

Applications for the BA with Major in Popular Music Studies

Guidelines for preparing DVDs

Your DVD should include 2 examples of prepared music (1 solo and one accompaniment) and technique, as described below for individual instruments.

Instrumentalists must not play solos along with a pre-recorded solo. Likewise, singers must not sing along with a pre-recorded vocal.

Deadline: March 15, 2012

Electric Guitar

A. Prepared Music—one accompaniment and one solo

Identify the examples you perform on your dvd.

- 1) Accompaniment: Perform one transcription of a pop/rock guitar accompaniment of moderate difficulty. (The transcription may be your own or may be a published transcription.)
- 2) Solo: Perform a solo of two or three choruses over either a 12-bar blues progression or a rock groove.

B. Technique (knowledge of the fingerboard)

- 1) Scales—major, minor (harmonic and melodic), 2 octaves, beyond first position
- 2) Chords (solid)—major, minor, major 7th, minor 7th, 6th, etc.

Select 5 or more contrasting examples of scales and chords that demonstrate your technical abilities.

Electric Bass

A. Prepared Music

Identify the examples you perform on your dvd.

- 1) Perform a “walking” bass line for a chord progression of your choice. Identify the chord progression on the dvd.
- 2) Perform a bass line to either a 12-bar blues progression or a rock groove. You may have an accompaniment playing in the background. (Typical chord progressions are found in Ralph Agresta’s *Blues Jam Trax*, *Chicago Blues Jam Trax*, and *Rock Jam Trax* (all New York: Amsco Publications, 1997).

B. Technique (knowledge of the fingerboard)

Scales—major, minor (harmonic and melodic), 2 octaves, beyond first position

Select 5 or more contrasting examples of scales that demonstrate your technical abilities.

Keyboard

A. Prepared Music

Identify the examples you perform on your dvd.

- 1) Accompaniment: Perform one transcription of a pop/rock piano accompaniment of moderate difficulty. (The transcription may be your own or may be a published transcription.)
- 2) Solo: Perform two or three choruses on either a 12-bar blues progression or a rock groove.

B. Technique (knowledge of the keyboard)

- 1) Scales—major, minor (harmonic and melodic), 2 octaves, hands together
- 2) Chords (solid and broken)—major, minor, major 7th, minor 7th, 6th, etc.

Select 5 or more contrasting examples of scales and chords that demonstrate your technical abilities.

Drums

Pre-recorded tracks must not have drums on them.

A. Prepared Music

Identify the examples you perform on your dvd.

- 1) Demonstrate various “beats” (rock, disco, swing, shuffle, etc.)
- 2) Accompany two pre-recorded songs: one fast rock song and one ballad.
- 3) Perform a two-minute solo that reflects your ability to utilize the entire drum set.

B. Technique

Demonstrate basic rudiments on the snare.

Voice

A. Prepared Music

Identify the examples you perform on your dvd.

Perform two songs, a pop ballad and a fast rock song, to demonstrate interpretive ability (phrasing, dynamics, tone quality, subtlety of rhythmic presentation, breath control, etc.). You may accompany yourself or have an accompanist play on your dvd.

B. Technique

Perform a selection of 5 or more scales (major and melodic minor) and arpeggios to demonstrate range, innovation, and dexterity.