



Shelby and Ferne Collinsworth
School of Performing Arts
Audition Expectations

Please review the following expectations as you prepare for your audition with the Collinsworth School of Performing Arts at California Baptist University. The expectations below apply to both in-person and video-based auditions.

Audition Expectations

This document contains instructions for the following types of auditions:

- [Music Education Division \(Undergraduate and Graduate\)](#)
- [Performance & Pedagogy Division \(Undergraduate and Graduate\)](#)
- [Commercial Music \(Undergraduate\)](#)
- [Worship Arts \(Undergraduate and Graduate\)](#)
- [Theatre Arts \(Undergraduate\)](#)
- [Non-Major Music and Theatre Auditions \(Undergraduate\)](#)

Admissions Standards

The School of Performing Arts admits students into a Degree Program (Major or Minor) based on the following:

- Performance Audition (Music and Theater)
- Music Theory Placement Exam (Music only). *This theory and aural skills exam results determine placement within the music theory sequence.*

Majors and Minors will be subject to a yearly review by the performing arts faculty to determine the student's continuation in the program.

Audition Methods

Students may select from the following options in submitting auditions to the School of Performing Arts

- Schedule an in-person audition with a School of Performing Arts faculty member.
- Submit a video audition.

Video Audition Recommendations

For auditions submitted by video, please utilize the criteria below when preparing your submission:

- Ensure that you use a non-distracting background.
- Eliminate any outside noises or distractions.
- Use natural light or a lighting source behind the camera facing you.
- Set the camera at eye-level while keeping your entire body in the frame. If playing an instrument, ensure that your hand position is visible.
- While you may clip the video to remove any extra time, **do not** edit the audio of the video. It is important that you present your actual performance.
- Use the link provided upon audition registration to upload your video or video link.

Music Education Division

(BM Music Education, BA Music)

Voice/Choral

Prepare two songs of contrasting styles, preferably with one of the two in a foreign language (Latin, Italian, German, or French). Appropriate styles include art songs, music theater, or arias from operatic or oratorio works. An accompanist will be provided for the audition.

Brass/Strings/Woodwinds

Prepare two contrasting pieces from the standard solo literature of your instrument. Be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of scales (full range of your instrument). You may choose your desired scales.

Piano

Prepare two contrasting pieces from the standard piano solo repertoire featuring two of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic, and 20th Century. Be prepared to play major and harmonic minor scales (four octaves) up to 5 sharps and 5 flats.

Percussion

Prepare pieces in at least one of the five following categories:

- Snare: showing rudiments
- Mallet: (2 or 4 mallets) major scales (two octaves) up to 4 sharps and 4 flats
- Timpani: showing tuning
- Drum Set: various styles (swing, Latin, etc.)
- Marching Percussion: (snare, multi-toms, or bass)
-

Classical Guitar, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Bass Guitar

Prepare two pieces in contrasting styles demonstrating classical and/or contemporary abilities. Jazz bass players should demonstrate a walking bass line. Be prepared to play major scales (two octaves) up to 4 sharps and 4 flats.

NOTE: Sight-reading, scales, or vocalizing may be requested during live auditions.

Performance & Pedagogy Division

(BM Performance & Pedagogy, BM Composition for Stage and Screen)

Pieces must be of intermediate standard etude and solo literature quality. Prior ensemble literature will not be considered as acceptable for the audition process regardless of instrument. Sight-reading, scales, or vocalizing may be requested during live auditions.

Vocal/Choral

Prepare four songs of contrasting styles, demonstrating foreign language proficiency (Latin, Italian, German, or French). One selection may be Broadway. Appropriate styles include art songs, music theater, or arias from operatic or oratorio works. An accompanist will be provided for the audition.

Brass/Woodwinds

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Strings

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Timpani/Percussion

Prepare pieces in all five following categories:

- Snare: demonstrating mastery of rudiments
- Mallet: (2 or 4 mallets) major and minor scales (two octaves).
- Timpani: one etude
- Drum Set: various styles (swing, Latin, Funk, R&B, etc.)

