

# Getting Started

in the Belmont University School of Music

Belmont's School of Music is a **unique place** ... where a traditional, challenging education in music is combined with the study and performance of diverse popular musical styles.

Belmont's School of Music is a **real world place** ... where active performers and teachers introduce their students to professional music making at the highest level, from the concert stage to the studios of Nashville's Music Row.

Belmont's School of Music is a **personal place** ... where students are recognized as individuals and are challenged to achieve their own individual potential.

**If this describes the kind of place you want for your college education in music, then you have found it at Belmont!**

This document will walk you through the process of "getting started in Belmont's School of Music" by providing information on four important processes:

- **Applying for Admission**
- **Auditioning for the School of Music**
- **Financing Your Education**
- **Enrolling at Belmont**

## **APPLYING FOR ADMISSION**

### **How do I apply to Belmont University's School of Music?**

- If you wish to major or minor in music, complete the Belmont University Application for Undergraduate Admission including the **School of Music Supplement**.
- Be sure to submit the Application and School of Music Supplement at least two weeks prior to your audition date.
- As part of the application process to the School of Music you will be required to complete an audition. (The audition process is discussed in the next section of this document.)
- If you are a high school senior, you are encouraged to apply in the fall of your senior year.
- If you are a Transfer student you should apply one-to-two semesters prior to your anticipated enrollment date.
- Successful applicants typically present both a strong academic record and strong music audition.

### **When will I be notified of the admissions decision?**

- Belmont reviews applications for admission on a rolling basis. As soon as you have completed all required application materials, Belmont will review your application and notify you of your admissions status. You will not, however, have a decision from the School of Music until you have performed an audition.

- If you do not have a successful audition, you can still be considered for admission to Belmont for a program other than music by contacting your Belmont admissions counselor.

## **AUDITIONING FOR THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

### **What will I be expected to do when I come to audition for the School of Music?**

- You will participate in two important processes when you come to Belmont on an Audition Day: an audition in your principal performance area and the Basic Musicianship Test.

### **What is an audition?**

- An audition is your time to demonstrate your ability to perform on your instrument or as a singer. Belmont music faculty will hear you in solo performance and make careful assessments about your current level of skill as well as your musical potential. A successful audition is the single most important factor in being accepted as a Music Major.

### **How do I select the music that I will perform in my audition?**

- We encourage you to take great care in choosing the music for your audition. The number and types of musical works that are performed on an audition vary depending on your principal performing area and your intended major in music. Refer to the final pages of this document for guidelines on selecting your audition music and follow those guidelines carefully.

### **How do I schedule my audition?**

- Belmont has a series of **Scholarship** Audition Days that runs from November through February of each year and one non-scholarship audition day in late March. On these Saturdays, potential students and their parents come from across the country to visit the campus, learn more about the School of Music and, most importantly, perform their auditions. **Audition days for entry into the School of Music can be found on the Belmont University School of Music Web Site at [www.belmont.edu/music](http://www.belmont.edu/music)**
- To schedule an audition, complete the university application including the School of Music Supplement. Carefully select your audition date and complete all the information on the School of Music Supplement.
- Submit the completed application and the School of Music Supplement no later than two (2) weeks prior to the requested audition date. You will receive an e-mail from the School of Music Admissions office confirming your requested audition date and providing further information about the audition requirements and the audition day schedule. Please be sure to check your “junk mail” file for email messages from us. Our emails come from the Belmont University server and some computers will reject the “institutional” address.

### **Is it possible for me to audition if I cannot come to campus for an Audition Day?**

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the campus and audition in person. We want you to become familiar with Belmont, and we want to meet you and hear you in live performance.
- Under special circumstances a video audition may be allowed for students who apply for the scheduled scholarship and non-scholarship audition days. If you indicate on the School of Music Supplement that you wish to schedule a video audition, the School of Music Admissions Office will contact you to make arrangements for this process, including information about submitting the Basic Musicianship Test on video.
- Applicants who apply after March 13 must submit a video audition since the final application date for live auditions will have already passed. The School of Music Admissions Office will contact you to make arrangements for the video process, including the Basic Musicianship Test if you indicate on the School of Music Supplement that you want to do a video audition. Videos will be reviewed for consideration for admission through June 1.
- All video auditions should follow the same audition requirements as the in-person audition. **Video format: VHS, VHS-C or DVD labeled with applicant’s name and address, major, principal instrument and titles of all pieces. Please specify which program was used to create the DVD.**

### **What is the Basic Musicianship Test?**

- On your Audition Day, you will also take a brief Basic Musicianship Test. This individually administered test will evaluate your pitch matching ability, tonal and rhythmic memory and basic music reading skill. (If you audition by videotape, the Basic Musicianship Test will be

mailed to an appropriate local proctor who will administer the test and return it to the School of Music.)

