

## Master of Arts in Musical Performance - Jazz Producing/Performance Focus on composition

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### APTITUDE TEST

#### Guideline for the admission procedure 2021

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

#### Video and composition dossiers

A video must be provided presenting at least three pieces of repertoire prepared for the audition as instrumentalist or vocalist with an ensemble and/or solo. Original compositions are welcome as well as pieces from the Great American Songbook.

Together with the video dossier, at least three original compositions from the current compositional output must be provided with audio files in MP3 format and the corresponding scores in PDF format.

#### *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 composition dossier (MP3 and PDF) must be sent to us by **March 15** of the application year to [jazz.hsm@fhnw.ch](mailto: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 composition*

Presentation of 4 notated original compositions with different instrumentations together with audio files and detailed, prepared explanations (colloquium). One of the compositions must be written for the instrumentation of a "large ensemble" (at least sextet). The scores and audio samples must be submitted electronically at least 14 days before the examination date. The presentation may include the same compositions that were submitted for pre-selection.

### *Ensemble and/or solo performance*

Optionally, the jury may require a short instrumental/vocal presentation. Prepare two to three pieces for this and a list of another repertoire with which you are familiar. This repertoire may include the same pieces that are featured in the video dossier.

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.

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.