

## **VCASS MUSIC AUDITION INFORMATION 2022**

Before you start your online application to audition, we recommend you watch our auditions checklist video prepared by one of the School Captains from 2021:

[VCASS Video Audition Information](#)

### **VCASS Auditions**

All VCASS audition applications will be submitted as a video.

This video will be uploaded directly to our online application portal.

### **Subsequent Rounds**

If needed, subsequent auditions/interviews will take place face to face online or face to face onsite at VCASS.

### **AUDITION APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. **Watch the checklist video**
2. **Assemble all required PDF or JPEG documents no bigger than 5MB**
  - Copy of Birth Certificate
  - Small photo (can be a JPEG)
  - Current VISA documents (if applicable)
  - Copy of Semester TWO report from previous year
  - Student Statement - Why would you like to attend VCASS?
3. **Record one unedited MP4 format video no bigger than 400MB**
  - See the requirements outlined in this document below
  - Pausing a video between songs is not considered as an edit

#### **This video must include:**

- A spoken introduction stating your name, current year level, stream you are applying for and a brief summary telling us about yourself
  - Specific illustrations/demonstrations of your skills in line with the audition requirements below
4. **Complete online application**
  5. **Upload your video into application**
  6. **Pay and submit your application**

## TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR VIDEO

We expect most applicants will be filming in a quiet workplace setting, using whatever device they have at their disposal. Do the best with what you have and remember these tips:

- Present an introduction of yourself at the beginning – stating your name, year level, application number and chosen stream (brief one minute maximum)
- Film in a clear, well-lit space so we can see you
- Check the quality and / or sound of the image prior to submission
- Do not record outside of a building e.g. a park or garden with additional noise
- You must be visible in the video at all times
- Your video should be filmed in one sitting and not edited (pausing the video is permitted)

## CONTENT OF VIDEO

Video footage must contain:

- Introduction
- A short solo technical study or work of technical focus
- Improvisation applicants may present a transcription in place of the technical study
- Two favourite scales and one arpeggio
- Two contrasting repertoire works – either with a live accompaniment or unaccompanied

If the applicant plays a “second instrument” then they may include video of one work on this instrument (counted within the video- not a separate video of the second instrument).

## INSTRUMENTAL PROFICIENCY FOR VIDEO

Applicants are not required to undertake prior music examinations.

However, the following serves as a guide:

<b>Piano (classical), Violin, Cello</b>	Entering Years 7/8: AMEB Grade 6 Entering Years 9/10: AMEB Grade 7 Entering Year 11: AMEB Grade 8 Entering Year 12: AMEB Associate Diploma
<b>Other instruments including improvisation stream</b>	It is advised that applicants have had several years of tuition by a suitably trained and qualified instrumental music teacher.
<b>Voice</b>	Whilst vocal training is not mandatory, it is advisable applicants have received some vocal training within a choir or private lessons.  The policy of VCASS Music is that voice students will not enter years 7, 8 & 9 specifically as an improvisation student. If they are deemed to be a suitable candidate for VCASS, the early voice pathways are focused on voice building.

## MUSIC THEORY KNOWLEDGE

Formal music theory tuition is not mandatory; however, the following serves as a guide:

Year 7: AMEB Grade 1

Year 8: AMEB Grade 2

Year 9: AMEB Grade 3

Year 10: AMEB Grade 4

Years 11 – 12: AMEB Grade 5 or VCE Music Performance Units 1 & 2

Auditioning students may be required to sit a music theory and aural assessment as part of the audition process.

Whilst there is no expectation that an applicant is highly skilled on a second instrument, presentation of one work on an additional instrument may be appropriate.

## ACCOMPANIMENT

Typically, applicants auditioning on piano, guitar, drums and percussion may not need an accompanist.

If your two performance pieces have accompaniment, we recommend you use an accompanist.

For a list of freelance accompanists refer to the [Victorian Music Teachers' Association](#) website.

Recorded accompaniment is **not** permitted.

The following instruments have **specific audition requirements**:

<p><b>Voice</b></p>	<p>Vocalists must sing without a microphone.</p> <p>Recorded accompaniment is not permitted.</p> <p>All vocalists should select a work that displays your middle and upper register.</p> <p>It is important to sing without force.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Improvising Vocalists</u></b></p> <p>Entering Year 7-9: <b>at least one song</b> should be selected from any book from AMEB Grade 1-4 Singing Series 2, or <i>ABRSM Songbook</i>, Books 3-5.</p> <p>Entering Year 10-12: at least one song should be selected from “<i>26 Italian Songs and Arias: Authoritative Edition</i> by Paton, or a comparable song in Italian, French or German.</p> <p><b><u>Improvising Vocalists</u></b></p> <p>Should include one of the following <b>jazz standards</b> as one of your two contrasting works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swing - <i>Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud</i></li> <li>● Latin - <i>St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain</i></li> <li>● Ballad - <i>Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child</i></li> </ul> <p>The applicant should also be prepared to improvise over a blues progression and a <b>ii-V-I</b> chord progression.</p>
<p><b>Piano - Classical</b></p>	<p>One work of your choice;</p> <p>One Classical work (c.1730-1820)</p> <p>One Study (from any period) or Baroque work (c.1600-1760)</p>
<p><b>Improvisation Applicants</b></p>	<p>Prepare one work of your own choosing.</p> <p>In addition prepare one contrasting well known <b>jazz standard</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swing - <i>Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud</i></li> <li>● Latin - <i>St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain</i></li> <li>● Ballad - <i>Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child</i></li> </ul> <p>Effects pedals are not permitted.</p>

<b>Drum Kit</b>	<p>Drummers must play with <b>sticks and brushes</b> and demonstrate a variety of feels and grooves including Latin, Swing, Ballad, Funk and Jazz Waltz.</p> <p>Technical work must include basic drum rudiments, <b>plus</b> one solo from the book <i>The All-American Drummer</i> by Charley Wilcoxon.</p> <p>In addition prepare two contrasting well known <b>jazz standards</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Swing - <i>Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, In Walked Bud</i></li> <li>● Latin - <i>St Thomas, Black Orpheus, Gentle Rain</i></li> <li>● Ballad - <i>Alone Together, In a Sentimental Mood, God Bless the Child</i></li> </ul> <p>Double kick pedals are not permitted.</p>
<b>Percussion</b>	<p>If invited to attend a follow up audition, Percussion applicants must email <a href="mailto:music@vcass.vic.edu.au">music@vcass.vic.edu.au</a> to confirm which instruments, if any, you require us to provide at your audition (i.e. classical snare, marimba, vibraphone).</p> <p>You need to bring your own sticks and mallets.</p>

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- After viewing your video and reading your application, the panel may request a follow-up audition/interview. This will be either at VCASS or online
- Auditionees receive an email advising them of their outcome. If unsuccessful, you are most welcome to audition again in the future
- The outcome of the audition is final and not subject to appeal
- It is VCASS School Policy that we do not offer any feedback to applicants regarding their audition

### FURTHER INFORMATION

To view detailed information about the Music curriculum at VCASS, please visit the Music page on our website: [Music Handbook 2022](#)

General Enquiries: For any general enquiries call our office on 03 8644 8644