### **How do I prepare for my audition and Basic Musicianship Test?**

• Here are several suggestions that will help you to prepare for your audition and for the Basic Musicianship Test:

1. Work with a music professional in your community to select and rehearse your performance pieces (high school choral or band/orchestra director, private music teacher, church choir director).
2. Take piano lessons even if piano is not your principal performance area. Ask your teacher to include as much music theory in your lessons as possible.
3. Take a Music Theory class if it is offered in your high school or college.
4. Participate in musical ensembles and performances in your high school, church and community.
5. Look for additional suggestions on the Belmont University School of Music web site.  
[www.belmont.edu/music](http://www.belmont.edu/music)

## **FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION**

### **What types of financial aid does Belmont award?**

- Belmont awards two types of financial aid: need-based aid and merit-based aid. Financial aid awards may be in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, and work study programs. About 85% of Belmont students receive some type of financial assistance.
- It is possible for a music applicant to be awarded concurrently any and all types of scholarships as well as need-based financial aid.

### **How do I apply for need-based financial assistance?**

- You should submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by the priority date of March 1 and designate Belmont as a recipient of your Student Aid Report (SAR). Notification of financial aid awards will be mailed beginning mid-March.

### **What kinds of merit-based scholarships are available?**

- Belmont offers two kinds of merit-based scholarships – academic-based scholarships and performance-based scholarships in the areas of music and athletics.

### **How do I apply for an academic merit scholarship at Belmont?**

- The application for admission to the university also serves as your academic merit scholarship application.
- Prospective freshmen who apply by December 1 will automatically be considered for an academic scholarship, even if they do not audition until February. Academic merit scholarship awards are sent beginning in February.
- Transfer students may be considered for an academic scholarship if they have an outstanding college level record at their previous institution and demonstrate financial need. Therefore, transfer students must submit the FAFSA to be considered for academic merit scholarships.

### **How do I apply for a performance-based music scholarship?**

- All students who audition for admission to the School of Music and who are accepted as music majors are automatically considered for performance-based music scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to incoming students who demonstrate exceptional performance skills and outstanding academic achievement.

### **How are performance-based music scholarships distributed?**

- These scholarships are awarded across the full range of majors and principals and divided among the voice, keyboard and instrumental departments to build a strong set of complementary programs. A limited number of instrumental music scholarships are also given to non-music majors and to non-instrumental principals for participation in instrumental ensembles.

### **How many performance-based music scholarships does the School of Music award?**

- The School of Music typically awards music scholarships in amounts of \$1,000-\$3,000 to approximately 25 percent of entering students. The scholarships are renewable each year for up to four years of study provided the recipient remains a music major and maintains a 3.0 overall grade point average each semester.

### **When will I know if I have received a scholarship?**

- You can expect to receive notification concerning the award of performance-based music scholarships around March 15. All auditioning students who have been admitted will receive a letter regarding scholarship status.

### **If I don't receive a music scholarship as an entering student, is it possible to receive one at a later time?**

- Music scholarships are designed to provide funding for incoming students. Under exceptional circumstances, School of Music scholarships are awarded to continuing students based on achievement and faculty recommendations as funds are available.

## **ENROLLING AT BELMONT**

### **How do I inform Belmont I wish to accept the offer of admission?**

- You should complete and submit the Enrollment Confirmation Form along with your Enrollment Deposit to indicate you wish to attend Belmont. This will allow you to create your BIC (Belmont Intranet Connection) account and register to attend Towering Traditions (Belmont's new-student orientation) which occurs the summer prior to entering Belmont.

### **How do I officially accept my performance-based School of Music scholarship that I receive?**

- If you are awarded a School of Music scholarship, you will receive an award letter in the mail along with a certificate which must be signed and returned to the School of Music no later than May 1.

