

Music Department Audition Requirements: Piano

In-Person audition

Once Algoma University receives applications, a Music Department representative will contact applicants to arrange audition/interviews. Candidates are asked to bring music scores to their audition. Requirements include:

Repertoire

The candidate will be expected to perform two contrasting selections demonstrating the full extent of musical and technical ability. If desired, one of the two selections can be a study, popular or jazz selection. Minimum level: intermediate (RCM grades 4 to 7). ***Please note:** for candidates studying at a level below RCM grade 4, or for those who are unsure as to their playing level (or grade), an audition is still recommended and encouraged, as often, the Music Department is in the position to recommend admittance to the Music Program based on artistry, exceptional potential and commitment. In addition, in view of the fact that many students may not have been trained in the classical tradition, all musical genres are welcome in auditions. Algoma Music Department keyboard faculty can establish a candidate's playing level regardless of genre performed.

Technique

Candidates are expected to demonstrate rhythmic stability and technical facility in the execution of the following technical requirements:

- One major and one minor scale (harmonic and melodic forms), to be played in keys of the candidate's choice, hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending, in eighth notes, at metronome speed quarter note = 90.
- One major and one minor arpeggio to be played in keys of the candidate's choice, hands together, two octaves, ascending and descending, in triplet eighth notes, at metronome speed quarter note = 60.
- Solid (blocked) and broken triads for one major and one minor key of the candidate's choice, played hands together, one octave, ascending and descending, in quarter notes at metronome speed quarter note = 60

Sight Reading

The candidate will be asked to sight read a simple eight to twelve measure piece in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time, written in key of C, F, G, or D major. Approximately difficulty: grade 3 (RCM). Rhythmic continuity is expected in addition to care with details such as key signature, accidentals, tempo markings, dynamics, articulations, ritardandos and phrasing, to name a few.

Interview

Faculty will inquire regarding the candidate's musical experiences and goals. Candidates are encouraged to ask questions regarding Algoma's programs, financial aid packages, course offerings, Music Faculty credentials, transfer options, campus structure and life, student accomplishments, residences and other safe, low cost living options in the beautiful city of Sault Ste. Marie.

Here are examples of possible questions asked by keyboard faculty:

- For how long have you played the piano?
- Do you play any other instruments?
- For how many years (total – not including breaks) were you enrolled in private lessons?
- With which ensembles have you been involved (if any)?
- How and where did you acquire your background in music theory?
- Have you taken any practical or theory examinations through such organizations as the Royal Conservatory of Music, Western Conservatory, Conservatory Canada or the ABSRM?
- What were the results of those examinations?
- What are your musical interests and goals?

Video Auditions

While in-person auditions are preferred and recommended, if a live audition is impractical due to distance or otherwise, Algoma Music Department can accept DVD's or auditions performed via SKYPE. Audition DVD's and copies of music scores should be sent to Dr. Edward Turgeon, Director of Music, Algoma University, 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 2G4

Scholarships

In addition to Algoma University's generous scholarship, award and bursary opportunities (for example, Algoma's bronze, silver, gold and platinum level renewable entrance scholarships), the Music Department is often able to offer additional assistance on the basis of audition merit.