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Piano

Prepare four contrasting pieces from the standard piano solo repertoire as listed below:

1. Baroque – a Prelude and Fugue by J.S. Bach from The Well-Tempered Clavier - or- a contrapuntal work from a Baroque composer.
2. Classical - a movement of a Sonata by a classical composer.
3. Two pieces of the following style periods: Romantic, Impressionistic, and 20th Century.

[Note: An etude of virtuosity may be used to substitute for one of the two remaining pieces, provided it is still representative of the three style periods indicated.]

Graduate Degrees

(Master of Music with concentrations in Composition, Conducting, or Performance)

Vocal/Choral

Prepare four songs of contrasting styles, demonstrating foreign language proficiency (Latin, Italian, German, or French).

One selection may be Broadway. Appropriate styles include art songs, music theater, or arias from operatic or oratorio works.

An accompanist will be provided for the audition.

Flute

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Oboe

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Clarinet

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Bassoon

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Horn

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Trumpet

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Trombone

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Tuba

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Timpani/Percussion

Prepare pieces in all five following categories:

- Snare: demonstrating mastery of rudiments
- Mallet: (2 or 4 mallets) major and minor scales (two octaves).
- Timpani: one etude
- Drum Set: various styles (swing, Latin, Funk, RnB, etc.)

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Harp

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Violin

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Viola

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Cello

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Double Bass

Prepare three contrasting pieces from your instrument's standard etude and solo literature. Be prepared to play all major and minor scales (full range of your instrument).

Piano

Prepare four contrasting pieces from the standard piano solo repertoire as listed below:

4. Baroque – a Prelude and Fugue by J.S. Bach from The Well-Tempered Clavier - or- a contrapuntal work from a Baroque composer.
5. Classical - a movement of a Sonata by a classical composer.
6. Two pieces of the following style periods: Romantic, Impressionistic, and 20th Century.

[Note: An etude of virtuosity may be used to substitute for one of the two remaining pieces, provided it is still representative of the three style periods indicated.]

Classical Guitar, Jazz Guitar, Jazz Bass Guitar

Prepare four pieces in contrasting styles (eras) demonstrating classical and/or contemporary abilities. Jazz bass will include jazz lead sheet realization and funk and RnB styles.

Be prepared to play major and minor scales as well as modes (two octaves). Jazz bass and contemporary guitar will demonstrate improvisation abilities.

Choral Conducting

Prepare two vocal selections of contrasting styles, with one of the two in a foreign language (Latin, Italian, German, or French). The audition will also include a demonstration of conducting from a score provided in advance. Assessments regarding sight reading, aural acuity, piano, and language proficiency will be made.

Instrumental Conducting

Prepare two contrasting pieces from the standard solo literature of your primary instrument. Be prepared to play major scales (two octaves as appropriate) up to 4 sharps and 4 flats. For the conducting audition, you will be asked to present a live audition with a CBU ensemble. Repertoire will be provided ahead of time. Assessments will be made regarding transpositions, instrumentation, and knowledge of instrumental score reading.

Master in Music Education

The Master of Music Education does not have an audition requirement. Admission requisites will be assessed upon application process. MME candidates may audition for additional scholarships if available for ensemble rehearsals. If so, candidates must submit auditions based on the criteria for Master of Music degree according to their concentrations.

Commercial Music Division

Undergraduate Majors (BM Commercial Performance, BM Songwriting, BM Studio Production)

Voice

Prepare 2-3 musical selections of contrasting styles with backing tracks.

