Dear Applicant

Re: ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUSIC TESTING AND INTERVIEWS

The Music Admissions process for those wishing to start their studies in 2016 (or deferred to 2017) takes place between Monday 5 December and Thursday 8 December 2016. Here is some information about the admissions procedure to give you a clearer idea of what to expect.

The colleges organize the admissions process, and you should now have heard from your college (or a reallocated college) inviting you to interview. The college will give you precise details of the arrangements when you arrive in Oxford. In addition to academics interviews, you will come to the Faculty of Music to perform on your principal instrument or sing.

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 your particular interests and experience; they are not in any way trying to trap you or expose gaps in your knowledge.

You may be given material to prepare, such as a musical extract to look at 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 you to raise any questions or concerns you may have about the University and its Music course.

You may expect to be interviewed by at least two colleges. You will initially be given times for interviews at your first-choice college and you 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 you find your way around.

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 (AUDITION)

You should prepare a piece(s) that lasts for no more than five minutes.

The test will take place at some time from Monday 5 December at 10.00 a.m. and midday on Wednesday 7 December. Your college will let you know the exact time.

BEFORE THE TEST - IMPORTANT

1. You need to tell us the title(s) of the piece(s) you are performing, and whether you will require an accompanist. Please complete the form at the end of this letter IMMEDIATELY and email it to me – academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk

2. If you require an accompanist, you MUST send a photocopy of the sheet music, with the correct large letter postage, to The Senior Academic Administrator, The Faculty of Music, St Aldate’s, Oxford, OX1 1DB to arrive no later than Wednesday 30 November. All accompanists are provided by the Faculty.

3. You should clearly write your name and instrument on the photocopied sheet music and add any instructions you may have for your accompanists – repeats, tempo etc.

4. Please send photocopies which will be destroyed after the test, not real sheet music.

5. (If you are worried that your music will not arrive in time – as a fail safe do email a pdf of the music to academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk. Make sure that your music clearly has your name on it).

6. If you do not require an accompanist you still need to send in the name of your instrument and what you will be playing. If you wish this could be done by email.

7. If you want to audition on the organ, or a large instrument such as a harp or percussion, applicants should let me know now so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

ON THE DAY OF THE TEST

For the test itself you should bring another copy of the music for the interviewers to follow. This will be returned immediately after the audition.

On the day of the test you will have a short time with your accompanist to discuss the performance but you will not have time for a run-through, so you should plan exactly what information to convey to the accompanist in the short time available. Please arrive at the Faculty in good time: there may be a chance for a brief warm-up.
If the practical test is on the organ, or a large instrument such as a harp or percussion, applicants should let me know in advance so that I can make the necessary arrangements.

SIGHT-READING

If you have not reached the standard of Grade 5 (Associated Board) on a keyboard instrument you 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 you cannot be in Oxford for the full four days, such as a very important school commitment or an interview elsewhere, you 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 you are ill and unable to come at the last moment – or indeed if you change your minds about coming – please let us know.

If you are not required for further interviews by 4 p.m. on Wednesday 7th December you will be free to go. You 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 you should ask Alec Sims, the Senior Academic Administrator, preferably by email (academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk) or phone 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.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

pp. Dr Rachel Moore, Faculty of Music Admissions Coordinator
MUSIC PRACTICAL TEST FORM 2016

AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM
AND EMAIL IT TO

academic.admin@music.ox.ac.uk

Name: ...............................................................

First Choice College: ........................................

Mobile Phone Number: .................................

Instrument or Voice ...........................................

Piece(s) to be performed..................................................

I DO/DO NOT require an accompanist (cross out as appropriate)

If you do need an accompanist you must send in a photocopy of the sheet music to me by Wednesday 30 November.

Send it to

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