

MOORES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

GRADUATE AUDITION & APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

2025-2026

Moores School Of Music 3333 Cullen Blvd. Houston, TX 77204-4017 713-743-3009 https://uh.edu/kgmca/msm/home



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PROPER AUDITION ATTIRE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

For additional information about graduate admissions, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies at <u>gradmusic@uh.edu</u>



BRASS

BRASS AREA HEAD

Gavin Reed • gdreed@central.uh.edu • (713) 743-3888

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selections may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC (PERFORMANCE—BRASS INSTRUMENT)

- Demonstrate all major and minor scales over the full range of the instrument
- Three contrasting selections, including:
 - o One movement from a concerto
 - o Two selections from standard repertoire for the instrument
- Five standard orchestral excerpts (Euphonium applicants may use band excerpts)

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PERFORMANCE—BRASS INSTRUMENT)

- One hour of music representing a variety of styles
- At least one major work memorized (concerto or major unaccompanied work)
- Piano accompaniment optional; pre-recorded tracks are acceptable

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (BRASS INSTRUMENT)

- One hour of music representing a variety of styles
- At least one major work memorized (concerto or major unaccompanied work)

For further information regarding brass auditions, please contact:



COMPOSITION

COMPOSITION STUDIES COORDINATOR

Rob Smith • <u>robsmith@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3163

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC (COMPOSITION) / DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (COMPOSITION)

- All graduate composition applicants must submit a portfolio that includes:
 - o Three representative scores with corresponding recordings of original works featuring contrasting instrumentation. Live recordings are strongly encouraged for MM applicants and required for DMA applicants.
 - o A complete list of compositions (including instrumentation, duration, dates, and performances).
 - o A program from an undergraduate or master's composition recital, if applicable.
- Selected applicants will be invited to interview with the composition faculty.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR ALL APPLICANTS

• Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for a teaching assistantship. This requires an audition/interview and completion of the theory placement exam, which is offered on all audition days.



PERCUSSION

PERCUSSION AREA HEAD

Blake Wilkin • <u>bwilkins@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3192

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

- Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selections may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.
- A brief vita including your education, music-related work, and any awards or honors (music or otherwise).
- A repertoire list of all solos and percussion ensembles you have performed.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC

- CONCERT SNARE DRUM
 - o One advanced snare drum etude or solo (appropriate for an advanced senior recital)
 - o Two orchestral excerpts of your choice

KEYBOARD

- o One two-mallet solo (single movements allowed)
- o One four-mallet solo (single movements allowed)
- o Two xylophone orchestral excerpts of your choice

TIMPANI

- o One advanced etude or short solo for four or five timpani
- o Two timpani orchestral excerpts of your choice

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS / CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

• CONCERT SNARE DRUM

- o One advanced snare drum etude or solo (master's degree level)
- o Three orchestral excerpts of your choice

KEYBOARD

- o One two-mallet solo (master's degree level)
- o Two contrasting four-mallet solos (either both marimba or one marimba and one vibraphone); all movements of multi-movement works must be performed
- o Three orchestral xylophone excerpts of your choice

• TIMPANI

- o One advanced etude or solo for four or five timpani (master's degree level)
- o Three timpani orchestral excerpts of your choice

• MULTIPLE PERCUSSION (OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED)

o One advanced multiple percussion solo (master's degree level); single movements from multi-movement works are acceptable

For further information regarding percussion auditions, please contact

DR. BLAKE WILKINS, PERCUSSION AREA HEAD . BWILKINS@UH.EDU



PIANO

KEYBOARD AREA HEAD

Timothy Hester • thester@uh.edu • (713) 743-3309

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selections may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC (PIANO PERFORMANCE / PIANO PERFORMANCE & PEDAGOGY)

- Three fully memorized selections from the standard classical piano repertoire
- Selections must represent contrasting musical periods and styles
- Program length: approximately 20 minutes
- Sight-reading skills may be assessed

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PIANO PERFORMANCE)

- Fully memorized recital program, minimum 60 minutes in length
- Works from the standard classical piano repertoire, representing at least three contrasting musical periods and styles
- Sight-reading skills may be assessed

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (PIANO)

- Fully memorized recital program, minimum 60 minutes in length
- Works from the standard classical piano repertoire, representing at least three contrasting musical periods and styles
- Sight-reading skills may be assessed



ORGAN

ORGAN AREA HEAD



Daryl Robinson • <u>darobinson@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-7316

All auditions will take place at the Moores School of Music on the C.B. Fisk studio organ. Instruments by Wahl and Pasi will also be available for practice during your audition visit.

