

Composition and Songwriting Program

Video Audition and Demo Submission Form

Pitched Instruments

Please carefully read the instructions below before submitting your Video Audition and Demo for review.

If you have any questions, please contact your Admissions Representative or email admissions@mcnallysmith.edu

There are two components to the Composition and Songwriting Program submission and review process:

- Instrumental Proficiency
- Compositional/Songwriting Proficiency

Instrumental Proficiency

All instrumental auditions for the Composition and Songwriting Program must be recorded and submitted electronically. There are **no** live auditions.

Before recording your audition, make sure that your video is well lit, you are in the frame at least from the waist up and that your hands are visible on your instrument if applicable. Check that your instrument is in tune and that your sound level is clear but not distorted

There are three components to the Instrumental Proficiency section:

1. Prepared Piece
2. Scales
3. Reading

1. Prepared Piece

Choose a **non-original (cover)** piece that best represents you as an artist, a musician, and puts your best foot forward. Please introduce yourself, the title of the piece and the name of its composer. If you are using a backing track please make sure that your backing track doesn't overpower your primary instrument. If available provide any lead sheet or sheet music for your prepared piece.

2. Scales

Play each of the following scales up and down:

- C Major
- C Melodic Minor
- C Harmonic Minor

Guitar, Bass, Strings Applicants: Play two octaves starting on your lowest C.

Voice Applicants: Sing the pitches on a syllable of your choice. Start on middle C and sing one octave. (Male applicants can sing *8vb.*)

Brass and Woodwind Applicants: Start on your lowest C and play one octave. Play the “written” or “transposed” pitches if you are auditioning on a transposing instrument.

Keyboard Applicants: Play with both hands one octave apart. Start on an octave of your choice.

3. Reading

Clap the rhythm below at a moderate tempo.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. There are triplets over the notes G4-A4-B4 and C5-D5-E5. The second staff starts with a fermata over the first note (C4) and then continues with the same sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6. There are triplets over the notes G4-A4-B4 and C5-D5-E5.

Play the passage below at a moderate tempo.

- Chose the option with the standard clef for your instrument. Do not play more than one option. It is acceptable to play/sing up or down the octave if the melody goes out of range for your instrument.
- If you are auditioning on a transposing instrument consider the passage to be the “written” or “transposed” pitches.
- Keyboard Applicants Only: Play bottom (grand staff) example only with both hands together.

Treble Clef Option:

Musical score for Treble Clef Option. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. The second staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. A measure rest is indicated above the fifth measure.

Bass Clef Option:

Musical score for Bass Clef Option. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. The second staff begins with a bass clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. A measure rest is indicated above the fifth measure. Triplet markings (3) are present above the eighth and ninth measures.

For Keyboard Applicants Only:

Musical score for Keyboard Applicants Only. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. The second staff begins with a bass clef, a 4/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first four measures and a sharp sign (#) above the fifth measure. A measure rest is indicated above the fifth measure.

Once you've recorded your video audition material, upload it as one video to a streaming video hosting site like Youtube, Vimeo, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc., or your own website. *Note: your video must be able to be streamed. If your video does not stream (i.e., must be downloaded) you will be asked to resubmit an updated link. Test your link to make sure it is easily accessible and streaming correctly.

Optional: Lead sheet or sheet music files for your prepared piece may also be submitted in the form as a PDF or Word document

Compositional/Songwriting Proficiency

Submit samples of three contrasting examples of your **original** music (songs, short instrumental works, or excerpts of longer compositions) electronically by Soundcloud, Dropbox, Google drive or any other music streaming website.

Co-written songs will not be considered and you will be asked to resubmit if any of your submissions are not 100% authored by you. Each track must be at least 2 minutes long for a total of at minimum 6 minutes of work.

Each track must have a title, a brief description of how you approached writing the piece from a musical (and production if applicable) aspect.

Any applicable lyrics, scores, lead sheet or notations for your original works (encouraged but not essential) may be uploaded to the form as PDF or Word document.

Once you've created and uploaded your recordings, check to see that the links are working properly and that you have fulfilled all of the requirements, then go to your student portal, select my documents, select required and click on the word document below the due date of AM-Composition Demo and Video Audition to access the link to the submission form.

Contact Admissions at admissions@mcnallysmith.edu or your admissions representative if you have any questions.

We look forward to reviewing your submission!