

The Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts  
Audition Requirements (*updated October 2021*)

**Chorus**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

Applicants will perform one memorized selection. Applicants should prepare to perform the piece in its entirety. The song should be an art song or folk song (see list below). The selection should not be a pop song.

1. The selection may include but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Royal Conservatory of Music Songbook, Series 1-6
  - b. Pathways of Song Series
  - c. 36 Songs for Young Singers
  - d. Twenty-four Italian Art Songs
  - e. Twenty-eight Italian Art Songs
  - f. The Spirituals of H.T. Burleigh
  - g. Folk Songs for Solo Singers, Volume 1 or 2
  - h. 10 Spirituals for Solo Voice (Mark Hayes)
  
2. Applicants should provide the original sheet music for this selection and/or a pre-recorded accompaniment without vocals.

Personal accompanists will NOT be allowed in the audition room, one will be provided for you. Applicants will also sight-read a melody selected from the FVA sight-reading practice exercises which are available on-line at [www.FVA.net](http://www.FVA.net). The audition process will conclude with a personal interview.

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**Creative Writing**

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1. Writing Portfolio

Applicants must submit a writing portfolio. This writing portfolio must be uploaded in PDF format and submitted in the online application.

- The portfolio should consist of 10-15 pages of your writing. This may be short stories, poetry, creative non-fiction, screenplays – any kind of creative writing.
- The portfolio should be typed (not handwritten).
- Book reports and other academic writings are not appropriate for the portfolio.
- The sample work in the portfolio should be complete. Portions/excerpts from larger projects will not be evaluated.
- The portfolio MUST also include an essay on the topic below.

Essay Topic – Please write 5 -7 typed, double-spaced pages (with 1” margins) on the following:

*If you could only take 5 books and/or movies with you on a journey, which 5 would you choose and why?*

2. On-Site Essay

Students who are selected for audition will be asked to write an on-site essay. Students will have access to a laptop computer to complete this task, however students may choose to hand-write this essay. The topic/length will be given at the audition.

3. Audition Interview

Students will also participate in an interview.

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**Dance**

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The audition will consist of a ballet barre followed by modern across-the-floor and center floor work. Acceptance and placement in the program is determined by this audition and each student will be placed in the level commensurate with training and demonstrated skills.

The audition process will take approximately two hours, including short rest breaks.

Each applicant will have an interview with a panel of evaluators. The interview will focus on the applicant's interests, activities, experience, and goals for the future.

The dance attire for the audition is as follows:

1. **Ballet Barre:** Solid color leotard, pink or black, tights, (tights need to be footless or split sole), ballet shoes or white socks if you do not have shoes.
2. **Modern Center:** Dress, same as Ballet. Center combination will be done in bare feet.
  - White T-shirts and sweat pants are acceptable if you do not have dance attire.
  - No exposed midriff.
  - No jewelry.
  - Long hair must be in a bun. All hair must be pulled off face and neck.

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**Guitar**

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Guitar applicants shall perform two contrasting selections. Applicants are encouraged to play one classical guitar selection and one selection in a style of their own choosing.

Applicants should be prepared to perform 4 major scales of choice in two octaves. Applicants may substitute a pentatonic and/or blues scale for 2 of the major scales.

Sight-reading of standard notation or tablature will be required. Judges will supply the material. Reading tablature but not standard notation will not be grounds for disqualification, however all students admitted must be willing to learn to read standard musical notation.

Each applicant will have an interview with a panel of evaluators. The interview will focus on the applicant's interests, activities, experience, and goals for the future.