### **What is Towering Traditions and when does it occur?**

- Towering Traditions is summer orientation which introduces you and other new students to Belmont and prepares you to succeed in your years at Belmont.
- Typically Belmont offers several different sessions for Towering Traditions during the summer.
- Welcome Week always occurs just prior to the beginning of the Fall semester.
- All new Belmont freshmen and transfer students should plan to attend both Towering Traditions and Welcome Week

### **Is it important that I attend Towering Traditions?**

- It is VERY important that you attend this program. During this two-day summer event, you'll get to know new and returning Belmont students and Belmont faculty, become better acquainted with campus and academic life, learn more about what it means to major in music, and meet with a music advisor. By the time you leave, you will have registered for your first semester classes!
- Transfer Students should make an extra effort to come to Towering Traditions because more open classes will be available than during Welcome Week which happens just before classes begin.

### **Will I take music placement tests during Towering Traditions?**

- Yes. During Towering Traditions, you will take placement tests in Music Theory (Harmony and Ear-Training) as well as in piano. You and a music advisor will use the results of these music placement tests to plan and register for your fall classes.
- The placement tests really aren't about passing or failing. They tell us whether you are ready for Harmony I, Ear-Training I, and Piano I (or for a higher level), or whether you should begin with remedial courses in Music Fundamentals or Preparatory Piano. Our goal is for you to be successful in your first-semester classes in the Belmont School of Music, so we want to make sure you are placed in classes that are best for you.

### **If I have college level transfer or AP credit in music theory or piano, do I have to take placement tests?**

- All new freshmen and transfer students take the placement tests because scores on the placement tests – not prior credit for music theory or piano – primarily determine placement in these areas at Belmont.
- The music placement tests also determine which of your transfer music hours will count as credit toward your major or minor in music at Belmont and which will transfer as elective credit.

- Transfer students who have successfully completed four semesters of music theory, ear training and piano should contact the School of Music Associate Dean for Academic Studies regarding whether or not they need to take placement tests.

While many of your questions will be answered in this document, remember that you can always refer to our web site ([www.belmont.edu/music](http://www.belmont.edu/music)), send us an email with additional questions ([somauditions@mail.belmont.edu](mailto:somauditions@mail.belmont.edu)) or schedule a campus visit (1-800-563-6765).

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### WHAT SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY AUDITION?

- **Prepare and bring with you to the audition the following documents:**
  - 1) Solo repertory list (solo music studied with a private teacher)
  - 2) Student list of Music Activities
- **Prepare to take the Basic Musicianship Test by reviewing the following:**
  - Listening to a short melody and matching the pitches
  - Listening to a rhythm and clapping the same rhythm
  - Looking at musical notation on a staff and clapping the rhythm
  - Looking at and naming musical notes on a staff
  - Looking at and singing musical notes on a staff
- **Prepare your audition by finding below the audition requirements for your principal performing area and major:**

### Brass and Woodwind Instruments

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:** Two selections from the classical repertoire for the instrument – one technical and the other melodic – e.g. fast and slow movements of a standard concerto; scales and sight-reading will be requested. Instrumentalists may perform with or without accompaniment.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.
- **Commercial Music:** Two selections from the classical repertoire for the instrument, plus an additional commercial selection. This may include a jazz standard, country, bluegrass, blues, rock or fusion; scales and sight-reading will be requested. Instrumentalists may perform with or without accompaniment.

### String Instruments

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:**  
**Violin, Viola, Cello:** A first or last movement of a standard concerto or comparable work; one movement from unaccompanied Bach; an étude or short lyrical work; scales and arpeggios and sight reading will be requested. Instrumentalists may perform with or without accompaniment.  
**CBass:** Two selections from the standard classical repertoire; scales and sight-reading will be requested.

**Harp:** One selection from the standard classical repertoire; one étude; scales and sight-reading will be requested.

- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.
- **Commercial Music:** Two selections from the classical repertoire for the instrument, plus an additional commercial selection. This may include a jazz standard, country, bluegrass, blues, rock or fusion. Scales and sight-reading will be requested. Instrumentalists may perform with or without accompaniment.

