

COMPOSITION

To help you prepare for your interview, please read the following guidance notes carefully.

For entry in September 2022 all candidates will be required to submit a portfolio in support of their application and attend an online interview. Once we receive your UCAS Conservatoires application we will email you inviting you to submit your portfolio, the email will include a OneDrive link you should use to upload all recordings, and the supporting documentation requested. Please include your full name and UCAS Conservatoires ID Number with your submission.

Your Portfolio

- Portfolios should be submitted by **Monday 18 October 2021**.
- The portfolio should contain PDFs of at least THREE contrasting notated pieces. Your work; regardless of whether it is written for acoustic instruments to voices or electronic medium, should be fully notated, with (preferably real) recordings.
- The style is not really the important thing – though we prefer to see scores that are original and personal, not copying another composer - because we want to know whether you have the potential to develop into an original and authentic creative artist.
- Please think about layout and presentation, and make sure the scores are performable by real people.
- Pay attention to detail, including considered harmonic language, clear rhythmic notation, coherent articulation, dynamics and phrasing. Check all accidentals to ensure they make sense.
- If you compose a piece using pencil and paper, that is OK – send a PDF – as long as it is clear.
- The BMus (Hons) & MMus composition programmes include tuition in both acoustic and electronic composition and you are therefore also encouraged to include non-notated sonic explorations in your portfolio (in addition to your three contrasting notated pieces), but please note that this is not essential.
- If you do opt to submit sonic exploration/s, you should submit recordings of your work along with an accompanying description of the resources employed, as well as graphic scores, sketches, screenshots, routing plans and other notations, detailing your starting points, aims and methods.
- We want to know about your creative processes, how each recording was achieved, who was involved, and whether the notated scores were created before or after the recording was made.
- Please note that a portfolio without any scores is unlikely to be considered.

How to label files & acceptable file formats:

- Recordings (audio and film) should be in .mp3 and .mp4 format, and the scores in .pdf format, all consistently and clearly named and identified, with durations.
- All file names must contain your surname, initial, name of work and date. Here is an example of naming three files relating to one work in a portfolio:

Hardy,J - Wonderful Life [audio] - 18Oct21

Hardy,J - Wonderful Life [movie] - 18Oct21

Hardy,J - Wonderful Life [score] - 18Oct21

Files which are not labelled in this manner will **not** be assessed.

Your Online Interview

The interview will be conducted online. You will receive an email confirming the date and time of the interview, this will also be added to UCAS track.

The interview will be an opportunity to answer questions about your portfolio. We may touch upon broader issues such as your creative interests, current activities and professional aspirations.

We may ask you about your knowledge of music theory, including functional harmony, counterpoint, instrumentation, notation, structural, chordal and melodic analysis, and a wide range of examples from the classical and non-classical repertoire.

We may ask you about your current listening and reading, and about musical and other cultural performances you have experienced recently.

Interviews will take place late October /early November for recorded auditions submitted by the deadline.

What Happens Next?

We aim to communicate decisions within 3 weeks of an interview. All decisions following interviews will be communicated via UCAS Conservatoires Track.

Candidates who are offered places will have the opportunity to visit RWCMD in person prior to the acceptance deadline. In accordance with safeguarding COVID protocols and regulations (PHW & Welsh Government).