

POPULAR MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Placement Activity Guidelines



Popular Music Conservatory: (All Grades)

The Popular Music Conservatory's placement activity is a two-round process. Please note that not all applicants will be invited to attend the second round placement activity.

Round One: Application & YouTube Video Submission

Please submit a completed application and YouTube video based upon the guidelines described below.

Video Content Guidelines:

- **Vocalists:** Prepare a piece of your choice in its entirety and perform with a backing track. Students may also accompany themselves on guitar or piano. It is advised that applicants do not sing a cappella.
- **Guitarists:** Prepare one of the guitar solos and one of the rhythmic guitar selections listed in the Performance Guidelines for your correct grade level below. Please perform with the original recorded track.
- **Keyboardists:** Prepare one of the keyboard /organ solos listed on the Performance Guidelines for your correct grade level below. Please perform with the original recorded track.
- **Bassists:** Prepare one of the song selections listed in the Performance Guidelines for your correct grade level below. Please perform with the original recorded track.
- **Drummers:** Prepare one of the song selections listed in the Performance Guidelines for your correct grade level below. Please perform with the original recorded track.

Video Submission Guidelines:

- Please name your audition video as follows: (Your full name) – Popular Music Placement Activity
- To protect your privacy, the YouTube video should be saved as "UNLISTED" so it cannot be publicly viewed.
- Copy and paste your YouTube video URL (web address) directly into your conservatory application.
- YouTube videos must be included at the same time as the application submission.
- At the beginning of your video, please clearly state your name and the grade you are applying to. Be sure to indicate if you are a current OCSA student, and, if so, which conservatory you are in.
- YouTube videos should have no disruptive background noise, good lighting, and a framing that views ¾ of the student's body in the video.
- Once your YouTube video has been submitted to OCSA, the submission is final and changes cannot be made.
- Applications that do not have a working YouTube video link will be considered incomplete and will be delayed in processing.

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Round Two: On-Site Placement Activity 7th – 8th Grade:

The Round Two placement activity will consist of:

1. A short applicant introduction and conversation with Popular Music Panelists
2. A knowledge of Scales (Guitarists, Bassists and Keyboardists Only; all 12 Major scales); Tonal Memory (Vocalists Only); Rudiments (Drummers Only)
3. Performance guidelines

Materials needed 7th – 8th Grade:

1. Please bring a current, wallet-sized photo. A school photo is acceptable.
2. Original recorded tracks and karaoke tracks in the original key from the preselected lists below will be provided for all applicants (vocalists who wish to change the key center for their first song should provide their own track.) All applicants should provide a backing track for their second selection.
3. The Popular Music Conservatory will provide a drum set, a sound system with a microphone, an 88-key Roland keyboard with Roland amp, a bass amp, and a guitar amp with a pedal board.
4. It is recommended that drummers provide their own drumsticks
5. It is recommended that guitarists and bassists bring their personal instruments. If applicants do not own an instrument, an acoustic guitar, an electric guitar, and an electric bass will be available for applicants to utilize during their placement activity.
6. All applicants bringing their own instrument: please arrive warmed up and with your instrument tuned.

Performance Guidelines 7th – 8th Grade:

Vocalists: Performance of two selections:

1. Applicants will perform one song from the preselected list below. Tracks in the original key will be provided. Vocalists who wish to change the key should provide their own backing track. Students may also accompany themselves on piano or guitar.

Female Vocalists:

Rescue Me – Fontella Bass

Heartbreaker – Pat Benatar

Since U Been Gone – Kelly Clarkson

Male Vocalists:

Born to be Wild - Steppenwolf

Hard to Handle – Otis Redding

Keep Your Head Up – Andy Grammer

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: a selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above. Applicant should provide their own accompaniment or may accompany themselves on piano or guitar. It is recommended that applicants not perform a cappella.

Instrumentalists:

Guitarists 7th – 8th Grade:

1. Applicants will perform one guitar solo and one rhythmic guitar selection from the preselected lists below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform solo and rhythmic selections a cappella.

Complete Guitar Solo:

Reeling in the Years (Steely Dan) – 2:27-2:54

Wheel in the Sky (Journey) – 2:33-3:00

Hotel California, solo excerpt (Eagles) – 4:20-5:10

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Rhythmic Guitar Selections:

Back in Black – AC/DC

Play That Funky Music – Wild Cherry

Immigrant Song – Led Zeppelin

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Keyboardist 7th – 8th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one keyboard /organ solo from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their solo without the track or with a metronome.

