

Junior Department Annual Assessments Special Instructions

Percussionists

First study percussionists are expected to prepare short pieces on snare, timpani and tuned percussion; second/third study percussionists are expected to prepare one short snare piece, unless an alternative instrument is agreed in advance.

Composers

At least two clear Saturdays before their assessment date, and using the email address of a parent or guardian, composers should submit a zipped folder to jd@rcm.ac.uk with the student's name and 'RCMJJD composition assessment' in the title of the folder and the email.

For first study composers, the folder 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 folder also contains mp3 files of recordings of any of the works submitted, especially if electronic or improvisatory elements are present in the work.

Second/third study composers are expected to submit two completed compositions as above; the work in progress is optional. In all cases students should be ready to talk about their compositions within the discussion element of the assessment.

Conductors

Students who study conducting on a one-to-one basis should be ready to talk about their progress within the discussion element of the assessment. There will be no practical element within the assessment; teacher feedback will be gathered in advance.

Harpists

The harp performances of first study harpists will be assessed via the Gordon Turner Memorial Harp Competition in the Spring Term; the date/time detailed in the list attached is for the assessment of any other instrument/voice and for sight-reading, musicianship/aural tests etc.

Accompaniment for percussionists, composers, harpists, guitarists and pianists

We will presume that percussionists, composers, harpists, guitarists and pianists will not need to be accompanied. If you do need us to provide a piano accompanist for this part of your assessment, please let us know immediately.

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