

Department of Music

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Audition Policy
Spring 2020 – Adjusted for COVID-19

Deadline for Auditions for Fall 2020 entrance: All components must be received and completed by May 6, 2020

Hello Future Claflin Music Student!

We are excited for your interest in Claflin and we hope to make your audition process as easy as possible given the exceptional circumstances we are currently experiencing. It is unfortunate that you cannot tour the campus and meet our faculty in person, but we are happy to meet with you through a phone call or video conference if you would like to talk directly with us. You can set up a meeting by contacting the department chair, Dr. Keith (lkeith@claflin.edu). You may also e-mail any of the faculty directly if you have questions about Claflin, the music department, or the audition process. The contact information for the full music faculty can be found on the Claflin University Department of Music website.

<https://www.claflin.edu/academics-research/schools-departments/school-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/department-of-music>

To apply to the Music Department, you will need to 1) complete the music department audition form (this is different from the general Claflin University application), 2) audition, and 3) complete a music theory diagnostic. **The deadline for submitting all the components of the application is April 25, 2020.**

All parts of the application can be completed digitally. Detailed instructions are below. If you have questions or need assistance with any of these steps, please contact the Department's Associate Administrative Assistant, Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu).

1. Music Department Audition Form

Complete the audition application form for the Department of Music which can be found on the department website. The completed form can be emailed or faxed to Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu). Specific instructions can be found in the document.

https://www.claflin.edu/docs/default-source/music/audition-form-and-letter-of-reccomendation.pdf?sfvrsn=5f3f3f0e_0

2. Audition

For the audition, you will submit a video of you playing or singing. You may submit one long video of the entire audition or short videos for each section. Below are the audition requirements, followed by some helpful advice on creating and submitting your videos. If you have any questions about the requirements or submitting material, please contact Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu).

Audition Requirements

1) Introduction and Questions

At the start of your audition video, introduce yourself and provide some background about your musical experience. Below is a list of questions we would like you to answer. Your answers can be as short or as long as you like, but typically students answer these questions in 3-5 minutes.

- What is your name?
- What is your primary voice/instrument?
- Do you play/sing anything other than your primary instrument?
- How long have you been playing/singing?
- What education have you received?
 - What school do you attend?
 - What school ensembles have you participated in?
 - Have you had private lessons?
 - Do you participate in any church music groups?
 - How comfortable are you reading music notation?
- Why do you want to come to Claflin?
- What is your intended major?
- Why do you want to be in the Music Department?
- What do you plan to do after you graduate from Claflin?

2) Scales

You will perform scales to demonstrate range and technical ability. The specific requirements are listed below. Before performing each scale, tell us what is.

Example: "This is the F major scale, 2 octaves with arpeggio."

- **Vocal:** Perform a major scale that demonstrates your vocal range
 - You may sing on any syllable you like
- **Piano:** At least 2 major scales of your choice
 - One starting on a white key and one starting on a black key
 - Hands together
 - Two octaves
 - Include arpeggios
 - *Optional* - 2 minor scales (same requirements as above)
- **Instrumental:** 2 major scales of your choice and 1 full-range chromatic scale
 - Major scales
 - One sharp key scale and one flat key scale.
 - As many octaves as possible for the key
 - Include arpeggios
 - Chromatic scale
 - Full instrumental range (if possible)
 - Comfortable performance range if full range is not possible

3) Music

You will perform two pieces of contrasting style to demonstrate your musical ability. Before performing each piece, tell us the title and composer.

Example: "This is "Alma del core" by Antonio Caldara."

- **Vocal and Piano:** Perform from memory if possible
- **Instrumental:** May perform a single piece. Etudes are acceptable as audition repertoire to provide contrasting material.

Helpful Suggestions About Recording and Submitting Videos

1) Practical advice

- Perform in a location that allows us to see and hear you clearly. We realize you are likely recording somewhere in your house and there are limitations.
- Frame the video to show your entire body (if possible). We want to assess your posture, technique, and expressive ability.

- You can record video using whatever device you prefer, but the simplest options are typically a cell phone or computer.
- Do a short test to see if your video and audio quality are good. It's much less frustrating to troubleshoot problems on a test video than trying to rescue a 10-minute audition video. This also allows you to see if you can easily access, save, and upload the video file.
- You do not need to perform with accompaniment. If you do perform with a recorded accompaniment, try and have separate devices for playing the audio and recording. An easy setup is to have audio played through computer speakers while recording with a cell phone.
- If you are recording using a portable device (phone or tablet), prop it up on a stable surface to keep the image in the video stable (just make sure the microphone isn't covered).
- Introduce everything you perform.
 - Tell us the keys of scales
 - Tell us composers and composition titles

2) Submitting video files

There are a variety of ways to submit your video files to us. Make sure you clearly identify who you are and what you are sending in the body of the e-mail when submitting video files to us.

- Option 1 – Online video sharing service
 - Upload the video to a site (such as YouTube) and provide a link to the video via e-mail to Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu). Videos uploaded to YouTube can be marked an “unlisted,” meaning only individuals with the link can find the video.
- Option 2 – Link to a file in the cloud
 - Save your file(s) to a cloud-based storage service (such as Dropbox) and provide a link to the file or folder via e-mail to the Department Associate Administrative Assistant, Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu).
- Option 3 – Send a video file
 - Send a video file to the Department Associate Administrative Assistant, Ms. Chung (dchung@claflin.edu).

3. Music Theory Diagnostic

Complete the online music theory diagnostic. This short test is designed to assess your knowledge of music notation and music theory. You may only take the assessment one time. The test is not timed, but it should not take you more than a half hour to complete. Please complete the assessment independently.

<https://forms.gle/gZwzX9zCaMrfl4KF9>

We look forward to hearing from you!
Music Department Faculty