



Leeds Conservatoire

Portfolio Requirements

2026 Entry

MA Music (Classical)

Introduction

Auditionees for MA Music (Classical) may request to complete their audition process by submitting audition materials online, or by attending an in-person audition day in Leeds (subject to availability of audition dates.) We are only able to facilitate in-person auditions for performers. Conductors will need to submit an online portfolio.

We may not always be able to facilitate an in-person audition requesting depending on the time of year. If no in-person auditions are available, we will ask you to submit materials online.

Once you have submitted your application, if you meet or are likely to meet our entry requirements, we will contact you with further details of how to submit your audition materials online through our application system, Acceptd, and to request an in-person audition if applicable.

Online Portfolio Submissions - Performers

You will be required to submit all of the following materials for assessment:

Performance of two contrasting pieces of the applicant's choice

- Record TWO contrasting pieces that demonstrate your musical strengths
- The pieces should be at least grade 8 standard and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively.
- At least one of your chosen pieces should have piano accompaniment. (This does not apply to piano, guitar and percussion applicants.)
- Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.

Music Theory

To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

- Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you)

Interview

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel)

- Describe your journey into classical music, including previous study
- Talk about your experiences as a classical performer, outlining any key projects
- Tell us about your influences, especially the artists you have studied/listened to the most
- Why do you want to come and study at Leeds Conservatoire?

Depending on the outcome of your portfolio, you may be contacted by a member of the academic team to schedule an additional Zoom interview where you will be asked a series of short questions exploring your interest, experience and knowledge of Classical Music, as well as discussing your application and the programme.

Applicants who receive offers and have further questions about the programme can request an online meeting with the Classical team, or in-person visit.

Online Portfolio Submissions - Conductors

You will be required to submit all of the following materials for assessment:

Portfolio

Conducting applicants are required to submit a portfolio of two or three scores (in PDF format) and video recordings that demonstrate your conducting skills (rehearsal and/or concert). Each piece should be a single document (please do not send each page of your score separately.)

Music Theory

To help us assess your music theory knowledge, submit a video recording of you responding to the following question:

- Identify and describe THREE interesting features of one of your audition pieces (these can be harmonic, rhythmic, melodic, or any other aspect that interests you)

Interview

Submit a short video with your answers to the following questions (please speak directly to the camera as if to an audition panel).

- Why are you interested in studying at Leeds Conservatoire? What do you believe you would bring to the conservatoire?
- What conductors do you most admire and why? How do they influence your approach to becoming a conductor? Do you have any other strong influences on your conducting skills?
- What do you feel are your strengths as a conductor? Which aspects would you like to improve most?
- Tell us about any other significant experiences as a musician. Do you also perform as an instrumentalist or vocalist?

In-Person Auditions - Performers only

In person auditions take place at Leeds Conservatoire.

You will have 30 minutes to warm-up followed by your 30 minute audition.

We are only able to facilitate in-person auditions for performers. Conductors will need to submit an online portfolio.

Your audition

- Perform TWO contrasting pieces that demonstrate your musical strengths: The pieces should be of grade 8 standard and contrasting in style – aim to show us what you can do technically and expressively.
 - Percussionists should include one tuned percussion piece and one for snare drum or timpani.
- Sight-read a short piece of music, which will be given to you on the day
 - You will have the opportunity to look at this in your 30-minute warm up time. Sight-reading isn't everyone's favourite – we understand this.
- We will ask you to play or sing some scales or technical exercises as appropriate to your instrument and level.
- You will have a short interview, where we will ask you about your general musical knowledge and interests.

