

Trevecca School of Music and Worship Arts

Audition Requirements

General Information

Every student who desires to be a music major must pass an entry-level audition in their applied area. The requirements for those auditions are listed below. If a student does not pass their initial audition, they may enroll as a provisional music major and take elective lessons for up to one year to successfully pass this audition. If a student is unable to pass this audition after one year, they can no longer hold provisional status within the department.

Private applied instruction is available to all Trevecca students, regardless of major, but is required of all music degree-seeking students. Lessons can be taken for degree or elective credit. Please read about the proficiency requirements below for enrolling in applied study. You may direct specific questions about these requirements to the professor listed.

Auditions

Auditions can be completed in person or online. The audition window for the 2027-2028 school year opens on August 1st, 2026 and closes on October 30th, 2026.

A student can also arrange for an in-person audition on other dates or during a campus visit.

Please email pjbielmeier@trevecca.edu to set up an alternate date for auditions.

Students may also submit a video audition online to demonstrate their abilities. Please send your videos via YouTube, OneDrive, Drop Box, WeTransfer, etc. to pjbielmeier@trevecca.edu. Any student submitting a video audition must understand that further auditions may be required at New Student Orientation.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for students with a major in the School of Music and Worship Arts. Scholarship applications will open each fall (August through October). To be awarded a scholarship, students must be accepted to Trevecca, pay their deposit, submit an audition for the School of Music and Worship Arts, and complete a theory diagnostic exam. Scholarship recipients will be notified after the completion of the fall semester. The scholarship application can be found [HERE](#).

Keyboard (Piano) Instruments

Anyone can take elective piano lessons without a placement and without prior piano lessons. Students wishing to study piano *as their major instrument* must audition with the keyboard area coordinator. The placement requirements are as follows:

- Piano students should prepare two selections (one memorized, *see below*).
- Both pieces should be from the traditional classical piano repertoire, and at least one must be equivalent in difficulty to a *memorized* Bach two-part invention *played at the tempo marking listed in the Alfred edition of the Bach Two-Part Inventions*.
- A student applying for commercial study may perform up to two selections drawn from commercial genres, including original compositions.

For more information, email Dr. Paul Christianson at PChristian@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1293.

Guitar & Bass Instruments

Students wishing to major or minor in music on guitar or bass must audition with the guitar and bass coordinator. The placement determines whether the student will be placed in private elective lessons for the first semester, or be placed in private, applied study. Class guitar and elective guitar lessons are open to all students and do not require an audition. Audition requirements for the guitar/bass major, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

Guitar

The prospective student should prepare two of the following three choices for admission into the applied guitar program:

1. A popular jazz standard (Jazz standards can be found in *The Real Book: Sixth Edition* by Hal Leonard or any popular jazz fake book; Examples of song choices: Satin Doll, How High the Moon, Autumn Leaves, Blue Bossa, etc.)
 - Play entire melody of Jazz standard
 - Play chords of entire song
 - Improvise a solo over the entire song form
2. Perform a classical guitar piece of student's choosing. Example - Etude by Carcassi, Sor, Bach, Giuliani, etc.
3. Perform a piece of student's choosing (rock, jazz, fusion, country, pop, etc.) Please provide a play-along track unless it is an unaccompanied song. Performance should include melody, chords and improvised solo

The prospective guitar student's knowledge of chords, arpeggios and major and minor scales will be ascertained during the audition process. Sight reading skills will also be tested during this process.

Bass

The prospective student should prepare two of the following three choices for admission into the applied electric bass program:

A popular jazz standard (Jazz standards can be found in *The Real Book: Sixth Edition* by Hal Leonard or any popular jazz fake book). Examples of song choices: Satin Doll, How High the Moon, Autumn Leaves, Blue Bossa, etc.

