



# VCASS MUSIC AUDITION INFORMATION

## AUDITION APPLICATION PROCESS

All VCASS applications begin with the submission of a video audition. Please follow the process outlined below.

1. **Watch the checklist video**  
[VCASS Video Audition Information](#)
  2. **Prepare your supporting documents** (PDF or JPEG, each under 5MB)
    - Small JPEG photo (headshot or full body)
    - Copy of Semester 2 report from the previous year
    - Student statement (200–300 words): *Why would you like to attend VCASS?*
  3. **Prepare your audition program**
    - Refer to the audition requirements outlined below
  4. **Record one unedited audition video** (MP4, under 400MB)  
The video must include:
    - A spoken introduction stating your name, current year level, program you are applying for, and a brief summary about yourself.
    - A performance on your instrument of your audition program.
    - If you are including a second instrument in your application, a short performance on this instrument.
- NOTE: Pausing between pieces is permitted and is not considered an edit
5. **Complete online application**
  6. **Upload your video directly to the application portal**
  7. **Pay and submit your application**

VCASS can make accommodations and adjustments for students with additional needs. Please contact the auditions team for further information:

[auditions@vcass.vic.edu.au](mailto:auditions@vcass.vic.edu.au)

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS CLASSICAL STREAM

INSTRUMENT	AUDITION REQUIREMENTS
Piano (Classical)	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One etude or study</li> <li>• One own-choice work from the Classical period</li> <li>• One own-choice work from the 19th-21st century</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul>
Classical Guitar, Harp, Harpsichord	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One etude or study</li> <li>• Two contrasting own-choice works</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul>
String, Woodwind, Brass and Orchestral Percussion Instruments	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One study</li> <li>• Two contrasting own-choice works - at least one must be performed with accompaniment</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul>
Voice (Classical)	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One vocalise</li> <li>• Two contrasting songs</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b>  <b>Applicants entering Years 7–9:</b>            At least one of the songs should be selected from:  <i>AMEB Singing Series 2 (Grades 1–4)</i>, or  <i>ABRSM Songbook (Books 3–5)</i></p> <p><b>Applicants entering Years 10–12:</b>            At least one of the songs should be selected from <i>26 Italian Songs and Arias</i> (Paton edition), or a comparable song in Italian, French or German.</p>

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS JAZZ & IMPROVISATION STREAM

**Repertoire:** All applicants must include one jazz standard option from the following list. Within the performance, applicants should demonstrate their skills in improvisation.

Swing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn Leaves</li> <li>• All The Things You Are</li> <li>• In Walked Bud</li> </ul>
Latin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Thomas</li> <li>• Black Orpheus</li> <li>• Gentle Rain</li> </ul>
Ballad	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alone Together</li> <li>2. In a Sentimental Mood</li> <li>3. God Bless the Child</li> </ol>

**Additional requirements:** All applicants (except drummers) must be prepared to improvise over a **12-bar blues progression** AND a **ii–V–I chord progression**

INSTRUMENT	AUDITION REQUIREMENTS
Voice (Jazz and Improvisation)	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One technical study, vocalise or jazz solo transcription</li> <li>• One jazz standard from the list above</li> <li>• One contrasting jazz style work</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvisation applicants are expected to improvise over the form of the selected jazz standard</li> <li>• Vocalists must sing without amplification or microphone</li> <li>• Effects pedals are not permitted</li> <li>• Recorded accompaniment is not permitted</li> <li>• Select repertoire that demonstrates middle and upper register</li> </ul>
Piano, Guitar, Electric Bass, Wind, Brass and String (Jazz and Improvisation)	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One technical study or jazz solo transcription</li> <li>• One jazz standard from the list above</li> <li>• One contrasting jazz style work</li> <li>• One major scale, one minor scale and one arpeggio</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> At least one piece must be performed with accompaniment</p>
Drum Kit	<p><b>Repertoire and technical work to be presented in the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A selection of basic drum rudiments</li> <li>• One solo from <i>The All-American Drummer</i> by Charley Wilcoxon</li> <li>• Two contrasting well-known jazz standards from the lists above to be performed with accompaniment</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must demonstrate sticks and brushes</li> <li>• Demonstrate a range of feels and grooves including Latin, Swing, Ballad, Funk and Jazz Waltz</li> <li>• Double kick pedals are not permitted</li> </ul>

## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS AND PRE-REQUISITES

VCASS welcomes applications from students of all instruments and voice types. Applicants are **not required** to have completed formal music examinations. The following levels are provided as a general guide only.

### Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello

- Entering Years 7–8: AMEB Grade 6
- Entering Years 9–10: AMEB Grade 7
- Entering Year 11: AMEB Grade 8
- Entering Year 12: AMEB Associate Diploma

### All Other Instruments

Applicants are expected to have undertaken several years of regular tuition with a suitably trained and qualified instrumental music teacher.

## Voice Applicants

While formal vocal training is not mandatory, applicants are encouraged to have received some vocal training through choir participation or private lessons.

Students entering Years 7–9 will not enter as Jazz or Improvisation students. Where suitable, early voice pathways focus on developing healthy vocal technique through traditional repertoire.

## Music Theory Knowledge

Formal music theory tuition is not mandatory; however, the following levels are provided as a guide:

- Year 7: AMEB Grade 1
- Year 8: AMEB Grade 2
- Year 9: AMEB Grade 3
- Year 10: AMEB Grade 4
- Years 11–12: AMEB Grade 5 or VCE Music Performance Units 1 & 2

## ACCOMPANIMENT

- Applicants auditioning for Classical Piano, Classical Guitar and Orchestral Percussion typically do not require an accompanist.
- Singers and all other instrumentalists are expected to present the required repertoire with live accompaniment. A list of accompanists can be found via the [Victorian Music Teachers' Association](#) website.
- Recorded accompaniment is not permitted.

## TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR VIDEO

Please record your video in a quiet indoor setting using any device available.

Do your best with the resources you have and keep the following in mind:

- Film in a clear, well-lit indoor space so you are easily visible.
- Check both image and sound quality before submitting.
- Do not record outdoors (for example, in a park or garden) where background noise may interfere.
- You must remain visible in the video at all times.
- The video must be recorded in one sitting and must not be edited (pausing between pieces is permitted).

## VIDEO CHECKLIST

Your video must include:

- A brief introduction (maximum one minute) stating your name, current year level, application number and chosen stream.
- A performance on your instrument or voice in line with the audition requirements.

If you play a **second instrument**, you may include one own-choice work on this instrument in the same video. Please do not submit a separate video for the second instrument.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- After viewing your video and reading your application, the panel may request a follow-up audition/interview. This will either be at VCASS or online.
- Auditionees receive an email advising them of their outcome. If unsuccessful, you are most welcome to audition again in the future.

- The outcome of the audition is final and not subject to appeal.
- You will be asked to provide documentation to confirm age and year level appropriateness.
- The school does not provide any feedback to applicants regarding their audition.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

To view detailed information about the Music curriculum at VCASS, please visit the Music page on our website: <https://vcass.vic.edu.au/programs/music>

**General Enquiries:** For any general enquiries call our office on 03 8644 8644