Acoustic/Electric Guitar

- Prepare 2-3 musical selections in contrasting styles with backing tracks
- Major, pentatonic, minor scales, and modes (2-octaves)
- Seventh chord voicing and extended chords
- Sight reading and chord realization of a lead sheet

Bass Guitar

- Prepare 2-3 musical selections of contrasting styles with backing tracks
- Scales (Major, minor, modes)
- Demonstration of grooves (blues, funk)
- Sight reading—walking bass (Jazz)

Drums

- Prepare 2-3 selections of contrasting styles and grooves with backing tracks
- Rudiments
- Sight reading
- Demonstration of grooves (blues shuffle, rock, swing)

Keyboard

- Prepare 2-3 musical selections of contrasting styles with backing tracks (a performance of one classical and one jazz is suggested).
- Scales (major, minor, modes—2 octaves)
- Sight reading, including chord realization in different styles

Singer/Songwriter

Prepare and perform 2-3 original compositions (lead or lyric sheet must accompany audition).

Studio Production

Prepare a video submission that showcases playing to a produced piece, live mixing, and showing segments of finished works while answering the following questions:

1. Introduction, a brief background of musical experience;
2. Rationale and goals for studying Studio Production;
3. Career aspirations.

Worship Arts Division

Undergraduate Majors (BA Music for Worship Arts and Ministry)

Sing one modern worship song or hymn of your choosing without accompaniment. The song should be chosen to demonstrate artistic sensibility and vocal range.

Demonstrate any guitar and/or piano skills

- Singing a worship song or hymn of your choosing while accompanying yourself on guitar or piano.
- Playing a piece of your choosing on guitar or piano highlights your skill range.

Notification of scholarship award and program acceptance will take place after student has scheduled and completed an interview with Dr. Chessa Williams.

Graduate Majors (MA Worship Arts)

A musical audition is not required for admittance into the degree program unless specifically requested by the Program Director. If students do not have a music undergraduate or significant musical/worship leadership experience, a musical audition may be required.

All prospective MA Worship Arts students must schedule an interview with the Program Director in which they should be prepared to discuss the following:

- Faith journey and relationship with Christ
- Calling to ministry
- Experiences in worship ministry
- Expectations and rationale for pursuing a graduate degree in worship arts

Notification of scholarship award and program acceptance will take place after student has scheduled and completed an interview with Dr. Chessa Williams.

Theatre Arts Division

Undergraduate Majors (BA Theatre)

Please "slate" at the start of your audition. Tell us your name and the titles of the pieces you will be performing.

Musical Theatre

- Prepare two contrasting monologues from theatrical literature, total time of presented monologues shall not exceed three minutes. Please pick one of the following two options:
 - One dramatic and one comedic, each from any time period.
 - One classical monologue and one contemporary, each from any genre.
- Prepare two pieces of music from musical theatre repertoire that showcase your vocal range and abilities. Each piece should be 32 bars. Please pick one of three options:
 - one Golden age and one contemporary
 - one up tempo and one ballad
 - another type of contrast between the two (i.e. style, tempo, or comedic vs. dramatic)
- All in-person auditions will need to provide sheet music for your accompanist.

Performance for Stage & Screen

- Prepare two contrasting monologues from theatrical literature, total time of presented monologues shall not exceed three minutes. Please pick one of two options:
 - one dramatic and one comedic from any time period.
 - one classical monologue and one contemporary from any genre.

Design for Stage & Screen

- Please submit a resume of your theatre work and a design portfolio if you have one.
- Students interested in design and technical theatre will interview with the design professor.

Non-School of Performing Arts Majors

All non-major Performing Arts auditions are to submit video auditions that adhere to the following criteria:

All non-major Performing Arts auditions are subject to the same assessment as the expectations enumerated in above sections. Please provide accompaniment materials or backing track (no vocals) prior to your audition date.

Voice

Prepare two 32-bar pieces in contrasting styles (i.e., an art song, aria, hymn, Broadway showtune, or modern worship song). The audition will also include an assessment of the ability to read music and tonal memory.

Instrumental

For all non-music major instrumental auditions, please follow the criteria outlined in the applicable instrumental section below for guidance in preparation for your audition.

Theatre (Minors and Participants)

For those planning to minor in theatre, please submit two contrasting monologues, following the directions for those as listed for majors. If you choose to sing, please similarly present the two selections of 32 bars of music.

If you are not planning to major or minor, there is no pre-audition. You can audition for productions when you are enrolled as a student.