- Play melody of jazz standard from beginning to end
 - Walk a bass line over the chords of entire song
 - Improvise a solo over the entire song form
1. Perform a classical piece of student's choosing. Student may reference J. S. Bach for Bass, by Josquin de Pres or Easy Classical Bass Solos by Javier Marco
 2. Perform a piece of student's choosing in the style of any popular bassist in commercial music (rock, funk, jazz, fusion— Victor Wooten, Marcus Miller, Stanley Clark, Geddy Lee, Steve Harris, Flea, James Jamerson, Chris Squire, Brian Bromberg, Jaco Pastorius, etc. Please provide a play-along track unless it is an unaccompanied song. Performance should include bass line and improvised solo (if applicable)

The prospective bass student's knowledge of chords, arpeggios and major and minor scales will be ascertained during the audition process. Sight reading skills will be tested during this process. Once the prospective student has auditioned, they will be informed of the decision as to their placement in a class option, elective lessons, or private lessons.

For more information, email Professor Jeff Cox at JCox@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1292.

Percussion Instruments

The live Percussion audition is an opportunity for you to showcase your current level of musicianship, your growth potential as a percussionist, and preparedness to seek excellence within the program. We focus on performance, improvisation, sight-reading, and ear training because we seek students who are driven to study and master all elements of their craft. Look and carry yourself in a professional manner; perform at your highest level, and dress professionally for your audition.

Video Audition - Available for applicants who are unable to attend the auditions in person. Each requirement below must be video recorded entirely for consideration. Following review of the video audition, our faculty might require an interview or virtual audition if additional information is needed. To be considered for scholarship, the auditioning student must perform each of the required pieces provided.

Audition Materials can be accessed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/qiruokusjx063i7rl66tb/AKtD9mkjhXKFDAjFNjOhDc?rlkey=dkna5915k7xf7pyidhim5puoc&st=ixuizwy7&dl=0>

Commercial Drum Set Audition Requirements

The live drum set and percussion audition is an opportunity for you to showcase your current level of musicianship, your growth potential as a percussionist, and preparedness to seek excellence within our program. We focus on performance, improvisation, sight-reading, and ear training because we seek students who are driven to study and master all elements of their craft. Look and carry yourself in a professional manner; perform at your highest level, and dress professionally for your audition. Please prepare your audition with the requirements outlined below.

For more information, please email department head Larry Aberman:

lmaberman@trevecca.edu and check out @boomtechtrevecca on Instagram.

BOOMTECH is the drum set and percussion studio at Trevecca.

All audition materials and full course overview, etc. are available by following this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/xospttn95e7eakh8gppix/ALmYsJBI3epy_a_ucjuQ_ys?rlkey=xz7gi4ysjs6okn1zzgqwhzot&dl=0

***COMMERCIAL DRUM SET AUDITION REQUIREMENTS**

Required: Groove Performances

- Perform four measures of a rock ballad groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 72 BPM
- Perform four measures of a funk groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 90 BPM
- Perform four measures of a rock groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 120 BPM
- Perform four measures of a rock groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 150 BPM
- Perform four measures of a swing jazz groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 120 BPM
- Perform four measures of a swing jazz groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 120 BPM with wire brushes
- Perform eight measures of a swing jazz groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 240 BPM
- Perform four measures of a standard bossa nova groove at $\frac{1}{4}$ = 120 BPM
- If you are able to perform a samba or mambo, please include that as well.

The tempo makings are for reference. Please play without a metronome.

Required: Play-Along (materials provided in the folder “TNU Auditions - Commercial Drum set”)

The auditioning student must play both of the Play-Alongs provided.

- “Stompin’ At The Savoy”
- “Girl From Ipanema”

Provided for each track is an example with drums to learn from. The auditioning student must then perform with the Play-Along (drumless) track for the audition. A Real Book styled chart is provided for reference.

