

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT AUDITION INFORMATION FOR 2023 APPLICANTS

The initial stage of our 2023 application process for first study pianists and violinists will be online/digital. We plan that all other auditions (including final round auditions for pianists and violinists) will be held in person at the RCM main campus in South Kensington, however – as a precaution – we will be asking all single-round candidates to prepare for the possibility of video recordings submission too.

The deadline for completing our online application form will be Wednesday 1 March. We have done everything we can to ensure that the form is straightforward to navigate, but we strongly encourage you to access the form well before deadline, in order to allow time for us to respond to any issues that you might have (please send queries to jd@rcm.ac.uk).

In addition to completing the online application form, first study piano and violin candidates will be expected to **upload video recordings** of their performances to our secure online portal **by the end of Friday 3 March**. We will let you know by mid-February if single-round audition candidates also need to upload recordings. Details of online submission requirements are overleaf.

Our expected audition timeline is below. Please advise via the online application form of pre-existing clashes you have with any of these dates. Due to the complexities of the audition scheduling process, it is not possible for candidates to select a particular audition date. We will do what we can to work with candidates' declared availability, but we cannot guarantee to accommodate applicants with very limited availability. It is expected that, where necessary, auditionees will need to be excused from school to attend a live audition if offered. If you are unable to make any of the relevant live audition dates, please get in touch (jd@rcm.ac.uk) and note this in your application – you may be asked to submit online video recordings submissions in lieu.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 1 March	Online application form submission deadline
Friday 3 March	Video recordings upload deadline (see next page for submission instructions)
Thursday 9 March	Live single-round audition invitations emailed from RCMJD by end of day
Tuesday 21 – Friday 24 March;	Live single-round auditions
Tuesday 28 – Friday 31 March	
Monday 3 – Wednesday 5 April	
Wednesday 29 March	1st study pianist and violinist video audition results sent by email from JD office by end of day (with live final round audition invitations if applicable)
Wednesday 12 – Friday 14 April	Live single-round auditions; final round piano and violin auditions
Tuesday 18 – Thursday 20 April	
Friday 21 April	Final round audition results emailed from RCMJD by end of day
Monday 1 May	Responses to all offer letters expected

(continued overleaf)

LATE APPLICATIONS

We may offer auditions outside our main audition period and/or accept late applications in exceptional circumstances – please contact the Junior Department office via jd@rcm.ac.uk if this is relevant to you.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

(NB please also refer to our Auditions Special Conditions & Requirements document)

FIRST ROUND ONLINE/DIGITAL AUDITIONS

First round audition panels (primarily for pianists and violinists) will convene digitally, reviewing the video recordings that candidates have provided. Requirements for video submissions are as follows:

First study: two short, contrasting pieces

Second study: one short piece (NB this will only be required if you have indicated on the application form that the applicant wishes second study lessons to be part of their RCMJD programme if they are successful at audition).

Please note that the overall duration of all pieces to be performed should be no more than 15 minutes.

The setup of the recording for each performed piece will be at your discretion (whether it be filmed at a live concert or at home, school etc), though in all cases, our audition panels will appreciate it if the video and audio can be as high quality as possible (reasonable-quality recordings can be made on most mobile phones). The camera should remain as static as possible during each recording; the applicant should be on screen throughout, and when considering your camera angle, please bear in mind that the audition panel will need to look at the candidate's posture and technique. Finally, please don't edit recordings – each piece must be presented in one continuous shot.

It's preferable that pieces that have accompaniment are performed in this way (either with a live pianist or pre-recorded backing track) as this gives our panel insight into how the applicant interacts with another musical line. However, if circumstances dictate that this isn't possible, a performance of just the solo part is entirely acceptable. Recordings should be as recent as practicable.

Detailed instructions about how to upload recordings to our online portal will be distributed to candidates' parents/guardians once we have reviewed your application, which may take a few days. It is therefore advisable to complete your online application form as soon as you can so that you then give yourself as much time as possible to record and upload your audition materials.

SINGLE/FINAL ROUND AUDITIONS

We are aiming that single and final round auditions will be held in person at the RCM main campus in South Kensington.

For live auditions individual study requirements are the same as for first round online auditions (see above). For final round piano and violin auditions, candidates should present performances of both/all the pieces that they have submitted for their first round video audition. In addition, candidates will be asked to do some aural tests, sight reading on their first study and have a discussion with the audition panel.

You will need to use our official accompanist and will have time to rehearse with them before your audition.

(continued overleaf)

AUDITION RESULTS

Results will be sent directly to parents/guardians by email as soon as possible after the audition period. If you are offered a place you will have a little time to decide whether you wish to accept it.

If you decide to accept you will also need to decide (within the acceptance deadline) on which instruments you wish to have individual tuition, and whether you require standard length or extended lessons (for which there is an extra cost). You must also familiarise yourself with what the RCMJD offers and what is expected of students and parents before accepting your place, and will be asked to sign your agreement to our Regulations and Code of Conduct.

The decision of the audition panel is final and we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results owing to the large volume of applications we receive.

January 2023