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**Jazz Band**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

(Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Bass (Electric or Acoustic), Guitar, Drums/Percussion)

All applicants, except percussion and piano, must bring their own instrument(s). Please complete a separate application for each instrument for which you wish to audition. Applicants will participate in a personal interview. Applicants may demonstrate improvisational skill using 12 Bar Blues in F major (not required). Tracks may be found on Aebersold Volume II “*Nothin’ But Blues*,” which can be purchased at [www.jazzbooks.com](http://www.jazzbooks.com)

**Saxophone/Trumpet/Trombone/Percussion**

1. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform as many major scales as they know (suggested- at least Concert G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb) multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios, and their chromatic scale, throughout the natural range of his/her instrument as per FBA All-State audition requirements.
2. Applicants should perform the required audition etude for his/her instrument and present grade level. [Click here to access the online folder containing the audition etudes.](#)
3. If an applicant wishes to demonstrate his/her ability further than what the required audition etude demonstrates, he/she may present 16-32 measures of a prepared solo. Something from the FBA Solo & Ensemble music would be appropriate for this purpose.
4. Sight Reading: You will be asked to play an excerpt lasting approximately 8-16 measures, according to your ability. You will be given 30 seconds to review the excerpt before you play it.
5. Jazz Repertoire (Percussion should play on a mallet instrument).
  - a. Two standard songs of contrasting styles (latin, swing, or ballad). Songs may be chosen from the suggested song list below and may be found in “The Real Book” published by [Hal Leonard](#).
  - b. Other standard songs may be used in place of the suggested songs.
  - c. Songs should be performed at a consistent tempo and with proper style.  
Suggested Song List: *All the Things You Are, Autumn Leaves, Blue Bossa, Don’t Get Around Much Anymore, Imagination, Misty, Satin Doll, Stormy Weather, Take the “A” Train, Wave, Witchcraft.*
6. Drum set: In addition to auditioning with the above requirements on mallets and snare drum, the following styles/tempo are required on **drum set**: Rock, quarter note = 92; Bossa Nova, quarter note = 120; Swing, quarter note = 144; and Jazz Samba, quarter note = 100. Percussionists must bring their own sticks and mallets.

**Bass\*/Piano\*/Rhythm Guitar\***

1. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform as many major scales as they know (suggested- at least G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb) multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios, and their chromatic scale, throughout the natural range of his/her instrument.
2. Sight Reading; You will be asked to play an excerpt lasting approximately 8-16 measures, according to your ability. You will be given 30 seconds to review the excerpt before you play it.
3. Jazz Repertoire
  - a. Two standard songs of contrasting styles (Latin, swing, or ballad). Songs may be chosen from the suggested song list below and may be found in The Real Book” published by [Hal Leonard](#)
  - b. Other standard songs may be used in place of the suggested songs.  
Songs should be performed at a consistent tempo and with proper style.  
*Suggested Song List: All the Things You Are, Autumn Leaves, Blue Bossa, Don’t Get Around Much Anymore, Imagination, Misty, Satin Doll, Stormy Weather, Take the “A” Train, Wave, Witchcraft.*
  - c. Bassists must demonstrate a stylistically correct bass line (i.e. walking, etc.). Example: “Autumn Leaves” play two times; first time – play melody, second time – play stylistically correct bass line.
  - d. Rhythm guitarists and pianists must demonstrate stylistically correct comping. Example: “Autumn Leaves” play two times; first time – play melody (with chords in left hand if possible), second time – play stylistically correct comped chords.

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**Motion Picture Arts**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

Applicants must prepare and submit a writing sample proposing a five-minute film to be produced. The sample may be submitted either as a 5-page screenplay or a 2 to 5-page short story. Screenplay samples should be submitted in proper script format. This writing sample must be uploaded in PDF format and submitted in the online application.

The applicant will have an on-site essay to complete. The prompt will be related to the applicant's personal connectivity to film. Each applicant will have an interview with a panel of evaluators. The interview will focus on the applicant's interests, activities, experience in video production, and aspirations for a career in film or television.

OPTIONAL: Applicants may submit a video sample of his/her best film or video work digitally at the same time they submit their writing sample in the application. This should be submitted as a link to an online video. The compilation may be of several short films or a single work. Whether showing a single work or clips of multiple films, works should not exceed five minutes in length.

