

AUDITIONS

AT VANDERCOOK COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Thank you for your interest in VanderCook College of Music! Your audition is a chance for us to get to know each other. Here is some information you need in order to start planning for your audition.

AUDITION COMPONENTS

Your 20-minute audition will include:

- 1) Repertory** – music you choose to present.
Select pieces you enjoy, are comfortable with and show some contrast of tempo/style.
- 2) Scales** – an important part of any musician's training. The more confident you are of your major (and minor) scales, the better prepared you are for college work.
- 3) Sight-reading** – a demonstration of your ability to correctly interpret notated music.
- 4) Conversation** – to explore your interest in music and commitment to sharing it through teaching. You can also ask questions about the school and your work here.

HOW TO PREPARE:

- 1) Practice! Spend some time each day learning and getting comfortable with what you will perform.
- 2) Two weeks prior to their audition, vocalists should send us three copies of the pieces they perform for their staff accompanist. Instrumentalists may bring 3 copies of the music they will play with them on their audition day.
- 3) Dress for an interview. From the moment you step in the door, we see you as a future teacher!
- 4) Plan to be here from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Audition Days.
- 5) Plan to warm up for 20 minutes before auditioning.
- 6) Questions about the audition process? Please feel free to contact us.

PERCUSSION GUIDELINES

Beyond scales and sight-reading, try to prepare as many of the following as possible:

- A snare drum solo or etude.
- A 2-mallet and a 4-mallet keyboard selection.
- A tympani solo or etude.
- Some basic drum-set beats.

INSTRUMENTAL GUIDELINES

- Play two or more pieces/movements on your primary instrument that contrast in style, tempo, or mood.
- Play three or four scales. The more you know, the better, but a smooth, steady performance with good tone and intonation is more important than speed.
- Sight-read a few short exercises.

CHORAL GUIDELINES

- You may bring your own accompanist, or request one two weeks before your audition.
- Sing two or more short songs that show your vocal range and sense of contrasting styles. Show off different aspects of your ability to communicate the music.
- Demonstrate that you can sing scales in tune.
- Sight-read a few short exercises.

HOW TO SIGN UP:

After completing your application, schedule an audition with the admissions team by calling 312-225-6288, ext. 230.

Several Audition Days occur throughout the year, and the admissions office can help you find the best date for you. We listen to and evaluate your performance at the audition, but we also look for your level of capability and potential for development.