



AUDITION GUIDELINES FOR FALL 2022

B.A. IN CONTEMPORARY MUSICIANSHIP AND ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

with embedded Minor in Entrepreneurship

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

In addition to an audition, students applying to the B.A. in Contemporary Musicianship and Entrepreneur Development (CMED) program must complete an interview. Interview results are used in conjunction with academic criteria, applied audition results and music skills assessment results to determine admission to the program. Diagnostic assessments will only be used as resource indicators should the applicant be accepted and choose to attend Shenandoah.

INTERVIEW

Prospective CMED students will complete an interview with the Director of Contemporary Music. The interview will assess the student's oral communication skills, leadership potential, musical knowledge, goals and other elements that may contribute to success in the profession.

AUDITION

Applicants are assessed on technique, interpretation, intonation, feel, rhythm and personal style.

ACOUSTIC/ELECTRIC GUITAR

Two songs/pieces, each approximately 2 minutes in length, of contrasting styles and genres (Pop, R&B, Latin, Soul, Country, etc.) on acoustic or electric guitar:

- One song/piece in a slower tempo to demonstrate your expressivity and touch on the instrument.
- A second song/piece in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy.
- If desired, you may include a third original composition.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading a chord progression written using chord symbols
- Playing back short melodies and/or rhythms by ear
- Identifying chord qualities by ear
- Improvising over a common chord progression

BASS GUITAR

Two songs/pieces, each approximately 2 minutes in length, of contrasting styles and genres (Pop, R&B, Latin, Soul, Country, etc.) on electric bass guitar played along with recordings:

- One song/piece in a slower tempo to demonstrate your expressivity and touch on the instrument
- A second song/piece in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy
- If desired, you may include a third original composition.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading a chord progression written using chord symbols
- Playing back short melodies and/or rhythms by ear
- Identifying intervals by ear
- Improvising over a common chord progression

DRUM SET

Two songs/pieces, each approximately 2 minutes in length, of contrasting styles and genres (Pop, R&B, Latin, Soul, Country, etc.) on drum set played along with recordings:

- One song/piece in a slower tempo to demonstrate your expressivity and touch on the instrument
- A second song/piece in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy.
- If desired, you may include a third original composition.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading short notated rhythms
- Singing back short rhythms by ear
- Improvising a one-minute drum solo

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Two or three songs/pieces, each approximately 2 minutes in length, of contrasting styles and genres (Pop, R&B, Latin, Soul, Country, etc.):

- One song/piece in a slower tempo to demonstrate your expressivity and touch on the instrument.
- A second song/piece in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy.
- If desired, you may include a third original composition.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading a chord progression written using chord symbols
- Playing back short melodies and/or rhythms by ear
- Identifying intervals and chord qualities by ear
- Improvising over a common chord progression

SINGER-SONGWRITER

Two contrasting original songs, each approximately 2 minutes in length, in which you accompany yourself on either acoustic/electric guitar or piano/keyboard:

- One song in a slower tempo to demonstrate your vocal expressivity and touch on the instrument.
- A second song in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy.
- If desired, you may include as an optional third song a cover song arranged to fit your style and voice.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading a chord progression written using chord symbols
- Singing or playing back short melodies and/or rhythms by ear
- Identifying chord qualities by ear
- Improvising over a common chord progression

VOICE (non-Singer-Songwriter)

Two songs of contrasting styles and genres (Pop, R&B, Latin, Soul, Country, etc.), each approximately 2 minutes in length, in which you accompany yourself on either acoustic/electric guitar or piano/keyboard, or sing along to an accompaniment track:

- One song in a slower tempo to demonstrate your expressivity.
- A second song in a faster tempo to demonstrate technique and energy.

At the audition, students will also complete a short diagnostic including the following:

- Reading short notated melodies and/or rhythms
- Singing back short melodies and/or rhythms by ear
- Improvising over a common chord progression

VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, TRUMPET, TROMBONE, AND SAXOPHONE

Students who want to continue classical study but pursue a degree in CMED are also encouraged to apply. The Audition Requirements will follow those already listed for each instrument in the [Audition Guidelines](#). The interview and audition process will include the Director of Contemporary Music and faculty from the appropriate instrumental area. Important to note is that the CONTEMPO ensemble will perform a wide variety of music outside of classical and that not all pieces will require your instrument.

SUPPLEMENTAL AUDIO/VIDEO MATERIALS (optional)

Please feel free to upload appropriate supplemental materials such as music videos or audio recordings (accepted formats: mp3, m4a, mp4, WMV) ahead of your audition that you believe will demonstrate your ability to thrive at Shenandoah Conservatory. These materials are only supplemental and will not replace any primary application materials.

Items such as album credentials and awards should be included in the artistic resume required of all Conservatory applicants.