

Entrance Requirements

Every student who desires to be a music major must pass an entry-level audition in their applied area. The requirements for those auditions are listed below. If a student does not pass their initial audition they may enroll as a provisional music major and take elective lessons for up to one year in an attempt to successfully pass this audition. If a student is unable to pass this audition after one year, they can no longer hold provisional status within the Department.

Private applied instruction is available to all Trevecca students, regardless of major, but is required of all music degree-seeking students. Lessons can be taken for degree or elective credit. Please read about the proficiency requirements below for enrolling in applied study. You may direct specific questions about these requirements to the professor listed.

Keyboard (Piano) Instruments

Anyone can take elective piano lessons without a placement and without prior piano lessons. Students wishing to study piano as a music major must audition with the keyboard area coordinator. The placement requirements are as follows:

Piano students should prepare two selections (one memorized). Both pieces should be from the traditional classical piano repertoire and at least one must be equivalent in difficulty to a Bach two-part invention. In addition, a student applying for commercial study may perform up to two selections drawn from commercial genres, including original compositions.

For more information, email Dr. Paul Christianson at PChristian@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1293.

Guitar & Bass Instruments

Students wishing to major or minor in music on guitar or bass must audition with the guitar and bass coordinator. The placement determines whether the student will be placed in private elective lessons for the first semester, or be placed in private, applied study. Class guitar and elective guitar lessons are open to all students and do not require an audition. Students wishing to be considered for scholarships ([See Scholarships](#)), should be aware that placements are held on departmentally selected dates or by appointment.

Audition requirements for the guitar/bass major, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

Guitar

The prospective student should prepare two of the following three choices for admission into the applied guitar program:

1. A popular jazz standard (Jazz standards can be found in *The Real Book: Sixth Edition* by Hal Leonard or any popular jazz fake book; Examples of song choices: *Satin Doll*, *How High the Moon*, *Autumn Leaves*, *Blue Bossa*, etc.)
 - Play melody of jazz standard from beginning to end
 - Play chords of entire song
 - Improvise a solo over the entire song form
2. Perform a classical guitar piece of student's choosing. Example - Etude by Carcassi, Sor, Bach, Giuliani, etc.
3. Perform a piece of student's choosing (rock, jazz, fusion, country, pop, etc.)
 - Please provide a play-along track unless it is an unaccompanied song
 - Performance should include melody, chords and improvised solo

The prospective guitar student's knowledge of chords, arpeggios and major and minor scales will be ascertained during the audition process. Sight reading skills will also be tested during this process.

Bass

The prospective student should prepare two of the following three choices for admission into the applied electric bass program:

1. A popular jazz standard (Jazz standards can be found in *The Real Book: Sixth Edition* by Hal Leonard or any popular jazz fake book). Examples of song choices: *Satin Doll*, *How High the Moon*, *Autumn Leaves*, *Blue Bossa*, etc.
 - Play melody of jazz standard from beginning to end
 - Walk a bass line over the chords of entire song
 - Improvise a solo over the entire song form
2. Perform a classical piece of student's choosing
 - Student may reference *J. S. Bach for Bass*, by Josquin de Pres or *Easy Classical Bass Solos* by Javier Marco
3. Perform a piece of student's choosing in the style of any popular bassist in commercial music (rock, funk, jazz, fusion— Victor Wooten, Marcus Miller, Stanley Clark, Geddy Lee, Steve Harris, Flea, James Jamerson, Chris Squire, Brian Bromberg, Jaco Pastorius, etc.)
 - Please provide a play-along track unless it is an unaccompanied song
 - Performance should include bass line and improvised solo (if applicable)

The prospective bass student's knowledge of chords, arpeggios and major and minor scales will be ascertained during the audition process. Sight reading skills will be tested during this process.

Once the prospective student has auditioned, they will be informed of the decision as to their placement in a class option, elective lessons, or private lessons.

For more information, email professor Jeff Cox at JCox@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1292.

Percussion Instruments

Students wishing to study an instrument, whether as a music major/minor or for elective credit, must audition with the appropriate coordinator. The audition determines whether the student will be placed in elective lessons for the first semester, or be placed in private study. Students wishing to be considered for scholarships ([See Scholarships](#)), should be aware that placements are held on departmentally selected dates or by appointment. The placement requirements, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

- Drum Set
- Mallets
- Timpani
- Snare Drum

Once the prospective student has auditioned, they will be informed of the decision as to their placement in a class option, elective lessons, or private lessons.

Below is a rubric for the Percussion diagnostic and resources available for download at the bottom of the page.

