

YSM Audition Guidelines

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, auditions will be conducted live but online (through Zoom). **Here are some guidelines and recommendation that we hope will help you present the best audition you can.**

Accompaniment is not required for your audition. For repertoire requirements and details regarding our admissions process, please refer to our [How to Apply page](#).

Audition Requirements Checklist

CHECK YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION

- Establish a hard-wired (connected directly to your router or modem) internet connection using an ethernet cable
- Test your connection speed: minimum speed requirement is 10Mbps download, 10Mbps upload (you can test your speed [here](#).)

Do not skip the first step, as connecting directly to your router or modem with an ethernet cable may offer sufficient connection speed. If your connection does not meet these requirements, we suggest contacting your service provider to ask about upgrading your service for the month of February. Many internet providers offer student rates and special deals.

SELECT YOUR DEVICE

- Use a device with a camera and a microphone (a tablet or computer; video is required)
 - » Connecting external hardware such as an ethernet cable or UBS microphone to your tablet may require additional adaptors.
 - » A separate device or speaker will be required if you plan to perform with accompaniment (not required).
- We strongly recommend that you use an external microphone for your audition. While suitable for speech, the internal microphone in your tablet or laptop will compress natural dynamics and could distort the sound of your performance, yielding low-quality audio. For more information, see our equipment guide [here](#).
- Make sure your equipment is securely positioned and that you and your instrument (if applicable) are fully visible at all times.
- Have your device(s) connected to a power outlet so that they are powered throughout your performance. If this isn't possible, use extension cords or make sure to have fully charged your device(s).

DOWNLOAD ZOOM AND ENABLE HIGH FIDELITY MUSIC MODE

- The Zoom software or app must be downloaded onto the device (a tablet or computer) you intend to use for your audition. A Zoom account is optional but recommended.
- Enable High Fidelity Music Mode for a clearer, more accurate representation of your sound. Instructions can be found [here](#). *Note: This mode is not supported on smartphones; please use a computer or tablet.*
- If possible, wear headphones/earbuds during your audition to avoid hearing the echo of the judges' voices. Choose a type that does not disrupt your set up. Make sure you can comfortably hear the accuracy of your performance.

- Check your settings
 - » On the **Home** tab, click the gear icon ⚙️ in the top right corner
 - » Click the **Audio** tab
 - » Under the **Microphone** options, select your external microphone
 - » Uncheck the **Automatically Adjust Microphone Volume** box
- Test your audio settings (confirm that you hear sound through the speakers or headphones)
 - » If you are not sure how, visit [here](#).

IDENTIFY AN AUDITION SPACE

Large rooms with high ceilings will generally offer the best acoustics, so choose the largest room to which you have access. We strongly recommend that you avoid spaces with excessive reverberation (i.e. bathrooms). Once you've identified a performance space, check the following:

- Locate a power outlet
 - » Have your device(s) connected to a power outlet so that they are powered throughout your performance. If this isn't possible, use extension cords or make sure to have fully charged your device(s).
- Listen for background noise
 - » Take a moment to listen for and, if possible, disconnect any noisy appliances in the room (heaters, air conditioners, fans, refrigerators, etc.). Make sure no one's conversation can be heard.
 - » Close doors and windows
- Limit interruptions
 - » Consider family members, roommates, pets, etc.
 - » Turn off notifications on all of your devices (including the one you're using for your audition) and put them in **Do Not Disturb** mode
 - » Silence all other electronics (landlines, alarm clocks, TVs, etc.)
- Find an area with a simple, neat background (no visual distractions)
 - » Acceptable: furniture, potted plants, framed photos
 - » Unadvisable: piles of laundry, posters
 - » Do not use a virtual background image
- Consider the lighting
 - » You should be lit from the front, not from behind (avoid standing in front of a window)
 - » Check the lighting in advance and at the same time of day that your audition is scheduled (identify shadows, avoid reflections, etc.)
 - » Add lighting as needed

These guidelines are intended to help you present the best audition you can. We will be holding a series of audition-information sessions online, so please check your email regularly and stay tuned for details. You may also refer to our [Admissions FAQ page](#).

Please feel welcome to email gradmusic.admissions@yale.edu with any questions you might have.