**Application and Audition Processes for Music Majors/Minors**

**Dr. Lisa A. Billingham**

[**lbillin1@gmu.edu**](mailto:lbillin1@gmu.edu)**; 703-993-3778**

**Associate Professor, George Mason University**

**The following is the sequence of events for applying to Schools of Music:**

1. **Apply for admission to the University through the** [**Office of Admissions**](http://admissions.gmu.edu) **.** You may apply for an audition simultaneously with applying to the university.
2. **Complete and submit an Audition Application**. This application provides the School of Music with information concerning your musical background and allows you to select an audition date. You will be notified of the time and location of your audition **prior** to the date you selected.  (Audition application forms will be posted on this site when the dates are announced) –Some universities require a pre-screening audition recording or portfolio.
3. **Requirements for an audition:**
   * Prepare two selections in contrasting styles (slow-fast, Baroque-20th Century, Italian-English, etc.) totaling approximately 10 minutes. Selections need not be memorized, except for pianists and vocalists in which it is strongly encouraged.
   * Jazz Studies Auditions - Prepare two (2) selections in contrasting styles:  Blues/Bop, Fusion/Cool, Swing/Early Jazz, etc., one (1) jazz piece, etude or solo transcription, all major scales, improvisation over a blues and sight-reading.
   * Be prepared to demonstrate your sight-reading ability on your instrument or voice.
   * Instrumentalists: be prepared to play all major scales covering the range of your instrument.
   * Instrumentalists: be prepared to match pitches vocally and to sing a major scale.
   * Undergraduate Composition Applicants: please bring a printed copy of your composition portfolio to leave with the faculty.
   * Percussion: this information varies by school and by which area of expertise the student shows (snare, mallets, etc.)
4. **Vocalists should perform with piano accompaniment**. Please ascertain your accompanist's availability for your audition. In extenuating circumstances, an accompanist can be provided by the department, but you must arrange this in advance.
5. **Please bring one original copy of your music** to the audition for the audition committee.
6. **At the conclusion of your audition, you will be given a placement test.** NOTE: This DOES NOT replace any of the placement exams given upon acceptance to the School of Music.  The primary purpose of the exam given at undergraduate auditions is diagnostic.
7. **You will be notified of the results of the audition by letter. Some universities will call you.**
8. **For transfer students who have applied-music credits they wish to transfer to GMU:** the audition will also serve to determine how many of those transfer credits may be used towards the GMU applied-music requirement. (Disallowed credits [i.e., credits that the audition committee does not accept in fulfillment of the GMU applied music requirement] may be used as electives.)