

Preparing for Music Program Auditions

Please contact our Fine Arts Department Assistant, Tanya Kinderwater at TKinderwater@NWPolytech.ca if you have any questions about the audition procedure, or if you are unsure about the performance requirements for your instrument. The following list indicates the minimum audition requirements for your instrument.

PIANO

Applicants to the Bachelor of Music or the Music Performance Diploma should prepare two contrasting piano pieces, one each chosen from the following eras of music (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Twentieth Century or from the Popular Music Study List of Royal Conservatory). The recommended entry level for the Bachelor of Music program is Grade Eight level (or higher) Royal Conservatory or Conservatory Canada. Those students who have not yet achieved Grade Eight standing should consult with Carmen Gorgichuk about how to best prepare an audition. Those candidates may be admitted by approval of the Fine Arts Department to the Bachelor of Music program or the Music Performance Diploma program based on musical potential or previous experience. Contact Carmen Gorgichuk at CGorgichuk@NWPolytech.ca for suggestions about repertoire.

VOICE

Applicants to the Diploma of Music (popular/contemporary emphasis) should prepare two contrasting pieces in various contemporary genres (jazz, rock, blues, Motown, folk, etc.) and styles. You must provide your own accompaniment (pianist, accompaniment, or track).

Applicants to the Music Diploma program (classical music emphasis) should prepare two pieces and one should be in a language other than English (French, Italian, or German). You must provide your own accompanist (see note regarding accompanists below).

Applicants to the Bachelor of Music program (classical music emphasis) should prepare three pieces – at least one selection should be a language other than English (French, Italian, or German).

Bachelor of Music (popular/contemporary emphasis) should prepare three contrasting pieces in various contemporary genres (jazz, blues, Motown, folk, etc.) and styles (upbeat, swing, slow ballad, etc.). You must provide your own accompaniment (pianist, accompaniment track and method of projecting the sound – computer with speakers, ipad with speakers, etc.).

Contact Tina Alexander at TAlexanderLuna@NWPolytech.ca for suggestions about repertoire or if you have any questions.

PERCUSSION

You may focus on either 'percussion' or 'drum set' for a Music Diploma or Bachelor of Music. If your focus is percussion, your audition should include material from at least two of the three primary areas of percussion study: keyboard percussion (xylophone, vibraphone, or marimba), snare drum, or timpani.

Keyboard percussion: Applicants should be prepared to perform one piece or étude and a selection of major scales.

Snare Drum: Applicants should be prepared to perform one piece or étude and a selection of rudiments (e.g. long roll, 5 stroke roll, 9 stroke roll, flam, paradiddle, ruff/drag)

Timpani: Applicants should be prepared to perform one piece or étude.

If your focus is drum set, you should demonstrate one étude or piece (which could be with a play-along recording) and demonstrate sixteen-bar-long time feels with a central fill, in at least five of the following styles: rock/country, swing, bossa nova, samba, jazz waltz, shuffle, funk, and 12/8 feels.

Contact Geoff Whittall at GWhittall@NWPolytech.ca for suggestions about repertoire, and ideas about preparing for an audition.

BRASS AND GUITAR

These instruments are dependent on the availability of an instructor. Please notify our office early if you are interested in these instruments.

ACCOMPANISTS

Applicants are required to provide, and hire if necessary, their own accompanist for the audition. Your accompanist must be able to successfully perform the accompaniment part at the required tempo. If you do not know of a pianist in Grande Prairie who can play for you then please contact our Conservatory office for a list of conservatory piano teachers or students who may be able to help you.

Contact Fay Bredeson, Conservatory Assistant at FBredeson@NWPolytech.ca