

Music Scholarships and Exhibitions for 11+ candidates



WYCOMBE
ABBNEY

Wycombe Abbey Music Scholarship and Exhibition Awards carry considerable prestige, but are of limited financial value. The following awards are available at 11+ 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

It is essential that candidates should love music and show an unusual flair at whatever level they have reached. As a guide, they should have reached at least ABRSM Grade 4 standard, or equivalent, on their first instrument to be considered for an instrumental award. Those 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 exam grades or RSCM singing awards.

Application

To be considered for a Music Scholarship, 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.

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

Please note: if your child is offering voice as her first study, she should apply for the Choral Award. However, the Director of Music may still consider your child for a Music Scholarship if she additionally offers an instrumental study of a suitable standard.

Process

Stage 1: Audio-Visual recording and essay

Girls applying for a Music Award are 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 8 minutes in duration**, should be sent electronically via email to registrar@wycombeabbey.com before 1 September in the year prior to entry.

Candidates are also asked to submit a **500-word essay** on what music means to them. The essay should be emailed with the audio-visual recording to registrar@wycombeabbey.com.

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 the February prior to entry (when your child is in Year 6).

Pupils are tested for musical potential as well as achievement and evidence of musical flair, which is as important as technical accomplishment. The pieces your child performs will need to demonstrate both technical and expressive capabilities in her choice of music.

The audition will comprise:

Performance

The total duration of all performances should not exceed 15 minutes. Excerpts from longer works are acceptable. 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.

First instrument

Your child will perform two contrasting pieces.

Second instrument (if applicable)

Your child will perform one piece.

Sight-reading

Your child will take a short test on her first instrument of a standard corresponding to her most recent examination grade.

Aural tests

These tests will include pitch recognition, melodic and rhythmic memory, musical and historical understanding.

Viva

Pupils 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.

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 offered at Wycombe Abbey. They will normally be involved in orchestra, chamber ensembles and choir, and will be expected to perform regularly in public. Music Scholars are expected to pursue the academic study of Music to at least GCSE level. An award will normally be for the scholar's entire career at Wycombe Abbey, but will be regularly reviewed and is conditional on satisfactory musical and academic progress.