



CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

POPULAR MUSIC CONSERVATORY (GRADES 7-12) In-Person Placement Activity

Placement Activity Guidelines:

After your online application is processed, you will be invited to participate in an in-person placement activity.

Please note, all material must be memorized/off book. You are responsible for bringing your own track/music, queued and ready to go. We will have a place for you to plug your **iPhone** or laptop into the sound system.

Vocalists:

- Please prepare and bring two vocal selections, up-tempo, mid tempo, or ballad. It can be a cover or an original (16 bars each song, approximately 30-45 seconds), singing with a track or self accompaniment.
- Please be prepared to tell a story about your favorite vocalist, musician, or songwriter and why!

Guitarists:

- Please prepare two song selections demonstrating (1-1:30 in length), one demonstrating strumming rhythm guitar skills and the other a contrasting style of rhythm or lead guitar.
- **High school** guitar applicants should be prepared to play major and minor scales in keys requested at 60 bpm as 8th notes using CAGED system shapes from these keys (A, C, D, G, E). 2 major and 2 minor keys will be selected in the placement activity.
- **Middle School** guitar applicants should be prepared to play major keys requested at 60 bpm as 8th notes using CAGED system shapes from these keys (A, C, D, G, E). 2 keys will be selected in the placement activity.
- Ability to play requested open chord shapes from the following list:
 - A major
 - A minor
 - C Major
 - D Major
 - D minor



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E Major

E Minor

G Major.

These videos can be used for reference for the fretboard knowledge required:

<https://youtu.be/IZIFLq3f9cl?si=3zN9YPrVmQfA6qhL>

<https://youtu.be/VyScXWlkkfE?si=bRxISUvRjPGcmTFg>

https://youtu.be/zxG0Me__Ha4?si=ZK_HT4Z4YDNIRtFG

- Please be prepared to tell a story about your favorite guitarist, musician, or songwriter and why!

Keyboardists:

- Please prepare two song selections demonstrating your abilities and solos within each song. Please choose from up-tempo, mid tempo, or ballad (16 bars each song, approximately 30-45 seconds). Please play with a track.
- Keyboard applicants should be prepared to perform the following major and minor scales with both hands in **one octave, ascending and descending**, at a metronome marking of quarter note at 120 BPM: C major, Bb major, F# major, g natural minor, and d harmonic minor.
- Please be prepared to tell a story about your favorite keyboardist, musician, or songwriter and why!

Drummers:

Please prepare two song selections demonstrating your abilities and solos within each song. Please choose from up-tempo, mid tempo, or ballad (16 bars each song, approximately 30-45 seconds). Please play with a track.

- Please be prepared to perform your choice of three out of the following five rudiments below. Applicants should start the rudiment slowing, gradually speed up to a bounce (holding at the quicker speed), and then gradually decrease speed:
 1. Double stroke roll
 2. Triplets
 3. Paradiddle

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4. Flam accent
5. Triple ratamacue

- Please be prepared to tell a story about your favorite drummer, musician, or songwriter and why!

Bassists:

- Please prepare two song selections demonstrating your abilities and/or solos within each song. Please choose from up-tempo, mid tempo, or ballad (16 bars each song, approximately 30-45 seconds). Please play with a track.
- **High school** bass applicants should be prepared to perform the following major and minor scales in **two octaves, ascending and descending**, at a metronome marking of quarter note at 140 BPM: D major, Ab major, F# major, c harmonic minor, and b natural minor.
- **Middle school** bass applicants should be prepared to perform D major and F# major scales in **two octaves, ascending and descending**, at a metronome marking of quarter note at 140 BPM.
- Please be prepared to tell a story about your favorite bassist, musician, or songwriter and why!

Applicants who are English language learners, have a disability, or need technology assistance are encouraged to reach out for support with the admissions process. Please contact admissions@ocsarts.net or 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 for more information.

Hay asistencia disponible para los solicitantes aprendiendo inglés, que tienen una discapacidad, o los que necesitan asistencia tecnológica. Favor de ponerse contacto con nosotros por correo electrónico admissions@ocsarts.net o por llamar 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 para más información.

Applicants requesting accommodations must have established eligibility under IDEA, Section 504 or an established Academic Support Plan (private schools only). The documentation must be provided at the time of application submission. Confidential documents must be sent directly to Lauren Reynolds, Director of Special Services, at lauren.reynolds@ocsarts.net.

Accommodations must be requested 15 days in advance of placement activities for planning purposes.