

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

For entry in September 2022, all candidates will be required to submit a recorded audition in support of their application. Once we receive your UCAS Conservatoires application we will email you inviting you to submit an audition recording. The email will include a OneDrive link you should use to upload all recordings, and any supporting documentation requested (see department requirements). Please include your full name and UCAS Conservatoires ID Number with your submission.

Your Recorded Audition

- Recordings should be submitted by **Monday 18 October 2021**.
- Recordings must be submitted as digital files (MP4).
- Your audition should be an audio-visual file and should open with a verbal account of your experience and aims for the future. You should also include a short verbal introduction of each piece in your recording.
- Your recording should include performances of two contrasting pieces (see below for additional guidance for specific instruments. Recordings may be unaccompanied or accompanied, except vocal which must be accompanied. You should take care to select pieces that allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your ability. In total, your performance should last approximately 10-15 minutes.
- The recording must clearly show you playing your instrument/singing without any obstruction. Please also note that presentation (dress, deportment and general stage demeanour) will enhance the impact of your audition.
- Audio only recordings will **not** be accepted.
- Please upload a **clear** copy of the solo part of your music, of **one** of the pieces you have performed as part of your audition, or provide a link to an online source. This submission will be used to ask some analytical questions, harmonic reduction exercises, rhythmic experimentation during your interview.

Your Online Interview

Following the assessment of your recorded audition, you will be required to attend an interview conducted online. During the interview you will have an opportunity to talk about your future ambitions and to ask questions relating to the College and the course. You may also be asked to complete an aural assessment, which may include a short sight-reading exercise or quick-study exercise and a series of technical tests including scales and arpeggios.

You will be notified of the interview date and time via email. 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).

Additional Guidance for Selected Instruments

Harp	In total, your unaccompanied recording should last approximately 10-15 minutes. Please take care to select pieces which allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your technical and expressive ability.
Piano	Performance from memory is advised. In total, your unaccompanied recording should last approximately 10-15 minutes, making sure that your repertoire allows you to demonstrate the full extent of your technical and expressive ability and includes music in contrasting styles and from different periods. Please also upload a full list of the repertoire studied over the previous two years.
Voice	Vocal audition recordings should be accompanied, the use of a backing track is acceptable. Your recording should include performances of at least three contrasting styles, to include song, oratorio or opera in three different languages, one of which must be Italian . You should take care to select pieces that allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your ability. In total, your performance should last approximately 10-15 minutes.
Guitar	In total, your unaccompanied recording should last approximately 10-15 minutes. Please take care to select pieces which allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your technical and expressive ability.
Strings	You should record a 10-15-minute recital programme of contrasting works designed to display the technical and musical aspects of your performing style. You are advised to vary the programme with works from different periods and styles, which will show your adaptability as well as skill. We are looking for a secure level of technique and musical understanding, as well as for an enquiring mind and a collaborative nature.

Woodwind

You should record a 10-15-minute recital programme of contrasting works designed to display the technical and musical aspects of your performing style. One piece should be written before 1899. Please take care to select pieces which allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your technical and expressive ability.

Brass

You should record a 10-15-minute recital programme of contrasting works designed to display the technical and musical aspects of your performing style. Please take care to select pieces which allow you to demonstrate the full extent of your technical and expressive ability.

Percussion

As a minimum requirement, you must prepare:

- Two solo performances; one on tuned and one on untuned percussion, which can be multi set-up or just snare drum. The total time of both performances should not exceed 10 minutes.
- One solo item on four mallets.

Timpani will take the form of a viva. Candidates will be asked questions on their experience of playing timpani in ensembles and pieces they have studied during their interview.

Percussion auditions are unaccompanied.

Additional Advice for Recorded Auditions

What do I do if I can't get a piece to sync with a pre-recorded accompaniment?

If you're satisfied that you've done all you can to ensure a good performance with your pre-recorded accompaniment but you're still not happy, please include an unaccompanied recording of the piece **in addition** to the accompanied submission.

Tips and Advice

- Please be sure your recording device is placed on a tripod or flat surface, and ensure you are visible for the duration of your performance. If using a mobile phone, record horizontally.
- Please make sure that if you are using a mobile phone, you do not record using submissions on “Selfie Mode”
- Your performance must be one continuous shot with no edits or cuts. Edits are accepted for introduction and closing dialogue only.
- Hiring of recording equipment is not expected. However, we do require the video and audio to be of ‘good quality’ for submissions. Recordings from mobile phones are accepted.
- If access to any recording device is not possible, please contact admissions@rwcmd.ac.uk for advice.
- Where possible, ensure the light is directed from the front or the sides. For example, if you are sitting with a window behind you, you will disappear, and the video will appear dark and fuzzy. It is equally important that we see your performance as well as hear it.
- Before starting your recording, please check that you have sufficient memory and battery life.

Sound

- Before making your recording, ensure that there is no distortion to the sound during the loudest passages, and keep at a consistent distance from your recording device throughout your performance.
- Place the recording device near your instrument, but not too near. Test out a few distances to find out what works best for you. Start at five to six feet away and adjust from there. It will differ depending on location and the recording device being used.
- Recording equipment or external microphones for iPhone/Android can be used to help improve audio quality, however, they are not necessary.
- Record in the right space. Minimise the background noise. Think about the time of day and location when you can exert the most control over what’s happening in the background.
- Consider where and when you’re doing the recording. Your bedroom or living room can work well. If you have access to a soundproof room, great! If not, the softer your surroundings the better. Sound bounces off hard surfaces, which can create an unwanted echo. Avoid large, empty rooms. At home, blankets, pillows, and curtains are all effective ways to absorb the sound.

- It is very important to do a mock recording and review the audio.

We are aware of the challenges presented by recorded submissions and our panellists will be instructed to allow for issues beyond the control of the applicant when watching and assessing the video. The following list is not exclusive, but indicates the type of area that might be affected through video submission, and thus will be taken into consideration:

- Time delays between sound and image
- Instrumental/vocal sound quality
- A piano that is out of tune, or not of particularly good quality (including use of an electric keyboard)
- Use of a modern instrument for historically informed repertoire

If your best musical take includes a minor domestic interruption (e.g. siren in the background, someone passing through the shot), please know that the panel is able to disregard this, so don't sacrifice that version.