

Music Scholarships and Exhibitions for 16+ candidates



WYCOMBE
ABBAY

The following Music Awards (open to both external and internal candidates) are offered annually to candidates entering the Sixth Form who have satisfied the academic criteria for entry.

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

Guidance

Girls should have reached approximately 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. 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 by email 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 emailed to registrar@wycombeabbey.com.

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

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.

Music Scholarships will be awarded at the same time conditional offers for entry to the School are made.

Music Scholars are expected to 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.

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.

Process

The Scholarship audition, conducted by the Director of Music and Assistant Director of Music, 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.

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.