

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSIC TESTING AND INTERVIEWS 2011

**N.B: IF YOU ARE INVITED FOR INTERVIEW YOU WILL BE SENT THIS INFORMATION IN A LETTER FROM THE TUTOR FOR ADMISSIONS IN MUSIC, DR DANIEL GRIMLEY ALONG WITH THE PRACTICAL TEST FORM.**

**THIS ONLINE VERSION IS INTENDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY.**

The Admissions Exercise for those wishing to start their studies in 2012 takes place between Monday 5th December and Thursday 8th December 2011. Here is some information about the admissions procedure, and a clearer idea of what to expect.

The colleges organizes interviews, and the first-choice college will give applicants precise details of the arrangements, either a few days before the interview period or upon their arrival in Oxford.

In addition to interviews in college, candidates are required to come to the Faculty of Music to perform on their principal instrument (including voice).

### College Interviews

College interviews will take place between Monday and Thursday. The first and most important thing to say is that there is no cause for anxiety. Tutors are seeking to assess your ability and potential, and to discuss applicants particular interests and experience; they are not in any way trying to trap students or expose gaps in knowledge.

Applicants may be given material to prepare, such as a musical extract in score and/or a passage of text about music; this will then be used as a basis for discussion.

The interview also represents an opportunity for applicants to raise any questions or concerns they may have about the University and its Music course.

Applicants may expect to be interviewed by at least two colleges. They will initially be given times for interviews at their first-choice college and they should consult college notice-boards at regular intervals to find out about interviews at other colleges. There will be several 'shepherds' around in the colleges as well as at the Faculty of Music to help.

It is a good idea to be early for all the interviews and leave plenty of time for getting from one college to another. A map will be provided. The porters in the lodge of each college are a fund of knowledge: please consult them about routes.

### The Practical Test

Applicants should prepare a piece that lasts for **no more than five minutes**. The test will take place on Monday 5th December at some time between 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., on Tuesday 6th December between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m, or on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The first-choice college will let applicants know the exact time.

Applicants should tell us the title of their piece and whether they will require an accompanist. **All accompanists are provided by the Faculty**. They are asked to complete the form at the end of this letter and send it to the **Academic Administrator, Alec Sims, The Faculty of Music, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DB**.

If they require an accompanist, they should **send a copy of the sheet music, with the correct large letter postage, to Alec in the Faculty no later than 30 November**. They should clearly

write their name and instrument on the sheet music and add any instructions they may have for their accompanists – repeats, tempo etc. The music will be returned after the test.

For the test applicants should bring **another copy** of the music for the interviewers to follow. This will also be returned.

On the day of the test applicants will have a short time with their accompanist to discuss the performance but will not have time for a run-through, so they should plan exactly what information to convey to the accompanist in the short time available. They are encouraged to arrive at the Faculty well in advance where there may be a place to 'warm up'.

If the practical test is on the **organ**, or a **large instrument such as a harp or percussion**, applicants should **let Alec know in advance** so that he can make the necessary arrangements.

## Sight-Reading

If applicants have not reached the standard of Grade 5 (Associated Board) on a keyboard instrument they *may* be asked to take a short piano sight-reading test as part of the college interview. This will be of the standard of a Grade 5 set piece. There are no formal harmony or aural tests, although the work that has been done in these areas, together with aspects of submitted work, may well be discussed during your interviews.

## Questions and Concerns

If there is any reason why applicants cannot be in Oxford for the full four days, such as an important school commitment or an interview elsewhere, you they should let us know immediately so that the timetable can be adjusted accordingly. **Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate absence, pressure on time is such that it may not be possible to arrange additional college interviews if applicants have to be away from Oxford at any point during the admissions period.**

If applicants are ill and unable to come at the last moment – or indeed if they change their minds about coming! – please let us know.

If applicants are not required for further interviews by 3 p.m. on Wednesday 8th December they will be free to go. They should not be tempted to read anything into this, it is neither a positive nor a negative sign!

If there are **questions or concerns about the practical test** applicants should ask Alec, preferably by email ([academic.administrator@music.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academic.administrator@music.ox.ac.uk)) or tel: 01865 286264.

If there are **questions about other matters such as accommodation or the timing of the interviews** applicants should contact their first-choice college.

# MUSIC PRACTICAL TEST FORM 2011

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM, TOGETHER WITH ANY ACCOMPANIMENT MUSIC,  
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER

To:  
The Academic Administrator  
Faculty of Music  
St Aldates,  
Oxford,  
OX1 1DB

Name: .....

First Choice College:.....

Mobile Phone Number: .....

Instrument or Voice .....

Test piece to be performed:-

Accompanist: YES / NO (please indicate)

Remember if you wish to be accompanied for the test you must send in a copy of the sheet music by 30<sup>th</sup> November.