

Master of Arts in Musical Performance - Jazz Producing/Performance Focus on music production

APTITUDE TEST

Guideline for the admission procedure 2021

The admission procedure Master of Arts in Musical Performance Jazz with focus on music production at Academy of Music, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (HSM/FHNW) takes place in several stages:

Video and producing dossiers

A video must be provided presenting at least two pieces of repertoire prepared for the audition as instrumentalist or vocalist in the genre jazz with an ensemble and/or solo. The repertoire can be freely chosen, own compositions are welcome.

Together with the video dossier, a sound file of an independently produced and mixed studio production and/or film/video soundtrack with a short explanation of the production method (PDF) must also be provided.

Criteria for the creation of the videos

- All excerpts and movements should be recorded completely in their original state and uncut (no editing).
- We recommend using a stereo microphone and placing it carefully. If none is available, you can use the microphone of your camera, computer, or smartphone.
- The video should be shot from a static perspective, your hands and face should be clearly visible.
- Public recordings may be used provided they meet the above criteria (unedited).
- The recordings should be as new as possible, but in any case, not older than one year. When producing new material, make sure that the COVID regulations that apply to you are consistently adhered to.
- The individual pieces can be recorded separately.

Upload and transmission

- To upload the video, please choose either the Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com>) or YouTube (<https://youtube.com>) platform.
- Access to the video must be provided until the end of June of the application year.
- A private link to the video with the complete producing dossier (sound file and PDF) must be sent to us by **March 15** of the application year to jazz.hsm@fhnw.ch.

Pre-selection

Based on the submitted video dossier, the jury decides about the admission to the further procedure. The date for the audition will be announced in case of a positive decision. Rejections are justified with a feedback from the jury.

Audition

Hearing music production

- Presentation of an independently produced music production (studio mix) and/or a film/video soundtrack on a common media (sound files) with explanations of your production method (colloquium). The presentation may include the same projects that were submitted with the dossiers for the pre-selection.

- Demonstration of basic knowledge in producing based on the presentation of a self-produced piece on a platform of choice (Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Max/MSP or similar). The individual artistic profile should be expressed.

Ensemble and/or solo performance

- Ensemble and/or solo performance of two pieces from a repertoire list prepared by the candidate. The list should include a representative selection of the repertoire mastered by the candidate related to the jazz genre. Original compositions are welcome.

Ensemble performances may be completed with the candidate's own rhythm section (the norm for online auditions) or with a rhythm section provided by the university. For the university's rhythm section (piano, bass, drums) the repertoire must be chosen in such a way that it can be performed on sight from the sheet music provided by the candidate

- Instrumental or vocal solo improvisation, preferably in combination with live electronics.

The duration of the audition (hearing and musical performance) lasts 45 minutes.

Selecting the audition mode

At the Institute Jazz of the HSM/FHNW there is the possibility to complete the audition procedure **in attendance** (on site) or **online**. We attach great importance to this and can ensure that both procedures are assessed equally. Allocation to the online procedure is made by application, which must be bindingly submitted with the submission of the dossiers by **March 15** of the application year at the latest. Without a corresponding application, allocation to the face-to-face procedure takes place (subject to COVID measures and regulations then in force at that time).

Preparation for the online audition

- If possible, the online audition should be completed with the candidate's own ensemble (at least as a duo). The use of a suitable play along as well as solo performances are allowed.
- We recommend the use of an external microphone and possibly an audio interface. For the online procedure we will send you a zoom link by email in good time.
- Pay attention to the best possible conditions for a good transmission quality of the stream, for which we use the platform zoom. We recommend registering in advance at <http://zoom.us> and familiarizing yourself with the platform.