

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT SPECIAL CONDITIONS/REQUIREMENTS (page 1 of 2)

Composers

Portfolios should be submitted to our secure online portal, links to which will be supplied once we have received and reviewed your application form. More details will be supplied at that time, but you should familiarise yourself now with the requirements below. The deadline to upload materials to the online portal will be **the end of Friday 6 March**.

1st study – the uploaded materials should contain PDF files of at least two completed compositions (scored for different forces) written within the past 12 months, with dates of completion and duration marked on them, and also a current work in progress – a partially completed score, and/or PDFs of legible musical sketches together with a short, written commentary. It is helpful (but not mandatory) if the materials also contain mp3 files of recordings of any of the works submitted, especially if electronic or improvisatory elements are present in the work. If you are invited for a live audition, you may also be asked to complete a short composition exercise as part of your audition, so we can gain an understanding of the way that you work/compose. For example, you might be asked to compose a few bars of music in response to a given stimulus. Further details of this task will be sent to you if relevant.

2nd or 3rd study – if you would wish to have 2nd/3rd study composition lessons at RCMJD, please submit two completed compositions as above; the work in progress is optional.

Drummers (Kit)

1st study – please prepare two short, contrasting pieces on kit; for live auditions we will by default provide a kit that consists of pedal bass drum, snare drum, floor tom, 2 rack toms, hi-hat, ride cymbal and 2 crash cymbals. If you will require any additional drums for your live audition performance(s), please let us know when you accept your live audition invitation.

2nd or 3rd study – we will only ask you to play drum kit in your audition if you would wish to have 2nd/3rd study drum kit lessons at RCMJD. Under these circumstances, please contact the RCMJD office for full details of what you will be asked to prepare.

Percussionists

1st study – ideally our audition panel members would like to hear three pieces – one each on tuned percussion, timpani, and snare drum. If this is not possible for any reason please don't worry – just prepare what you can. For live auditions, you must please let us know your full instrument requirements when accepting your live audition invitation.

2nd or 3rd study – we would like to hear one piece on snare drum only please.

(continued overleaf)

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT SPECIAL CONDITIONS/REQUIREMENTS (page 2 of 2)

Harpists

1st study – for live auditions, we will be happy to provide a harp for you to play – when you accept your live audition invitation, please either let us know the make and model of instrument that you are most used to playing on, or that you would prefer to bring your own.

2nd or 3rd study – we will only ask you to play harp in your live audition if you would wish to have 2nd/3rd study harp lessons at RCMJD. As above, please let us know when you accept your live audition invitation whether you would like us to provide an instrument, or that you would prefer to bring your own.

Mini-bass

Those auditioning for the Mini-bass course who do not already play mini-bass should present two contrasting pieces on the instrument they play best. For live auditions, there will also be sight reading on that instrument and, where appropriate, we will provide an accompanist – if one is not required, please advise us when you accept your live audition invitation.

Organists

Please contact the JD office for further details of live audition requirements.

Accompanists for composers, guitarists, harpists, percussionists/drummers, organists and pianists

For live auditions, we will presume that those presenting composing, guitar, harp, percussion/drum kit, organ or piano as their first study will not need an accompanist for those parts of their auditions. If you intend to play at live audition a second or third study instrument not from the above list, and therefore you will require an accompanist, you must please let us know when you accept your live audition invitation.

Backing tracks for all instruments

If you are offered a live audition, we very much hope that you will use the accompanist that we provide. However, if for any reason you need to play to a backing track, you should please let us know when you accept your live audition invitation.

Correct as of December 2025