• C.B. FISK STUDIO ORGAN:

C.B. Fisk, Op. 165 (2024) III/Ped. 10 stops Mechanical key and stop action Manual compass: 61 notes

Pedal compass: 32 notes

MANUAL I: Manual III is permanently coupled to Manual I

MANUAL II AND III: 8' Principal 8' Flûte harmonique 8' Bourdon 4' Octave

PEDAL: 16' Subbass (façade) 8' Flûte (from manuals)

COUPLERS: Manual II/I Manual II/Ped Manual III/Ped

- All stops are fully enclosed, with the exception of the 16' Subbass.
- Manual stops feature two stop knobs, located in Manual II and Manual III.
- The stops can be utilized in one division at a time, or simultaneously on Manual I.
- The Bourdon can be accessed concurrently on Manuals II and III, thanks to Wechselschleifen.
- The thumb and toe piston rails are non-functional, featuring General, Divisional, Sequencer, and Coupler reversible pistons arranged in the standard layout.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC (ORGAN PERFORMANCE) / DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (ORGAN PERFORMANCE)

- Performance from memory is encouraged, but not required
- 30-minute program of organ repertoire chosen by the applicant
- Must include works from at least three contrasting musical periods and styles
- At least one major work by J.S. Bach required
- Performance level:
 - o MM: comparable to a senior recital in organ
 - o DMA: comparable to a master's recital in organ

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (ORGAN TRACK)

- Performance from memory is encouraged, but not required
- Submit a preliminary video recording (full recital program, minimum 60 minutes) with application materials by the priority music deadline
- Program must include works from at least three contrasting musical periods and styles
- Applicants invited to a live audition will present a 30-minute program, followed by a faculty interview
- Sight-reading skills may be assessed

For further information regarding organ auditions, please contact



KEYBOARD COLLABORATIVE ARTS

KEYBOARD AREA HEAD

Timothy Hester • thester@uh.edu • (713) 743-3309

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selections may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

• IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants unable to perform with collaborative partners should notify Professor Timothy Hester in advance.

MASTER OF MUSIC (KEYBOARD COLLABORATIVE ARTS)

• Three representative works in different styles and varied instrumentation (e.g., baroque flute sonata, romantic string sonata, modern vocal work)

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PIANO PERFORMANCE-KEYBOARD COLLABORATIVE ARTS EMPHASIS)

- 30 minutes of solo playing representing at least two musical periods
- 40 minutes of collaborative repertoire representing at least three different types of compositions (e.g., 10 minutes of German lieder, 10 minutes of French string sonata or chamber work, 10 minutes of a 20th-century woodwind concerto reduction)

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (KEYBOARD COLLABORATIVE ARTS)

- 30 minutes of solo playing representing at least two musical periods
- 40 minutes of collaborative repertoire representing at least three different types of compositions (e.g., 10 minutes of German lieder, 10 minutes of French string sonata or chamber work, 10 minutes of a 20th-century woodwind concerto reduction)

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION AREAS

- Sight-reading of instrumental repertoire
- Sight-reading of vocal music, incorporating the vocal line into the accompaniment
- Transposition of a song up or down a half or whole step
- Full transcript, musical vita, and repertoire list must be presented at the audition



STRINGS

STRINGS AREA HEAD

Kirsten Yon • <u>kayon@central.uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3154

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selection(s) may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Substitutions to the listed repertoire are allowed if approved at least four weeks in advance by Dr. Yon and the string faculty.
 - IMPORTANT NOTE: To be considered for a scholarship, at least one movement or work in the audition repertoire must be memorized. Accompaniment is not provided on-site for live MM auditions, but it will be provided for DMA and CMP auditions.

