

AUDITION GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTED REPERTOIRE

Composition

Submit recordings (separate audio or video files) and score PDFs for at least two representative pieces from your original compositions. For electronic music, a PDF describing the work, software used, and any other pertinent information should be submitted in lieu of a score. Please also include a list of works and performances of your original completed compositions with this information: date of composition, title, duration, instrumentation and date/location of live performance (if applicable).

Guitar

Guitarists should contact the Director of Guitar Studies at cskachian@stthomas.edu to discuss audition repertoire. Pieces will be determined based on applicant's music orientation, background and goals.

Organ

Organ students should prepare three works from contrasting historical periods, such as a contrapuntal work by J.S. Bach, a nineteenth-century piece, and a piece from the twentieth century. Students should offer a balance of styles, including at least one virtuosic work and one expressive piece. Pieces need not be memorized. On-campus auditions will be held on the [Kney organ](#) in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Piano

Pianists should prepare two pieces of contrasting styles and historical periods. Although memorization is required for music scholarship consideration and strongly encouraged for all students, it is not a requirement for admittance.

Examples of preferred repertoire choices are as follows:

- Baroque: A sinfonia, prelude and fugue from *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, or movement from a suite by J.S. Bach.
- Classical: A movement of a sonata by Haydn, Mozart or Beethoven.
- Romantic: A lyrical or technical work by Chopin, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, or other major composer of the nineteenth century.
- Twentieth-Century: A piece or movement from a work by Debussy, Ravel, Bartók, Prokofiev, Ginastera, Copland, Barber, or other composer of art music from the twentieth or twenty-first centuries.

Students who wish to pursue a jazz emphasis should demonstrate proficiency in both jazz and classical styles. Please contact the Director of Keyboard Studies at vanessa.cornett@stthomas.edu with any questions about audition repertoire.

Popular/Electronic Music

The University of St. Thomas Department of Music recognizes and embraces all music styles. Prepare a piece that you are comfortable with and displays your strengths as a musician. Contact Music Business program advisor, Dr. Steve Cole, steve.cole@stthomas.edu, to discuss specific audition repertoire. Pieces will be determined based on applicant's music orientation, background and goals.

Voice

Vocalists should bring a minimum of two memorized selections in contrasting style. One foreign language piece is recommended. One musical theater piece is allowed. Examples of repertoire could include selections from the "Twenty-Four Italian Songs and Arias" collection or "The First/Second Book of SATB Solos," compiled by Joan Boytim. No taped accompaniments or pop songs allowed.

Woodwind/Brass/Percussion/Orchestral String

Applicants should prepare two pieces of contrasting styles. Contrasting pieces could consist of

- A single-movement solo work written specifically for their instrument (either one movement of a concerto or a piece or a work that is entirely one movement) and
- An etude from a book of studies specific to their instrument or
- An orchestral excerpt or
- Another solo piece (a single movement work or a slow movement from a concerto).

Percussionists should perform pieces on two of the following three instruments: snare, mallets, and timpani.