

IMCF Audition Information for July, 2011

The entrance exam is divided into 3 sub-tests: the main-instrument, theory and ear training tests. In order to pass the exam and be eligible for admission to the Main Program, 12 to 24 points must be scored in all 3 sub-tests. For entry into the Basic Program, 5 to 24 points are required in all 3 sub-tests.

1. Main-instrument Performance Exam

The applicant performs three titles, which can be in any order.

Title 1: a musical piece of own choice in any style (weight: 30%)

Title 2: rock/pop title of own choice (weight: 30 %)

(Note for applicants with trumpet or saxophone as main-instrument: Horn players can interpret the requirements for Title 2 (rock/pop) somewhat looser, and in certain cases can find suitable repertoire in soul, funk or fusion styles.

Title 3: a jazz title (Swing-Feel) of own choice (weight: 30 %)

At least one of the three titles is to be accompanied by a live rhythm section supplied by the IMCF (piano, bass & drums). The applicant has the following choices for the performance of the other two titles:

- solo
- accompaniment by self-furnished play-back (such as play-along CD or sequencer); P.A. and CD player will be furnished.
- accompaniment by musicians brought to the audition by the applicant.
- accompaniment by the IMCF rhythm section.

For the titles that are to be accompanied live, the applicant should bring properly written music (i.e., readable, copies for all musicians, clear of form and not too complex -so that the parts can be played without rehearsal). If there is doubt about the parts, it is recommended that they be sent to the school beforehand, so they can be checked.

If the applicant is to be accompanied by his/her own musicians, they must be ready to play within a few minutes, because there will be very little time to for set-up. The standard band equipment in the IMCF Auditorium can be used (drum set, piano, bass and guitar amps, small P.A.). Additional equipment is not to be used.

In planning the program, the applicant should select titles that differ by tempo, groove, key, style, etc., in order to present a comprehensive picture of his/her musical personality and capabilities.

The test committee can, apart from the performance, ask additional questions or give tasks to perform with these 3 titles that reflect the traditional role of the particular instrument. Bassists and drummers, for example, may be tested on the accompaniment roles these instruments usually assume, while a horn player might be asked to further demonstrate his/her soloing abilities. Irrespective of instrument, each applicant should know the form, melody and chord changes of these 3 titles (weight: 10%).

The evaluation of this test is based on the following criteria: sound, timing, phrasing, mastery of the melody (plus text for singers), the song chord changes and form, improvisation, accompaniment, expression, and playing together/interaction with the band.

Although the main emphasis of this test is on the interpretation of these 3 titles, reading ability and the topics of rhythm, melody, chords, and improvisation will be also tested by means of short examples (weight: 10%).

2. Written Ear Training Exam

The following topics will be tested in a circa 45 minute written listening-dictation test:

- intervals
- scales
- triads and their inversions
- 7th chords (only in root position)
- melody dictation
- rhythm dictation

3. Written Music Theory Exam

The following topics will be tested in a circa 45 minute exam:

- scales
- intervals
- chords/chord symbols
- scale-step chord analysis
- questions on general musical topics