MASTER OF MUSIC

• The required works should demonstrate appropriate technical difficulty and showcase contrasting musical genres. Applicants must perform the following for entrance into the graduate programs:

VIOLIN / VIOLA / CELLO

- Minimum of two movements of unaccompanied Bach
- First or third movement of a major concerto
- One additional contrasting work or movement of choice

DOUBLE BASS

- One movement of unaccompanied Bach
- One movement of a concerto
- Two contrasting orchestral excerpts

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PERFORMANCE—STRING INSTRUMENTS)

- 30-minute program with selections in at least three distinct musical styles
- Should reflect the highest level of technical and artistic achievement
- Must include evidence of memorization

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (STRING INSTRUMENTS)

- 50-minute recital program with selections in at least three distinct musical styles
- Should reflect the highest level of technical and artistic achievement
- Must include evidence of memorization

For further information regarding string auditions, please contact



HARP

STRINGS AREA HEAD

Kirsten Yon • <u>kayon@central.uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3154

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Upload at least 10 minutes of music that best represents your playing. Selections may be taken from any part of your audition repertoire. Applicants who pass prescreening will be invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

• IMPORTANT NOTE: To be considered for a scholarship, at least one movement or work in the audition repertoire must be memorized. Accompaniment is not provided on-site for live MM auditions, but it will be provided for DMA and CMP auditions.

MASTER OF MUSIC

- The required works should demonstrate appropriate technical difficulty and showcase contrasting musical genres. Applicants must perform the following for entrance into the graduate programs:
 - o One etude
 - Three contrasting works demonstrating the applicant's highest level of artistry, performed from memory
 - o One orchestral excerpt of choice

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PERFORMANCE—HARP)

- 30-minute program with selections in at least three distinct musical styles
- Should reflect the highest level of technical and artistic achievement
- Must include evidence of memorization

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (HARP)

- 50-minute recital program with selections in at least three distinct musical styles
- Should reflect the highest level of technical and artistic achievement
- Must include evidence of memorization



VOICE

VOICE AREA HEAD

Cynthia Clayton • cynthiaclayton@uh.edu • (713) 743-3309

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- In the application portal, upload five (5) video selections, including at least one operatic aria. One musical theatre selection is encouraged but not required.
- · Videos should be recorded in landscape orientation and from a distance that clearly shows the performance from memory.
- It is preferred that each selection be uploaded as a separate file, with the filename including the selection title and the singer's surname.
- Include the program from your most recent degree recital and a comprehensive repertoire list with your application.
- All application materials must be received by the priority music application deadline.
- If invited to a live audition:
 - o All selections must be performed from memory.
 - o An accompanist will be provided, but applicants may bring their own.
- Studio placement is determined by the voice faculty at the time of the audition. Applicants may request a specific teacher on the application and audition forms. If accepted by that teacher and space is available, the applicant will be placed in that studio. If no preference is stated or space is unavailable, the faculty will assign a teacher.

MASTER OF MUSIC

- Prepare at least five selections, demonstrating your highest level of achievement to date.
- Selections must include at least four different languages (one may be in English) and represent various national styles and historical periods.
- · Include at least one 21st-century composition that demonstrates facility with complex/contemporary idioms.
- A musical theatre selection is encouraged but not required (and does not satisfy the contemporary requirement above).
- We highly encourage including at least one work by a composer from a group historically underrepresented in opera and classical vocal literature (including, but not limited to, women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ composers).
- Applicants invited to a live audition must submit a performance résumé.

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS / CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE

- Prepare a 60-minute recital program from memory. The committee will select the works to be performed at the audition.
- The program must demonstrate superior technical ability, stylistic range, and a minimum of four languages (one may be in English).
- · Include at least one 21st-century composition that demonstrates facility with complex/contemporary idioms.
- A musical theatre selection is encouraged but not required (and does not satisfy the contemporary requirement above).
- We highly encourage including at least one work by a composer from a group historically underrepresented in opera and classical vocal literature (including, but not limited to, women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ composers).
- Applicants invited to a live audition must submit a current curriculum vitae.



