

# Performing Arts Audition Expectations



Shelby and Ferne Collinsworth  
School of Performing Arts

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

## Audition Expectations

This document contains instructions for the following types of auditions:

- Music Education and Performance Division (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- Commercial Music (Undergraduate)
- Worship Arts (Undergraduate and Graduate)
- Theatre Arts (Undergraduate)
- Non-Major Music and Theatre Auditions (Undergraduate)

## Admission 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.
- Attend our annual Audition Day in February.
- Submit a video audition.

## Video Audition Recommendations

- 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.
- The easiest way to submit your video is to upload it to a file-sharing service (Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud) and share a link to the file. You may also upload the video to YouTube and share the link.

# Music Education and Performance Division

## Undergraduate Majors

### (BA Music, BM Music Education, BM Performance, BM Composition for Stage and Screen)

#### 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 play all major scales (full range of your instrument).

#### 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 and/or scales may be requested during live auditions**

## Graduate Majors

### (MM Performance, MM Music Education, MM Composition, and Performance Certificate)

#### Voice/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/Strings/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).

## **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.*

## **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.)

## **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.

# **Graduate Majors (MM Choral Conducting, MM Instrumental Conducting)**

## **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 instrument. Be prepared to play major scales (two octaves as appropriate) up to 4 sharps and 4 flats. The live audition will also include a demonstration of conducting from a provided score ahead of time. Assessments will be made regarding transpositions, instrumentation, and knowledge of orchestral score reading.

# 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 (a capella auditions are not suggested)

### 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
- Improvisation
- 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
- Improvisation

### Singer/Songwriter

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

### Studio Production

While a musical audition is not required for admittance to the program, it is highly suggested.

Students must submit a 500-word essay or five-minute video addressing:

- Introduction—providing a brief background of musical experience;
- Rationale and goals for studying studio production;
- Career aspirations and goals.

*An in-person interview will satisfy the essay requirement if desired.*

# 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 by:**

- 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.

**Students must submit a 500-word essay or five-minute video addressing:**

- Introduction—providing a brief background of musical and worship leadership experience;
- Briefly describe your faith journey and your relationship with Christ
- Briefly describe your understanding of your call to ministry and why you are interested in studying worship arts.

*An in-person interview will satisfy the essay requirement if desired.*

## 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

# Theatre Arts Division

## Undergraduate Majors (BA Theatre)

### Musical Theatre

- Prepare two contrasting monologues from theatrical literature. Together, they should not exceed a total of three minutes. Please pick one of two options:
  - a) one dramatic and one comedic, each from any period
  - b) 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:
  - a) one Golden age and one contemporary
  - b) one up tempo and one ballad
  - c) another type of contrast between the two i.e. style, tempo, or comedic vs. dramatic
- Please "slate" at the start of your audition. Tell us your name and the titles of the pieces you will be performing.
- If auditioning in-person, you need to provide your sheet music for the accompanist. If submitting a recorded audition, we will accept pre-recorded accompaniment in your video. Auditions in-person will not use pre-recorded accompaniment.

### Performance for Stage & Screen

- Prepare two contrasting monologues from theatrical literature. Together, the monologues should not exceed three minutes total. Please pick one of two options:
  - a) one dramatic and one comedic from any period
  - b) one classical monologue and one contemporary from any genre
- Please "slate" at the start of your audition. Tell us your name and the titles of the pieces you will be performing.

### Design for Stage & Screen

- Students interested in design and technical theatre will interview with the design professor.
- Design students are encouraged to submit a portfolio of their work if they have one.

*For all audition and interview submissions, please attach a brief resume with your submission. A headshot is required for students interested in pursuing the Musical Theatre and Performance concentrations, but not for the Design concentration.*

# Non-School of Performing Majors

## **Voice**

Prepare two songs in contrasting styles (i.e., an art song, aria, hymn, a “legit” Broadway song, or a modern worship song). An assessment of the ability to read music and tonal memory will be included.

## **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**

Follow the same expectations as listed above for Theatre majors.