

Leeds Conservatoire

Audition Requirements

2026 Entry

BA (Hons) Classical Music

BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year

Introduction

Applicants with a specialism of Performer or Composer have the option to audition online via portfolio submission or in person at an audition on our campus.

Applicants with a specialism of Conductor or Repetiteurs must submit audition materials online.

In person auditions are likely to take place during week commencing 27 October and 8 December 2025

Once these audition weeks have passed you will only be able to audition online.

This guide will set out what you will need to prepare and / or submit when auditioning for one of our Classical courses at Leeds Conservatoire.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application to the conservatoire via UCAS Conservatoires, if you meet or are likely to meet our minimum entry requirements, you will receive an email that will detail how to send your audition materials to us, or how to book an in person audition.

Once we have made our decision on your application we will update UCAS with our decision and you will be notified via UCAS Hub.

In Person Audition Days

If you choose to audition in person we will assign you a date and time to attend the conservatoire during our October or December audition weeks.

You will have a 30 minute warm up slot followed by a 30 minute audition.

On the day, as well as your audition, you will have the opportunity to have a tour of the conservatoire and meet some of our current students.

Audition, Interview and Portfolio Requirements

Your audition materials will be slightly different depending on which specialism you are applying for.

Please ensure that you look at all the requirements for the correct specialism(s) that you are applying for.

IN PERSON AUDITION

BA (Hons) Classical Music

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Performers:

1. Perform two contrasting pieces that demonstrate your musical strengths:

- The pieces should be of grade 8 standard* and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively.

*(For applicants applying for Classical Music with Foundation Year, the pieces should be Grade 6 standard.)

- At least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. This does not apply to piano, guitar, harp and percussion applicants. Accompanists are provided for you on the day, though if you want to bring your own you can request this by emailing admissions@lcm.ac.uk.

- Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.

2. Sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you on the day:

- You will have the opportunity to look at this in your 30-minute warm up time.

3. We will ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.

4. You will have a short interview, where we will ask you about your general musical knowledge and interests.

Composers:

1. You should bring at least two of your own original compositions for discussion with the panel:

- Please bring scores and computer realisations of your scores (e.g. Midi or Sibelius files) if you don't have live recordings.

- There is no set time limit, but the panel will consider approximately 10 minutes of music.

2. We will ask you about your influences, your approach to composition and your ambitions.

3. You may also be asked to play or sing some scales and technical exercises as appropriate for your instrument and level during the audition.

4. We will also ask you some questions about your compositions (e.g. what are the chords you have used, etc.). Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their playing?

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD: INSTRUMENTALISTS

BA (Hons) Classical Music

BA (Hons) Classical Music with Foundation Year

Instrumentalists:

Please provide video recordings of:

1. Performances

Performances of TWO pieces that are contrasting in style and that demonstrate your musical strengths. Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. The pieces should be of Grade 8 standard*.

Please introduce each piece by stating the title and composer.

We would prefer for at least one of your pieces to be recorded with piano accompaniment, if this is possible (excepting piano, guitar, harp and percussion).

Where this is not possible, and where works that would normally have accompaniment are performed solo, passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

* For applicants applying for Classical Music with Foundation Year, the pieces should be Grade 6 standard.

2. Music Theory: To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What sort of repertoire do you like playing? Are there any historical periods or styles that you feel suited to and why?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a player? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Have you had any experience of chamber music, such as duo, trio, quartet or other smaller ensemble?
- Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their playing?

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD: VOCALISTS

Please provide video recordings of:

1. Performances

Video performances of TWO pieces that are contrasting in style and that demonstrate your musical strengths. Aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively. The pieces should be of Grade 8 standard*.

Please introduce each piece by giving only the title and composer.

We would prefer for at least one of your pieces to be recorded with piano accompaniment, if this is possible. Where this is not possible and works that would normally have accompaniment are performed solo, passages of accompaniment lasting more than two bars should be cut, taking a short break rather than counting all your bars' rests.

* For applicants who are applying for the BA (Hons) Music (Classical) with Foundation Year, the pieces should be of at least Grade 6 standard.

2. Spoken Voice:

To help us to assess your spoken voice, please include a video performance of you reading a short text in English. You may choose your own text of poetry or prose; aim for it to be around one to two minutes in length. Here are some examples of suitable texts:

- <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poem/valentine/>
- <https://genius.com/Emily-dickinson-as-imperceptibly-as-grief-annotated>

3. Music Theory: To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

4. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What sort of repertoire do you like singing? Are there any historical periods or styles that you feel suited to and why?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a singer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about any experience that you have of singing in choirs or any other ensembles that you have performed in/with.
- Do you have any favourite performers that you like to listen to? Why do you like their singing?

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD: COMPOSERS

1. Portfolio:

Composition applicants are required to submit a portfolio of two or three scores (in PDF format) and, where possible, recordings (e.g. MP3/video/a document containing audio links). Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately).

2. Music Theory: To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What composers do you most admire and why? How do they influence your writing? Do you have any other strong influences on your writing?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a composer? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about the software that you use to score your music. What do you like and dislike about it?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you perform also?

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD: REPEITITEURS/PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

1. Portfolio:

Repetiteur/Piano Accompaniment applicants are required to submit a portfolio of two or three scores (in PDF format) and video recordings that demonstrate your accompaniment skills (rehearsal and/or concert). Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately.)

2. Music Theory: To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What repetiteurs do you most admire and why? How do they influence your approach to becoming a repetiteur? Do you have any other strong influences on your performance skills?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a repetiteur? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you also perform as a solo pianist and/or instrumentalist or vocalist?

FAQ

A Repetiteur is a specialised piano accompanist for an opera or ballet company, and they have a crucial, behind-the-scenes role in bringing a production to life by providing music for rehearsals and coaching singers. Their responsibilities include playing the complex orchestral score on the piano, coaching singers on their parts, correcting pitch and pronunciation, and assisting the conductor.

ONLINE AUDITION SUBMISSIONS VIA ACCEPTD: CONDUCTORS

1. Portfolio:

Conducting applicants are required to submit a portfolio of two or three scores (in PDF format) and video recordings that demonstrate your conducting skills (rehearsal and/or concert). Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately.)

2. Music Theory: To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you).

3. Interview: Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What conductors do you most admire and why? How do they influence your approach to becoming a conductor? Do you have any other strong influences on your conducting skills?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a conductor? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you also perform as an instrumentalist or vocalist?