WOODWINDS

WINDS AREA HEAD



Yevgeny Dokshansky • <u>ydokshansky@uh.edu</u>

PRESCREENING REQUIREMENTS

• Applicants should upload at least ten (10) minutes of music that best represents their playing. Selection(s) can be from any part of their audition repertoire. Applicants will be notified if they pass the pre-screening round and are invited to a live audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC (PERFORMANCE—WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS)

• FLUTE

- Three orchestral excerpts
- o One movement of a concerto
- o Two works of contrasting style

OBOE

- o Three orchestral excerpts of contrasting styles and periods
- o One movement of a concerto, one movement of a sonata in contrasting styles and periods

CLARINET

- o Full range major and minor (harmonic, melodic) scales through seven sharps and flats
- o Three contrasting works from the standard solo repertoire and three contrasting orchestral excerpts

BASSOON

- o Etude of applicant's choice from Milde 25 Studies in Scales and Chords for Bassoon Op.24
- o Two contrasting etudes from Milde Concert Studies Op.26 Volume 2 (26-50), Jancourt 26 Melodic Studies Op. 15, Orefici Melodic Studies, and Pivonka Rythmical Etudes for Bassoon
- o Two movements from a major concerto or sonata, e.g., Hummel, Mozart, Vivaldi, Saint-Saëns, Weber, Williams, Zwilich OR one movement from a major concerto/sonata and a solo bassoon piece
- o 3-5 orchestral excerpts demonstrating technical and musical ability

SAXOPHONE

- Two contrasting major works
- o All major scales and chords

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (PERFORMANCE—WOODWIND INSTRUMENT)

• All DMA woodwind applicants must present a sixty-minute recital including works of contrasting styles.

CERTIFICATE IN MUSIC PERFORMANCE (WOODWIND INSTRUMENT)

All CMP woodwind applicants must present a sixty-minute recital including works of contrasting styles.

For further information regarding woodwind auditions, please contact



CONDUCTING-CHORAL

DIRECTOR OF CHORAL STUDIES



Kaitlin DeSpain • <u>kedespain@uh.edu</u>

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC / DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (CHORAL CONDUCTING)

- Applicants for all graduate programs in Choral Conducting must submit:
 - o A video recording (minimum 20 minutes) showing the applicant in both rehearsal and concert settings.
 - o A current curriculum vitae.
- All graduate applicants must complete a live audition with one of the University choral ensembles.
- In some cases—particularly for international applicants—it may be possible to petition for a remote audition. Contact Dr. DeSpain (kedespain@uh.edu) to discuss your situation.
- The audition will include a 20-minute rehearsal demonstration consisting of three works from the standard repertoire:
 - o Two pieces selected by the Director of Choral Studies (DCS), drawn from the ensemble's current repertoire in active preparation. These will be provided at least two weeks before the audition.
 - o One piece selected by the applicant (with DCS approval) to be introduced as a new work to the ensemble.
- Applicants will complete a series of tests to assess piano proficiency, gestural clarity, and sight-singing ability.
- Applicants will also interview with the Choral Faculty.



CONDUCTING-BAND

DIRECTOR OF BANDS, CHEER & DANCE

David Bertman • <u>dbertman@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3183

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC / DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (BAND CONDUCTING)

- Applicants for all graduate programs in Band Conducting must submit:
 - o A video recording that includes both in-performance and in-rehearsal conducting for preliminary evaluation.
 - A current curriculum vitae.
- After the preliminary application review, all candidates will interview with the Director of Bands, the Associate Director of Bands, and any other faculty relevant to the degree program.
- Interviews should be conducted in person whenever possible.
- If extenuating circumstances prevent an in-person meeting, a virtual interview via Zoom or a similar platform may be arranged.