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**Musical Theatre**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

Applicants should come prepared to:

1. Sing thirty-two bars from a published musical theatre show. Students should provide a pre-recorded instrumental accompaniment saved on their personal phone/electronic device or a flash drive in either AAC, MP3, or WAV format. The recording may not have any main or back-up vocals on the track. Personal accompanists will NOT be allowed in the audition room.
2. Acting will be assessed within the context of both song and dance.
3. There will be a short dance combination taught and performed.
  - a. Students in “Group A” need to arrive dressed appropriately ready to sing first and have a change of clothes available for the dance portion of the audition (groups will be assigned to you in your audition letter).
  - b. Students in “Group B” need to arrive dressed appropriately ready to dance and have a change of clothes available for the singing portion of the audition (groups will be assigned to you in your audition letter).
  - c. For the dance portion of the audition, students should wear sweat pants, jogging pants, or leotard and tights for the dance combination. Please wear jazz shoes or tennis shoes. All hair must be pulled off of face and neck. You may not wear long earrings or necklaces for this audition.
4. Participate in a personal interview.

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**Orchestra**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

Applicants, except those who will perform on mallet instruments, tympani or piano, must bring their own instruments. Percussionists must bring their own sticks and mallets. If applicants want to be heard on more than one instrument, they must bring all instruments to the audition. Please note on the application that you will be auditioning for more than one instrument. In addition to the requirements below, all applicants will participate in a personal interview

**Strings**

1. The following major scales and arpeggios must be performed from memory: C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab. Violins must be able to perform the G major scale three octaves, all others scales two octaves. Violas and cellos must be able to perform the C major scale three octaves, all others scales two octaves. Double bass must be able to perform E, F, and G scales two octaves, all others scales one octave.
2. One prepared selection of at least three minutes duration is recommended (Check FOA solo music list for suggestions). Students may choose to perform this selection with a pre-recorded accompaniment, but it is not required. Personal accompanists will NOT be allowed in the audition room.
3. All-County and/or All-State material may be used as additional material. **Ensemble class repertoire (i.e. individual parts to a large ensemble piece) is NOT recommended.**
4. Sight-reading will be required. You will be asked to play an excerpt lasting approximately 8-16 measures, according to your ability. You will be given 30 seconds to review the excerpt before you play it.

**Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion**

1. Scales: Applicants are expected to perform as many major scales as they know (suggested- at least Concert G, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb) multiple octaves when appropriate, with arpeggios, and their chromatic scale, throughout the natural range of his/her instrument as per FBA All-State audition requirements (percussion on xylophone or marimba).
2. Applicants should perform the required audition etude for his/her instrument and present grade level. [Click here to access the online folder containing the audition etudes.](#)
3. If an applicant wishes to demonstrate his/her ability further than what the required audition etude demonstrates, he/she may present 16-32 measures of a prepared solo. Something from the Florida Bandmasters Association Solo & Ensemble music would be appropriate for this purpose.
4. Sight Reading: You will be asked to play an excerpt lasting approximately 8-16 measures, according to your ability. You will be given 30 seconds to review the excerpt before you play it.



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**Piano**

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Piano applicants will prepare and play two selections of contrasting styles. These selections must be memorized and come from standard literature in the following eras: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Twentieth Century. Student may opt to play a third piece of their choosing in any genre. Please provide one original score for the evaluators.

The audition process will conclude with a personal interview.

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**Theatre**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

The Theatre Department audition process is comprised of four components:

1. A short writing prompt.
2. An interview.
3. Several improvisation activities which need no preparation, but please come dressed to move fully including shoes. Dressy clothes are not needed for this audition.
4. A prepared acting exercise as described below which requires preparation and memorization.

**Acting Exercise: Two Contrasting Characters**

Pick two of the following characters to create with full physical and vocal choices. Use the character names and their lines to help inspire you to make distinct acting choices. Memorize the lines exactly as written. No props, set pieces, or costumes—this is about telling the story with clear acting choices.

**FINICKY FRANKIE**

Ewww! How can you eat that?! That's disgusting and it smells horrible.

**MOTIVATED MORGAN**

Yes!! I got this. I've prepared everything they gave me and I'm ready to rock this!