Piano line from *Rocket Man* (Elton John) beginning – 1:24

Piano line from *Alone* (Heart) beginning – beginning – 1:20

Synth line from *Dreams* (Van Halen) beginning – :58

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Bassists 7th – 8th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one song from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their selection without the track or with a metronome.

***I Wish* (Stevie Wonder)**

***Disco Inferno* (The Trammps)**

***I Want You Back* (Jackson 5)**

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Drummers 7th – 8th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one song from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their selection without the track or with a metronome.

***Sweet Child O' Mine* (Guns n' Roses)**

***Crazy Little Thing Called Love* (Queen)**

***You Shook Me All Night Long* (AC/DC)**

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

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Round Two: On-Site Placement Activity 9th – 12th Grade

The 2nd Round Placement Activity will consist of:

1. A short applicant introduction and conversation with Popular Music Panelists
2. A sight-reading exercise (all vocalists and instrumentalists)
3. Performing in various grooves: swing, reggae, rock, and shuffle (All instrumentalists); Knowledge of Scales (Guitarists, Bassists and Keyboardists Only; all Major and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales); Rudiments (Drummers Only); Tonal Memory (Vocalists Only);
4. Performance Guidelines

Materials needed 9th – 12th Grade:

1. Please bring a current, wallet-sized photo. A school photo is acceptable.
2. Original recorded tracks and karaoke tracks in the original key from the preselected lists below will be provided for all applicants (vocalists who wish to change the key center for their first song should provide their own track.) All applicants should provide a backing track for their second selection.
3. The Popular Music Conservatory will provide a drum set, a sound system with a microphone, an 88-key Roland keyboard with Roland amp, a bass amp, and a guitar amp with a pedal board.
4. It is recommended that drummers provide their own drumsticks
5. It is recommended that guitarists and bassists bring their personal instruments. If applicants do not own an instrument, an acoustic guitar, an electric guitar, and an electric bass will be available for applicants to utilize during their placement activity.
6. All applicants bringing their own instrument: please arrive warmed up and with your instrument tuned.

Performance Guidelines 9th – 12th Grade:

Vocalists 9th – 12th Grade: Performance of two selections:

1. Applicants will perform one song from the preselected list below. Tracks in the original key will be provided. Vocalists who wish to change the key should provide their own backing track. Students may also accompany themselves on piano or guitar.

High Voice:

What About Us? – P!nk

Call Me - Blondie

I Wanna Dance With Somebody – Whitney Houston

Low Voice:

For Once in My Life – Stevie Wonder

You Give Love A Bad Name – Bon Jovi

Treasure – Bruno Mars

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: a selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above. Applicant should provide their own accompaniment or may accompany themselves on piano or guitar. *It is recommended that applicants not perform a cappella.*

Instrumentalists: Performance of two selections:

Guitarists 9th – 12th Grade:

1. Applicants will perform one guitar solo and one rhythmic guitar selection from the preselected lists below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform solo and rhythmic selections without the track or with a metronome.

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Complete Solo:

Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen) 2:37-3:03

Contusion (Stevie Wonder) 1:06-1:45

Sweet Child of Mine (Guns N' Roses: Album Version) 3:36-4:40

Rhythmic Guitar Selections:

It's Your Thing (Isley Brothers)

Why Georgia (John Mayer)

Kiss (Prince)

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Keyboardists 9th – 12th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one keyboard /organ solo from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their solo without the track or with a metronome.

Organ Solo from Karn Evil 9 1st Impression Pt. 2 (Emerson, Lake, & Palmer) 1:07-2:00

B3 Solo from Roundabout (Yes) 5:51-6:51

Synth Intro and Synth Solo from Jump (Van Halen) beginning-:29 and 2:32-3:05

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Bassists 9th – 12th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one song from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their selection without the track or with a metronome.

What's Going On? (Marvin Gaye)

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now (McFadden and Whitehead)

Around The World (Red Hot Chili Peppers)

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.

Drummers 9th – 12th Grade:

1. The applicant will perform one drum selection from the preselected list below. Applicant will perform with the original recorded track provided by the conservatory, but may also be asked to perform their selection without the track or with a metronome.

Lido Shuffle (Boz Scaggs)

Working Day and Night (Michael Jackson)

YYZ (Rush)

2. Applicants will also perform a second song: an up-tempo selection of their choice that showcases their talent and ability. The second selection should be different than any of the songs listed above.