CONDUCTING-ORCHESTRAL

DIRECTOR OF ORCHESTRAS

Franz Anton Krager • <u>fak@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-3189

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

MASTER OF MUSIC / DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING)

- Applicants for all graduate programs in Orchestral Conducting must submit:
 - o A video recording that includes both in-performance and in-rehearsal conducting for preliminary evaluation.
 - A current curriculum vitae.
 - o All materials must be submitted with the Moores School of Music application by the priority music application deadline.
- After the preliminary review, selected candidates will be invited to campus for an interview with the Director of Orchestras and a live audition with one of the University orchestral ensembles.
 - Invitations are typically extended during the spring semester.
 - o Required repertoire will be determined by the Director of Orchestras and will be tied to the ensemble's current program.
- MM candidates: 20-minute rehearsal demonstration with assigned repertoire.
- DMA candidates: 30-minute rehearsal demonstration with assigned repertoire.
- A live audition must demonstrate the ability to effectively rehearse and interpret all assigned repertoire.



MUSIC EDUCATION

MUSIC EDUCATION AREA HEAD



Julie Derges • <u>jderges@uh.edu</u> • (713) 743-4547

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

In lieu of an audition, applicants may be invited for an interview with the Music Education faculty. Please review the list of application requirements carefully.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

GUIDANCE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIALS ON THE APPLICATION PORTAL

- Double-check that all required components are uploaded. If a required item is not specifically listed in the portal, upload it under "Supplemental
- The application portal prompts applicants to upload a headshot and repertoire list; these are not required or considered for Music Education applicants.

MASTER OF MUSIC (MUSIC EDUCATION)

- An interview with the Music Education faculty committee may be requested.
- Applications must include:
 - o Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from someone familiar with your teaching.
 - o A current curriculum vitae or résumé.
 - o A PDF copy of your teaching certification.
 - o A statement of purpose (approximately 500 words, double-spaced, Times New Roman) describing:
 - Your interest in the degree.
 - Topics or areas you wish to explore in the program to further develop your teaching.
 - How you hope the degree will support your future career goals.
 - o A 20–30 minute video of you teaching music, preferably in a group-based classroom or ensemble setting.

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS (MUSIC EDUCATION)

- An interview with the Music Education faculty committee may be requested.
- Applications must include:
 - o Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from someone familiar with your teaching.
 - o A scholarly writing sample (term paper, thesis, etc.) of at least ten pages, including citations, that demonstrates research ability and original thought.
 - o A current curriculum vitae or résumé, including evidence of successful professional experience in music teaching (minimum of three years).
 - o A PDF copy of your teaching certification.
 - o A statement of purpose (approximately 500 words, double-spaced, Times New Roman) describing:
 - Your interest in the degree.
 - Topics or areas you wish to explore in the program to further develop your teaching.
 - How you hope the degree will support your future career goals.
 - o A 20–30 minute video of you teaching music, preferably in a group-based classroom or ensemble setting.

For further information regarding the graduate degrees in Music Education, please contact



MUSIC HISTORY (MUSICOLOGY)

MUSICOLOGY AREA HEAD

Matthew Dirst • mdirst@uh.edu • (713) 743-3150

MUSIC THEORY

MUSIC THEORY AREA HEAD

Timothy Koozin • tkoozin@uh.edu • (713) 743-3318

MASTER OF MUSIC (MUSICOLOGY)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Upload two research papers; at least one should be from an undergraduate music history or literature course.
- Have a minimum 3.25 GPA in all music literature and music history courses from their undergraduate degree program.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICANTS

- Strongly encouraged to apply for a teaching assistantship.
- A campus audition/interview is required.
- Must also take the theory placement exam offered on all audition days.

MASTER OF MUSIC (MUSIC THEORY)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Upload samples of theoretical papers and other supporting materials as requested.
- Have a minimum 3.25 GPA in all undergraduate music theory courses.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICANTS

- Strongly encouraged to apply for a teaching assistantship.
- A campus audition/interview is required.
- Must take the theory placement exam offered on all audition days.

For further information regarding the MM Music History degree, please contact

DR. MATTHEW DIRST, MUSICOLOGY AREA HEAD • MDIRST@UH.EDU

For further information regarding the MM Music Theory degree, please contact

DR. TIMOTHY KOOZIN, MUSIC THEORY AREA HEAD • TKOOZIN@UH.EDU