### Guitar

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:** Two selections of contrasting styles from the classical repertoire; scales and sight-reading will be requested.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.
- **Commercial Music:** Three selections as follows: 1) one up-tempo swing tune to include melody, improvised (or prepared) solo, comping (rhythm accompaniment); 2) one 12-bar blues form (2-4 minutes in length) to demonstrate solo lead playing (not necessary to play a melody from the standard blues repertoire); and 3) one selection of your choice (jazz, classical, country, or fusion). Students should provide one of the following: 1) a rhythm track CD to play along with for each piece (a CD player will be provided) or 2) charts for a faculty member to use to accompany you. In addition, a demonstration of improvisational skills and sight-reading will be requested.
- **Electric bass:** Two selections from the following categories: 1) classical literature played on electric bass; 2) jazz tune, such as a blues or swing tune, playing both melody and a walking bass line; and 3) a rock or funk solo. A CD player will be provided for students wishing to perform with recorded accompaniment; scales and sight-reading will be requested.

### Organ

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:** Two selections of contrasting styles from the classical repertoire; scales and sight-reading will be requested.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.

### Percussion

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:** One solo or étude on each of the following instruments: snare drum, timpani, and marimba. Sight-reading, standard snare drum rudiments, timpani tuning, and marimba scales will be requested.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two

compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.

- **Commercial Music:** One solo or étude on snare drum plus a second solo on either timpani or marimba. Sight-reading, standard snare drum rudiments and timpani tuning or marimba scales will be requested. Students should be prepared to demonstrate the following styles on drumset: rock, funk, swing, shuffle, and Latin (bossa nova and samba).

More specific information for percussion auditions will be provided at the time of application.

## Piano

- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Piano Pedagogy, Music Theory, Composition, Music Minor:** Two classical selections of contrasting styles, from memory. Selections should be chosen from the classical piano repertoire. A movement of a standard concerto may be considered one selection. Scales and sight-reading will be requested.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.
- **Commercial Music:** Two classical selections of contrasting styles and two commercial selections of contrasting styles. All selections must be performed from memory. Examples of commercial styles include: jazz, Latin jazz, rock, blues, country, gospel and pop or jazz ballad. At least one commercial selection should demonstrate improvisational skills. The ability to improvise and knowledge of chord symbols are required of commercial pianists. In addition, scales and sight-reading of a chord chart may be requested.

## Voice

- All vocal auditions are performed from memory and are accompanied. The School of Music provides accompanists, or you may bring your own. Vocalists may not accompany themselves.
- **Music Performance, Music Education, Church Music, Music with an Outside Minor, Music Theory, Music Composition and Music Minor:** Two classical selections of contrasting styles. Please bring complete music in the proper key for the accompanist.
- **Composition (Classical):** All Composition majors should audition in their principal performance area. Composition majors should also submit scores and CDs of at least two compositions or arrangements which show current compositional activity. Preferably these compositions or arrangements should be for contrasting media and of contrasting styles. In addition, a repertory list of all student compositions should be submitted. All required composition materials should be submitted to the School of Music Admissions Office on audition day in order to be evaluated as part of the admissions process.
- **Commercial Music:** One classical selection and two commercial selections in contrasting styles (i.e. up-tempo/ballad; slow/fast); the classical selection may be from your private study classical repertory list or may be chosen from the “Suggested Classical Vocal Selections” found on our Web at [http://www.belmont.edu/music/degrees/music\\_undergraduate/pdf/classical\\_repertoire.pdf](http://www.belmont.edu/music/degrees/music_undergraduate/pdf/classical_repertoire.pdf); commercial selections may be chosen from jazz, pop, rock, country or other popular areas but may not be chosen from Musical Theatre repertoire. Only one (1) selection may be from the Contemporary Christian genre. No original compositions or self-accompaniment, please.

Commercial vocal selections are performed without a microphone and may be accompanied live or be performed with CD accompaniment. If using a Belmont accompanist, **please bring**

**complete music in the proper key because accompanists should not be asked to transpose or improvise from lead sheets or chord charts.**

A CD player is provided in all voice audition rooms for use during the warm-up period and during the audition. CD players are not available in School of Music practice rooms; however, you may bring your own if you want to practice prior to the warm-up period.

- **Musical Theatre:** Vocal Audition: One aria or art song selection (90 seconds or less) and a 60 second cut each from 2 musical theatre songs of contrasting styles. Acting Audition: A 1-minute memorized age-appropriate monologue from a musical or theatre production to be performed during the vocal audition time. Dance Audition: A 1-minute choreographed solo dance presentation along with a 90 minute group dance audition including ballet, tap and jazz will be conducted by a dance instructor. Please bring appropriate attire to change in to for the dance audition.

For further information, please go to our School of Music website at:

[www.belmont.edu/music](http://www.belmont.edu/music)