (drum set, mallet percussion, hand drums, snare, timpani, etc.)

Prepare a total of three samples, from any combination of the categories below. If sending multiple samples within one category, choose pieces that showcase your range of skills and artistry.

- Drum set: Trading 4s in three different styles (Swing, Bossa Nova, Rock, Metal, Shuffle, Samba, etc.)
- Snare drum: A ninety-second snare drum solo, in rudimental or concert style, along with two rudiments and a pianissimo roll.
- Mallet percussion: A three-minute, two- or four-mallet work to showcase your ability, along with two scales.
- Jazz vibraphone: Prepare the head, comping, and soloing over any standard jazz tune.
- Timpani: A timpani solo for at least two drums, along with pitch matching, tuning, and demonstrating proper roll technique.
- Hand drums: Trading 4s in a single rhythmic style; prepare to explain the cultural origin of the style
- An original composition or something not listed above.

Email Staci Toma Cotten with any questions. (stomacot@uccs.edu)

Harp

Submit two or three contrasting pieces, within or across genres, that demonstrate your skills and versatility. One may be an original work. If submitting three pieces, you are encouraged, though not required, to include an étude or orchestral excerpt.

Email Jenna Hunt for suggestions and questions. (jennamhuntmusic@gmail.com)

Composer/Songwriter/Music Producer

We welcome students composing, producing, and/or songwriting in any genre of music, using any medium. Please submit two or three original pieces that best showcase your range of skills and artistry. You may submit audio files and/or scores—whichever best represents your work. If you have collaborated with others on the submission pieces, please include a brief description of the role you played in the work and what was contributed by your collaborator(s). If you performed in a piece, please indicate that.

Email Yvonne Wu with any questions. (ywu@uccs.edu)