

Music Scholarship and Exhibitions for 16+ Candidates



To be considered for a Music Award, you must submit an application form to the Admissions team before 1 September in the year prior to entry. You should also submit a report from each of the candidate's individual teachers with information about her musical ability and experience, together with details of any music examinations taken.

The following awards are available at 16+ entry:

- Music Scholarships providing free tuition on two instruments or one instrument and voice
- Music Exhibitions providing free tuition on one instrument (not voice)
- Choral Awards providing free voice tuition

Awards in any combination are limited to free tuition on a total of two instruments.

Guidance

Candidates should have reached approximately ABRSM Grade 8 standard on their first instrument to be considered for an instrumental award. At Sixth Form level, candidates are expected to have achieved a high level of technical and expressive mastery at least on their first instrument, and to have proven their commitment to musical endeavour through involvement with suitable ensembles.

Those girls applying for a Choral Award should have a strong background of choral singing in parts. They may have received individual tuition in singing, working towards ABRSM examination grades (Grade 7 or above) or RSCM singing awards. Please note: if a candidate is offering voice as her first study, she should apply for the Choral Award. However, the Director of Music may still consider her for a Music Scholarship if she additionally offers an instrumental study of a suitable standard. Successful applicants will demonstrate excellence in vocal ability, aural perception and sight-reading. They may already have experience of leadership roles in choirs or will demonstrate potential in this area.

Application

For candidates to be considered for a Music Scholarship or Exhibition, an application form must be submitted to the Admissions Team before 1 September in the year prior to September entry.

A report from each of the candidate's individual teachers with information about her musical ability and experience, together with details of any music examinations taken must also be uploaded.

Awards in any combination are limited to free tuition on a total of two instruments. Music Scholarships will be awarded at the same time conditional offers for entry to the School are made.

Process

Stage 1: Audio-Visual recording

Candidates applying for a Music Award will be required to submit a simple audio-visual recording of a performance on each instrument and/or voice studied. A smart phone recording will suffice. The recordings, maximum eight minutes in total duration, should be uploaded via a SharePoint link which will be sent to you in August. Please ensure all recordings are uploaded before 1 September.

Stage 2: Audition

Successful candidates post Stage 1 will be invited to Scholarship Auditions, conducted by the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music, which will be held at Wycombe Abbey in November at the same time as the entrance examinations.

Candidates are tested for musical potential as well as achievement and evidence of musical flair, which is as important as technical accomplishment. The pieces performed will need to demonstrate both technical and expressive capabilities in the choice of music. The total duration of all pieces performed must not exceed 15 minutes.

The audition will comprise:

- First instrument: Candidates will perform two contrasting pieces, lasting a total of seven to ten minutes. If they wish to present a longer piece, they are welcome to select a suitable excerpt. The total duration of all performances should not exceed 15 minutes. All music intended for performance with piano accompaniment must be performed with Wycombe Abbey's accompanist. Rehearsal time with the accompanist will be provided prior to the audition.
- Second instrument (if applicable): Candidates will need to perform one piece lasting three to five minutes.
- Sight-reading: Candidates will take a short test on their first instrument of a standard corresponding to their most recent examination grade.
- Aural tests: These tests will include pitch recognition, melodic and rhythmic memory, musical and historical understanding.
- Viva: Candidates will be asked about their musical experience and interests.
- Accompanist: The School will provide its own accompanist.

Expectations

Candidates are required to pass the academic entrance examinations before the award of a Music Scholarship can be confirmed.

An award will normally be for the candidate's two-year A level programme at Wycombe Abbey but will be regularly reviewed and is conditional on satisfactory musical and academic progress.

Music Scholars are expected to attend all instrumental lessons, make the most of the musical opportunities offered by the School, and to embrace fully the wide range of musical activities. They will normally be involved in orchestra, chamber ensembles and choir, and will be expected to perform regularly in public. Music Scholars are encouraged to consider the option of pursuing Music at A level.