

Your *Music* Audition



THE  TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2019**

**SCOTTISH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**



Welcome to Your Audition

I'm delighted to welcome you to the Department of Music at the University of Aberdeen, one of Scotland's oldest and most prestigious universities that has provided a first-class education for over 500 years. The university has recently been recognised as 'Scottish University of the Year' (*Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019*) and the department continues to go from strength to strength in the new millennium.

The Department of Music was recently acknowledged as the fifteenth best music department in the UK and the third best in Scotland (*The Complete University Guide 2019*) placing it above many leading and established competitors. The department is a thriving hub of music-making, scholarship and collaboration with world-class composers, performers and musicologists rubbing shoulders with visiting scholars and students alike.

You'll find the department the creative heart of the university, one that beats a welcoming and inclusive rhythm that has seen it rise to the very top of the National Student Survey ('student satisfaction', 2017) with a vibrant community of musicians and academics. The department is the place to study, whatever your specialism, for an integrated, flexible curriculum that is tailored to your needs as a musician in the twenty-first century.

I hope you enjoy the audition experience, your visit to the Department of Music and your time in Aberdeen. Please do look round, talk to students, staff and anyone else you encounter and begin to feel at home in the department. The North of Scotland is a wonderful place of breath-taking scenery, powerful history and welcoming people - we are glad to be part of this region and to contribute to the cultural landscape in a significant way.

Wishing you all the very best for your interview.

Dr Phillip A. Cooke
Head of Music

When You Arrive

As you prepare for your audition, we would like to give you as much useful information about the audition day as possible. Firstly, the building you are coming to is the MacRobert Building on King's Street, part of the King's College Campus of the University of Aberdeen. On arriving, you should see a registration table manned by our current students who are here to register you for your audition. The students are here to help and will oversee your time with us and will take you to where you need to be. It is also an opportunity to ask them anything about the courses, the department and the university from the student's perspective.



Discussion Groups

Subjectivity is a major consideration in the musical world. We all have our own perspectives on what music means to us as both individuals and as part of the world around us. This part of the interview process gives you the opportunity to discuss with your peers and a member of the Music Department staff your own unique perspective on music. To help you with this we ask that you read the following article, before considering carefully the two questions below:

'Classical' music is dying... and that's the best thing for classical music. (Charlie Albright, 2016)

- ▶ Drawing on your experiences of attending or taking part in live classical music events, do you agree or disagree with this quote and why?
- ▶ As audiences at live classical music events continue to fall, what can you, the next generation of musicians do to increase the popularity of live performance?



Your Audition/Interview

For your audition you are required to prepare one piece of music for your principal instrument/voice. If you want to split your studies between two different instruments, then you need to prepare one piece for each. You will be required to do a short sight-reading test for your chosen instrument/voice. Auditions are likely to begin from 13.00 after the welcome meeting and discussion groups. The student helpers will guide you from the main room to the warm-up room approximately 30 minutes before your audition. This is when you will be able to rehearse with your accompanist, if you have requested one. Once the audition panel are ready to hear you, a student will come to collect you and take you to the audition room. Once you have performed to the panel, you will be invited to have an informal chat with them about your experience and aspirations in music.

Piano is not a requirement on the BMus Single Honours or BMus Community Music Degree, so you have no need to prepare a piano piece. However, if you are applying for the BMus Education Degree, then you are required to show piano skills. This is a compulsory element of the Education degree.

Your Audition Outcome

We endeavour to process the outcome of the audition within two weeks of the audition date with the decision sent to you via email.



Accepting Your Offer

Deciding where to study is a very important decision for you to make. We want to ensure that the choice you make is the right choice for you and we will be happy to help with any questions that you have about studying here at the University of Aberdeen. All enquiries should be made to our departmental administrator, Euan Crabb in the first instance:

✉ escrabb@abdn.ac.uk

International Students

If you require a Tier 4 study visa and are offered a place, then it is vital that you pay close attention to the information that you will receive from our International Department. Although the regulations around studying in the UK are strict, we will do our best to offer you support and guidance. Please see our website for more information about international students:

🖥 <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/international-students-281.php>



Scholarships & Financial Support

There are a number of music scholarships available to students at the University of Aberdeen. The majority of these are offered as an open competition after audition, but a small number are awarded annually to students following recommendation from academic staff. More information about all the different scholarships can be found on our website:

🖥 <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/music/scholarships-and-bursaries.php>

Living in Aberdeen

Aberdeen is a cosmopolitan city in the North East of Scotland with a history going back some 8000 years. The city has a wealth of arts and cultural venues from His Majesty's Theatre to the many local pubs and clubs who support live entertainment. There is everything from museums and art galleries to shopping centres with all the latest fashions on offer.

The University of Aberdeen has a range of accommodation options to suit everybody, located in or close to the Old Aberdeen Campus. The Hillhead Student Village is our most recently refurbished accommodation. There is a range of catering accommodations as well as self-catering accommodations available. For more information about accommodation at the University of Aberdeen, see our website:

🖥 <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/accommodation/index.php>