Required: Drum Solo

Improvise a 2–3-minute drum solo with no accompaniment in any style you prefer. You may also choose to play a published/written drum solo. This solo should be an expression of yourself as a musician and should utilize compositional elements such as phrasing, dynamics, melodic rhythms, themes and variations, ostinatos, etc. to demonstrate musicianship. For inspiration, watch compositional drum solos that might fit well with your skill set and build your own solo from there. Here are some examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SaYqRLjfO4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnPFoSw0RSA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72c9LB6gMOQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AS7lj5nysw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyvsasszKRA>

Classical Percussion Audition Requirements

Required: Percussion Instrument Performances (materials provided in the folder “TNU Auditions -Classical Percussion”)

Perform each of the five pieces for mallets, snare drum, timpani, multiple percussion and the major scale etude. **Please note** the instruments needed for the multiple percussion set up. The snare drum piece should be performed using an orchestral style. **For additional scholarship consideration:** submit a video performing: A four-mallet marimba solo - Choose and perform any four-mallet marimba solo piece approximately 3-4 minutes in length. Hand Drums - If you have experience playing hand drums and world percussion (congas, Djembe, tabla drum, etc) and would like to demonstrate your ability, play a 2-3 minute published/written solo, or improvise one of your own.

Voice Study

Students wishing to study voice, whether as a music major/minor or for elective credit, must audition with the vocal coordinator. The placement requirements, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

General/Classical Voice Study

- Sing, from memory, two songs using either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. One song must be in a foreign language (Italian, German, or French preferred), and the other must be an English art song. (Suggested vocal collections from which songs might be selected include *24 Italian Art Songs and Arias* (G. Schirmer, publisher) and the “First Book” series (ed. Joan Boytim), both available through <https://www.halleonard.com/>.
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises.
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment. **Commercial Voice Study**
- Sing, from memory, two songs using either guitar/piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. One song must be from the classical genre (See suggested song collections above), and the other must be commercial in style (Musical theatre or jazz standards are encouraged). Suggested resources include “The Singer’s Musical Theatre Anthology” series (ed. Richard Walters), or “The Real Vocal Book” (Hal Leonard).
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment
- Songwriting students should sing one of their original songs and provide 2-3 lead sheets of original songs.

Music and Worship Study

- Sing, from memory, two songs using either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. One song must be from the classical genre (See suggested song collections above) and the other must be commercial in style (Preferably a hymn, Contemporary Christian, or Gospel worship song). The worship song can be a live video recording from a church service.
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises.
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment. **Elective Voice Study**
- Sing one song or hymn with either piano accompaniment or accompaniment track. The selection does not need to be performed from memory.
- Perform a series of pitch-matching exercises.
- Sing vocal exercises for range assessment.

***If a student submits an online audition, the pitch-matching and vocal exercises will be performed and evaluated once a student is on campus. For more information, email Dr. Angela Carr Forsythe at abcarrforsythe@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1228.

Wind and Orchestral Instruments

Music Majors

Students wishing to study a wind or orchestral instrument as a music major must audition with the Coordinator Instrumental Music. The placement determines whether the student will be placed in elective lessons for the first semester or be placed in private study. The placement requirements, which also serve as the basis for scholarship consideration, are as follows:

- Perform two excerpts of an etude or musical selection. Both excerpts must be at least 30 seconds long, but should not exceed 3 minutes each. The excerpts may be pulled from the same etude/piece as long as they meet the criteria below.
- One excerpt should demonstrate your lyrical ability.
- One excerpt should demonstrate your technical facility.
- Sight read a short selection (for live auditions only).
- Be prepared to play all major scales (live auditions). Play 6-8 major scales of your choice (recorded auditions).

Once the prospective student has auditioned, they will be informed of the decision as to their placement in a elective lessons or private lessons. This audition will also serve as a music majors ensemble audition.

Non-Majors (Ensembles)

Perform two excerpts of an etude or musical selection. Both excerpts must be at least 30 seconds long, but should not exceed 3 minutes each. The excerpts may be pulled from the same etude/piece as long as they meet the criteria below.

- One excerpt should demonstrate your lyrical ability
- One excerpt should demonstrate your technical facility.

For more information, email Dr. David Diehl at ddiehl@trevecca.edu or call 615-248-1269.
