



# HILLSDALE COLLEGE

*John E.N. & Dede Howard Department of Music*

## **MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITION PROCEDURE and APPLICATION:**

All materials and correspondence should be sent to Stacey Jones-Garrison: [sjones@hillsdale.edu](mailto:sjones@hillsdale.edu)

### **Checklist: CONTACT/INFORM – SCHEDULE – SUBMIT APPLICATION – AUDITION**

**CONTACT:** To begin candidacy for a music scholarship, please email the following information:

- 1) Title with your full name, year of application, primary performance medium, where you are from, and best phone and email contact information (include parent's name if using a family/parental phone or email)
- 2) Your current or planned admissions status at Hillsdale College (i.e. Early Decision or Regular Decision, Application in progress, Application Complete, Admitted, etc)
- 3) If you are considering music as a major, minor, double major or non-major participant
- 4) Any initial music background you'd like to share
- 5) **Pianists:** submit your intended 15-20 minutes of repertoire for initial approval to the piano department, Brad Blackham: [bblackham@hillsdale.edu](mailto:bblackham@hillsdale.edu)

You will receive a confirmation email with the contact information of the professor you will be auditioning for. Please feel encouraged to contact the respective area professor prior to your audition concerning repertoire and technical demonstration requirements. Individual areas may have varying requirements.

### **SCHEDULE AN AUDITION:**

**Request a live on-campus audition, or a remote audition.**

Auditions are scheduled on an individual basis, and can be coordinated with a formal visit to campus. Typically instrumental auditions are available M-F, and voice auditions M-Th with some exception possible. Please check with the music department before scheduling a visit to campus, as some instrumental music instructors are available 1 or 2 days a week. A remote audition can be requested in the case that a student can't visit campus prior to the audition deadline.

### **SUBMIT APPLICATION:**

- 1) **Music Resume**
- 2) **Essay**
- 3) **1-2 Letters of Recommendation**

Sending the paperwork via email is most convenient. Please send at soonest convenience, preferably at least 2 weeks prior to the audition date.

Below is a suggested format for a high school level music resume. We recommend including dates as often as possible, and organizing your resume in reverse chronological order (most recent activity within each category first). This template would work for most performing musicians – a composition resume might look a little different.

**A sample resume format:**

- 1) Title with your full name, primary performance medium, mailing address, best phone and email contact information (include parent's name if using a family/parental phone or email)
- 2) Heading PRIVATE INSTRUCTION: list private instructors for your primary performance medium, years of study and contact information.
- 3) Heading ENSEMBLE EXPERIENCE: list large and chamber ensembles you have participated in. Include both school sponsored and extracurricular ensembles. If available, include chairs held.
- 4) Heading SOLO EXPERIENCE: list major solo pieces performed and/or studied on your primary instrument over at least the past 2 years.
- 5) Heading AWARDS: list awards you have won (other scholarships, solo/ensemble participation and ratings, etc).
- 6) Heading MUSIC EMPLOYMENT: list any work experience you have in music, i.e. paid accompaniment, private teaching experience, etc.
- 7) Heading MISCELLANEOUS: list any other relevant information that represents your personal music experience, i.e. music clubs/associations, theory courses completed, special projects, etc.
- 8) Heading SECONDARY EXPERIENCE: list secondary instruments and brief description of background

**Essay:**

Write briefly on some or all of the questions below that seem most relevant to you, 1-2 pages maximum:

- a. What impact has music made in your life and education thus far?
- b. What inspired you to continue music studies after high school?
- c. What do you hope to gain by continuing your music education and performance at the college level and into your future? If you are planning a career outside music, what role does music play in your life while pursuing other goals?
- d. Ideally, how do you see yourself participating in music while attending college?
- e. Anything else you want us to know about your music background or future?

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Send 1-2 letters of recommendation from music references. Letters may be sent directly from your reference's home OR email address.

**AUDITION DAY:**

All applicants are required to perform a minimum of 2 contrasting solo pieces for scholarship eligibility. Some departments have further requirements.

**Live on-campus auditions:**

Auditions take place in a private lesson format between you and the instrumental/vocal area instructor. Voice applicants should bring piano sheet music for the provided accompanist. Accompaniment is not necessary for instrumental auditions. All applicants are invited to arrive early and warm-up in any of the open practice rooms in the lower level of the Howard Music Hall.

**Remote auditions:**

Typically, they are submitted via 'unlisted' youtube links. Remote auditions must be in video format, audio recordings are not accepted other than as supplemental. Vocalists must perform with appropriate piano accompaniment to be eligible. Accompaniment for instrumental auditions is optional. Recordings of past live solo performances are acceptable. Jazz auditions may include video from a group/combo performance where individual improvisational skills are demonstrated.

**SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATION:**

Most scholarship decisions are made by early April after the audition deadline. If you need to know the status of your audition earlier for Financial Aid considerations and decision to attend, please contact the music department. Notification of scholarships arrive from the Financial Aid office otherwise. Accepting a music scholarship requires participation in an assigned ensemble and private lessons and maintaining a good academic standing overall.

\*If you would like to submit *optional* supplemental materials such as DVD, CD, music programs, solo/ensemble adjudication sheets, etc., please send them in one package to:

Stacey Jones, ATTN: Music Scholarships  
c/o Hillsdale College Howard Dept. of Music  
79 E. College Street, Hillsdale, MI 49242  
E-file attach: [sjones@hillsdale.edu](mailto:sjones@hillsdale.edu)

*\*Materials submitted by mail are returned only upon request.*