ICMP

The Institute
of Contemporary
Music Performance

Audition Guidance
MA Songwriting

icmp.ac.uk

MA Songwriting Auditions

Auditions can often be nerve-racking and make you think of standing in front of a panel of tough judges, but that's not us!

At ICMP, your audition is just you and a tutor of your discipline, one-on-one. Our tutors are highly experienced in what they do and well equipped to help you get through.

On the Day...

Please ensure that you are on time for your arranged audition, we recommend setting up your room/webcam at least fifteen minutes before your scheduled appointment. Please test your connection and set-up prior to your audition – further info on page 4.

Please be aware, if you have not already, you will need to complete your application before we can make you any formal offers, regardless of your audition outcome.

Complete your Application Form

If you are using any MP3s, USBs, or any Soundcloud/YouTube links, we recommend you test them prior to arriving to ensure they work.

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What to prepare...

You should prepare a selection of material to present that demonstrates the current standard of your songwriting craft. This should include **three to five original songs** showcaseing your ability to write chord progressions, lyrics and vocal melodies.

You can play recorded material should you wish to, but you should be prepared to play/sing live if requested - there is no required minimum skill level for this.
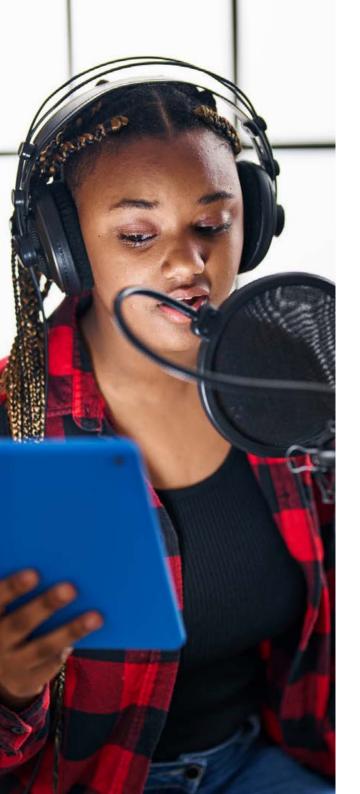
If you choose to present recordings, please have these prepared in advance and ensure the playback mechanism has been tested.

Song lyrics/structure sheets - where possible, please have these saved in a shareable file, ready to present and discuss with your auditioning tutor.

The tutor will ask questions based on the songs you have presented, their creation, development and production, as well as what you are hoping to achieve from the course, your future goals, and how this course can help you develop your craft as a songwriter.

Please also ensure you have familiarised yourself with the course details / programme specification to discuss within the audition.

Postgraduate auditions are generally 30-40 minutes in length.

Skype Auditions: Preparation

We've been auditioning students remotely for many years and can ensure you get the most from your experience.

Please ensure you have provided us with your Skype Username prior to your audition.

On the day of your audition, you will receive a Skype video call at the arranged time from one of our expert tutors using ICMP's Skype account: **icmpadmissions**

All audition booking times are quoted in GMT – please ensure that you have taken international time zones into account. A good website for working this out is: https://www.timeanddate.com

Please be aware that we may record the audition and by accepting to undergo the audition you are accepting that we may distribute your video internally to staff that will need to assess your performance. Please be assured, your audition will not be made public.

Please ensure that you have an internet connection that is as reliable and as fast as possible to allow the best quality of audio and video to be captured.

Performances: If you choose to use a backing track, the backing track must be played from a source other than your computer. If it is currently in an MP3 format, for example, you should use a mobile device to play through a bluetooth speaker or alternatively burn to a CD and play through a stereo. The computer running Skype, must be used solely for the audition. Again, please check that both you, and the backing track, are audible.

Skype Auditions: On the day

You will need to be aware of the following:

- Set up the camera so that you are clearly in shot and your instrument is in full view; we must be able to see both your face and your instrument clearly.

- Please check in advance that your instrument level is set so that your microphone records clearly without distortion – we suggest you try a Skype call to a friend in advance of your audition.

- Please set up the camera to avoid any glare or screen flare – again the quality of the video captured is important.

- If you are presenting recorded music to us, please ensure your tracks have been uploaded to an online platform (SoundCloud, YouTube, Spotify, Google Drive, Dropbox, etc) and that you have emailed us links to your tracks prior to your audition.

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If you have any questions,
don't hesitate to contact our friendly
Admissions team

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enquiries@icmp.ac.uk

We look forward to meeting you
at your audition.