**TEACHABLE TYLER**

Oh! Light Bulb! That makes sense. Now with that part in place I know just what to add next.

**NICE NICKI**

Awww! You did such a wonderful job with that. I hope we can hang out later?

**JOYOUS JESS**

Woo hoo! We are going to have the craziest best time ever! I can't wait to pack my bags and go.

**RATIONAL RILEY**

Hmmm. It seems to me that we need to solve this part first. Who else has a possible solution?

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**Technical Theatre**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

The Technical Theatre audition process is comprised of four components:

1. Writing prompt
2. Interview
3. Spontaneous creation exercise during the audition time slot
4. Applicants **MUST** bring at least **TWO** examples of their creative work to their audition and be prepared to discuss them. These pieces can be the applicant's favorite project or an unusual creation showing their best work. Applicants should pick their best work that shows their special skills, originality and imagination.

The applicant should be prepared to discuss the creation process and what media was used. For example, if the applicant brings a costume piece that they created, the applicant should be able to discuss the fabrics, sewing techniques, and notions used to create the piece.

Examples of creative work include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Created costume piece
- b. Set models
- c. Customized wall decorations
- d. Mixed sound mashups created by applicant
- e. Prompt book
- f. Art piece created from any media
- g. Paper models of costume designs
- h. Custom fantasy makeup designs and photos of applications
- i. Portfolio of pictures of a realized set that applicant worked on
- j. Stylized wig creation or hair design
- k. Cosplay prop or costume
- l. Invention created by applicant.
- m. Welded piece

Applicants have varying backgrounds and experience in technical theatre areas. These variances are understood and taken into consideration by all adjudicators; however, applicants are urged to request advice and help of an area theatre or art teacher in preparing for an audition.

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**Visual Arts**

(ALL AUDITIONS ARE CLOSED TO OBSERVERS)

Applicants have varying backgrounds and differences in their arts areas. These variances are understood and taken into consideration by all adjudicators; however, applicants are urged to request advice and help of an arts area teacher in preparing for an audition.

**Requirements**

1. Portfolio digitally submitted with application and brought to the audition (see requirements below)
2. Three (3) thirty-minute timed drawing exercises during the audition
3. Participate in an interview during the audition

Applicants must submit a portfolio. Each portfolio must include digital photos of **six (6) examples** of artwork demonstrating various art media. The six (6) pieces should include the four portfolio requirements below, plus two (2) additional works that demonstrate artistic skills and creativity. A link to the digital portfolio must be submitted in the online application. **Applicants must also bring a portfolio containing physical versions of the submitted artwork to their audition.**

**PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS**  
TO BE SUBMITTED BY ALL APPLICANTS

1. Draw a bicycle. Use pencil on white drawing paper no smaller than 8.5" x 11".
2. Choose a group of interesting objects from around your home and arrange them in any manner you like. Use any media you like: pencil, pen and ink, paint, colored pencils, crayon or charcoal to create a composition. Your format should not be smaller than 8.5" x 11".
3. Do a self-portrait using any media you like. Although you may describe your physical features, try to describe other aspects of yourself. This may be achieved through color, facial expression, clothing, body gestures, etc. Do not work from a photo, work from a mirror.
4. Create something totally from your imagination. You choose the subject and the media. Work done on paper should be no smaller than 8.5" x 11".

The remaining two (2) pieces are of your choice but should demonstrate artistic skill as well as creativity.

Suggested reading: *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* and *Drawing on the Artist Within*, by Betty Edwards. Two-dimensional works may include: drawing, painting, print making, scratch board, or any combination of media. It is strongly recommended that students work from observation. Three-dimensional works may be included but must be presented as two to three photographs that document multiple angles of the piece.

Pick your best work that shows your special skills, originality and imagination. Any kind of personal visual journals or evidence of art-related activities, such as contributions to yearbooks, literary journals, stage productions, and public art are also acceptable. These items can be brought to the audition along with the six items in the portfolio. The audition time will be approximately two and a half hours and will include a personal interview.