

# **Extension Diploma and ESL+Music Certificate: Guidelines for Auditions and Proficiency Exams**

#### **Auditions:**

Orchestral instrumentalists and vocalists must use an accompanist for all appropriate literature (Mannes will provide an accompanist, or applicants may bring their own). Applicants must bring sheet music for the accompanist.

#### **Orchestral Instruments:**

Applicants should prepare to perform:

- Two contrasting pieces of different musical styles;
- Major and minor scales (selected at random by faculty audition panel)

  Note: All pieces must be performed from memory except sonatas and any contemporary works.

# Non-Orchestral Instruments:

Applicants should prepare to perform:

- Two contrasting pieces of different musical styles;
- Major and minor scales, if applicable (selected at random by faculty audition panel)

  Note: All pieces must be performed from memory except sonatas and any contemporary works.

#### Percussion:

Applicants should prepare to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of fundamental techniques by presenting an etude that shows technical proficiency on each of the following: snare drum, timpani, and marimba;
- Sight-reading may be requested by faculty *Note: All pieces must be performed from memory except sonatas and any contemporary works.*

# Piano and other keyboard instruments:

Applicants should prepare to perform:

- Two contrasting pieces of different musical styles/periods;
- Major and minor scales (selected at random by faculty audition panel) *Note: All pieces must be performed from memory.*

### Voice:

Applicants should prepare to perform:

• Three selections of contrasting styles and language (i.e., an Italian or English song of the 17th or 18th Century, an art song in German or French, and, if possible, an aria from an opera or oratorio).

Note: All pieces must be performed from memory.

# Composition:

Applicants should submit for review prior to the audition date:

- Two representative compositions completed within the last two years
- Composition students will complete an interview on the day of the audition.

## **Musicianship Placement Exams**

All students applying to the Extension Diploma or ESL+ Music Certificate program are also required to take placement exams in theory, ear training, and dictation. Students whose primary instrument is not piano must also take a placement exam piano proficiency. Sample content for these exams include:

Theory: Fundamentals of music including scales, intervals, chord analysis, counterpoint/part writing Ear Training: sight singing basic rhythmic and tonal patterns

Dictation: transcription of melodies, rhythms, chord progressions

Piano Proficiency: sight reading, major/minor scales, improvisation based on counterpoint

Students are required to demonstrate proficiency with the material covered in Basic Theory to gain admittance to the program. Composition majors must demonstrate above average ability in theory and ear training (content aligning with Theory 1B and Ear Training/ Dictation 1B, see course descriptions for detail).

Provisional or conditional acceptance may be granted in certain cases to applicants who do not meet the entrance requirements. Such students must make up deficiencies within one year of acceptance. A maximum of four (4) credits earned to remedy deficiencies may be applied against elective requirements.

## **English Language Proficiency**

All Mannes Extension courses are taught in English. Proficiency with the English Language (both written and oral) is essential to success in the program.

All applicants whose native language is not English must take the New School English Proficiency Exam (approximately 1 hour in length). The exam includes written and oral components and is scored based on:

- Accuracy and Grammar
- Vocabulary/Word Choice
- Length of Response
- Clarity of Language
- Development of Ideas
- Organization

Students who score "Level 3" or "Level 4" on the English Proficiency Exam are only eligible for the ESL+ Music Certificate Program.

Students who score above "Level 5" are eligible for the ESL+Music Certificate or Extension Diploma.

Students who score below "Level 3" are not eligible for study at The New School.