

Algoma University Music Department Audition Requirements: Viola

In-Person Audition

Once Algoma University receives applications, a Music Department representative will contact all applicants to arrange an audition/interview. Audition requirements include:

Repertoire

Candidates will be expected to perform two contrasting selections demonstrating the extent of the candidate's musical and technical ability. If desired, one of the two selections can be a study. Minimum level: intermediate (Royal Conservatory of Music levels 4 through 7).

For candidates studying at a level below RCM grade 4, or for candidates who are unsure as to their playing level, 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 exceptional potential, artistry and commitment.

Technique

Candidates are expected to demonstrate technical fluency and rhythmic facility through execution of the following technical items:

- One major scale (key of candidate's choice) and one minor scale (harmonic and melodic form, key of candidate's choice), two octaves, bowed in groups of four eighth notes, played at metronome speed quarter note = 60.
- E major scale one octave on the D string, bowed in groups of two slurred quarter notes, played at metronome speed quarter note = 84.
- D major scale, one octave, in fourth position, bowed in groups of two slurred quarter notes, played at metronome speed quarter note = 84.
- D major and d minor arpeggio, one octave in fourth position, played in groups of three slurred quarter notes, played at metronome speed quarter note = 84.

Sight Reading

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate fluent (stable pulse) sight reading of a simple eight to twelve measure piece in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 time, written in the key of C, F, G, or D major, played in first position. Approximately difficulty: grade 2 (RCM). Rhythmic continuity is expected in addition to observance of details and musical elements such as key signature, accidentals, tempo markings, dynamics, articulations, ritardandos and phrase markings.

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 living options in the beautiful city of Sault Ste. Marie.

Here are some possible questions candidates may be asked by faculty:

- For how long have you been playing the viola?
- For how many years did you receive private instruction (not including breaks)?
- Do you play any other instruments?
- With which ensembles have you worked and performed (if any)?
- How and where did you acquire your background in music theory?
- Have you taken any practical or theoretical examinations through such organizations as the Royal Conservatory of Music, Western Conservatory, Conservatory Canada or the ABSRM?

Scores and Collaborative Pianist Arrangements

Candidates are asked to bring all music scores to the audition. Works for viola and piano must be performed with a collaborative pianist. A list of approved Algoma University collaborative pianists are available from Dr. Edward Turgeon (705-989-6879; edward.turgeon@algonau.ca). Collaborative pianist reservations must be made at least two weeks prior to an audition date. The fee for the services of an Algoma University collaborative pianist is \$75, which includes a one hour rehearsal plus the audition. Candidates are also welcome to bring their own collaborative pianist if desired.

Video Auditions

While in-person auditions are preferred and recommended, if a live audition is impractical, Algoma Music Department will accept DVD's or auditions performed via SKYPE. Audition DVD's and copies of music scores (if using the services of an on-site, Algoma University collaborative pianist) should be sent to Dr. Edward Turgeon, Director of Music, Algoma University, 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 2G4.

Scholarship Assistance

In addition to generous Algoma University scholarship opportunities (silver, gold and platinum level renewable scholarships, as well as other awards and bursaries), the Music Department is often able to offer additional financial assistance on the basis of audition merit.