Bachelor of Arts in Music Jazz: Focus on instrument or vocals

APTITUDE TEST

Guideline for the admission procedure

The admission procedure Bachelor of Arts in Music Jazz at the Academy of Music, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (HSM/FHNW) takes place in several stages:

Video dossier

A video must be provided in which at least two pieces of the repertoire prepared for the audition are presented with an ensemble and/or solo. Optionally, original compositions are welcome. The selection of recorded material should reflect interpretive and improvisational skills related to jazz vocabulary and exposure to various jazz genres.

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.
- 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 must be sent to us by **March 7** 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 feedback from the jury.

Audition

Ensemble and/or solo performance (duration: 30 minutes)

The audition consists of three parts:

- Performance of three prepared jazz-oriented pieces of different stylistic and rhythmic genres.
- Performance of free choice: A original-composed piece of individual style or a cover song of your preferred music genre, a technically demanding etude, transcription or similar. The performance can be solo, with playback or with the provided accompanying ensemble (see below).
- Sight-reading of a simple melody, improvisation on the changes and (for guitar, piano, or bass majors) accompanying over a chord progression or (for percussion majors) interpreting of a lead sheet.

The repertoire may include the same pieces that are used for the video dossier. Furthermore, A repertoire list should be prepared for the attention of the jury board with some (jazz) pieces you have mastered by heart so far.

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.

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 7** 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.

Examination in rhythm training, aural training, harmony

Those who have passed the audition will be admitted to this part of the admission procedure. The exam takes place exclusively in online mode.

Basics of harmony (oral/written):

- Basics of harmony (oral / written):
- Determining intervals
- Determination of major, minor, and church modes
- Harmonizing a melody
- Analysis of a chord progression
- Analyze and write chord symbols for three and four voice chords
- Listening and analyzing cadences and typical chord progressions

EarTraining:

- Listening and identifying intervals
- Listen and identify tetrachords (tonal and free)
- Singing a melody from a written sheet
- Melody dictation
- Singing and naming scales (Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian and Locrian)

Rhythm:

- Singing / clapping binary and ternary exercises from a written sheet, in 4/4 and 3/4 time to 16th notes, 8th triplets and quadruplets
- Rhythm dictation at the same level of difficulty