[PERCUSSION RUBRIC](#)
[DRUMSET RUBRIC](#)

Concert Percussion Placement Material

1. [Mallet Keyboard](#)
2. [Multiple Percussion](#)
3. [Snare Drum](#)
4. [Timpani](#)

Drumset Placement Material

1. [Funk Chart - Affordable](#)
 - [MP3 - Affordable](#)
2. [Jazz Chart - A little tougher](#)
 - [MP3 - A little tougher](#)
3. [Coordination Chart - New Breed](#)

For more information, email Dr. Matthew Murdock at MMurdock@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1269.

Trevecca Percussion Optional Audition Materials

Pick one **OPTIONAL** item from the list below, in addition to the required materials. The information below is *not* required but simply an option for you to provide us with more information on your skill set as a percussionist or drum set player for review.

Drum Solo

- Improvise a 2–3-minute drum solo with no accompaniment in any style you prefer. You may also choose to play a published/written drum solo. This solo should express yourself as a musician and utilize compositional elements such as phrasing, dynamics, melodic rhythms, themes and variations, and ostinatos.

For inspiration, watch compositional drum solos that might fit well with your skill set and build your own solo from there. Here are some examples. Have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SaYqRLjfO4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnPFoSw0RSA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72c9LB6gMOQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AS71j5nysw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyvsasszKRA>

Hand Drums

- If you have experience playing hand drums (congas, Djembe, tabla drum, etc.) and would like to demonstrate your ability, play a 2-3 minute published/written solo, or improvise one of your own.

Create a Drum Cover

- Choose any 3–4-minute song to cover, or an existing play-along track that you enjoy playing and feel represents you well as a musician. The track you play with must *not* have existing drums on it, or it will not be accepted.

Four Mallet Marimba Solo

- Choose and perform any four-mallet marimba solo piece approximately 3-4 minutes in length.

Voice Study

Students wishing to study voice, whether as a music major/minor in commercial or general music or for elective credit, must audition with the vocal coordinator. The placement determines whether the student will be placed in vocal fundamentals or elective lessons for the first semester, or begin private voice study. Students wishing to be considered for scholarships ([See Scholarships](#)), should be aware that placements are held on departmentally selected dates or by appointment. The placement requirements, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

General/Classical Voice Study

- Sing, from memory, two songs using either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. One song must be in a foreign language (Italian, German, or French preferred), and the other must be an English art song
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment

Suggested vocal collections from which songs might be selected include 24 Italian Art Songs and Arias (G. Schirmer, publisher) and the “First Book” series (Ed. Joan Boytim), both available through halleonard.com.

Commercial Voice Study

- Sing, from memory, two songs using either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. One song must be from the classical genre (in either Italian or an English art song), and the other must be commercial in style (Musical Theatre and Jazz Standards are encouraged)
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment
- In addition, songwriting students should sing one of their original songs and provide 2-3 lead sheets of original songs

Suggested vocal collections from which songs might be selected include the “First Book” series (Ed. Joan Boytim), “The Singer’s Musical Theatre Anthology” series (Ed. Richard Walters), or “The Real Vocal Book” (Hal Leonard).

Elective Voice Study

- Sing one song or hymn with either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. The selection does not need to be performed from memory
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment

For more information, email Dr. Angela Carr Forsythe at abcarrforsythe@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1228.

Wind & Orchestral Instruments

Students wishing to study a wind or orchestral instrument, whether as a music major/minor or for elective credit, must audition with the appropriate coordinator. The placement determines whether the student will be placed in elective lessons for the first semester, or be placed in private study. Students wishing to be considered for scholarships ([See Scholarships](#)), should be aware that placements are held on departmentally selected dates or by appointment. The placement requirements, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

- Perform one song as a prepared piece
- Sight read a short selection
- Be prepared to play all major scales

Once the prospective student has auditioned, they will be informed of the decision as to their placement in a class option, elective lessons, or private lessons.

For more information, email Dr. Matthew Murdock at MMurdock@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1269.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is required for a scholarship audition?**
 - Any student desiring to study through the School of Music and Worship Arts must audition. This audition also completes the requirements for a scholarship audition. These auditions require a Theory Diagnostic Test, Applied Lesson Audition(s), and Piano Audition.
- **When will auditions be held?**
 - Students may send in a video audition to demonstrate their abilities with their application or may audition in person. Any students submitting a video audition must understand that further auditions may be required at New Student Orientation. In person auditions will take place by appointment on one of the pre-scheduled audition days:
 - February 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - June Orientation or August Orientation
- **How do I apply for a Department of Music Scholarship?**
 - [Click here](#)
- **When will scholarship decisions be made?**
 - All Music scholarships will be awarded after February 15, 2020.
- **Is an accompanist available for my audition?**

- We can have an accompanist available as needed. If you plan to use an accompanist, please contact the School of Music and Worship Arts at 615-248-1288.
- **What recording equipment is required for a video audition?**
 - A laptop or camera with a microphone is sufficient for your audition via video.
- **Who can I contact with questions?**
 - You may contact the School of Music and Worship Arts at 615-248-1288.