LIPA
THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Audition Guidelines: 2027 Entry
BA (Hons) Music (All Pathways)

Congratulations on getting through to the audition stage.

Auditions take place between October and April. If you live in the UK, you will be able to select an audition date from your applicant portal by following the link in your invitation email. If you would prefer to attend an online audition, please email admissions@lipa.ac.uk If you live outside the UK, we will invite you to the first available online audition suitable for your time zone, or to one of our overseas audition events which take place in the USA (October and March), and Norway (March). Alternatively, if you would prefer to travel to LIPA to attend an in-person audition, or travel to one of the above-named countries, please email international@lipa.ac.uk

We understand that attending auditions can be stressful, and we will do all we can to help you feel at your ease throughout. Please read these guidelines carefully before your audition to assist with your preparation.

Our BA (Hons) Music degrees require a strong commitment to working collaboratively in an interdisciplinary environment. The programmes are demanding and require high levels of initiative and self-motivation.

The audition is a two-way process, aiming to offer you the opportunity to discover if the course is right for you, while we try to determine whether you have the experience and qualities to benefit from what we have to offer. In addition to getting to know more about your relevant skills and attributes, we want to understand; what aspects of music interest and inspire you and why, what attracts you to working in the industry, and, what attracts you to our course. We will, therefore, explore your career aspirations with you, and how you think our course can help you achieve these.

We will endeavour to ensure that the whole process is as positive and relaxed as possible. If at any time during the audition you want clarification on a point or other information, please ask.

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BA (Hons) Music – Course specific audition guidelines (ALL)

Whether you audition in person or online, each BA (Hons) Music course requires you to prepare specific components for your audition. Below you will find the information relating to the individual course audition requirements. Please then also read on to find more guidance relating to both in-person and online auditions.

BA (Hons) Music (Popular, Contemporary & Commercial)
Perform two contrasting pieces of your choice. If you have songwriting or composition experience, please make sure that at least one of the pieces is your own composition. Both pieces of music should be performed on the same instrument (we count voice as an instrument).

BA (Hons) Music (Contemporary Pop Voice & Performance)
Perform two contrasting songs of your choice. These can be covers or originals. Both songs should show your vocal ability and an element of physical performance or movement. You should use accompaniment. This can be track or an instrument.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Performance)
Perform two songs (with lyrics) you have written yourself, without co-writing. Both songs should be performed on one instrument. This should be the instrument you wish to apply to as your first choice study (we count voice as an instrument). You may accompany yourself on other instruments or use tracks.

BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Production)
Perform or play back two songs (with lyrics) you have composed by yourself, without co-writing. One song should be sung live or performed on an instrument, and the other should be played back from your choice of Digital Audio Workstation. The song you play back should have been produced by you, without co-production. If in-person, we can provide playback facilities for Avid Pro Tools, Apple Logic Pro and Ableton Live only. It is advisable to bring your own laptop running any application you prefer and please note that for the purposes of setting up quickly, mini-jack output is the most convenient.

BA (Hons) Music (Production)
Play back two songs (i.e. with vocals) running live in a DAW which you have recorded and taken responsibility for yourself, involving no co-production. These songs may be self-productions or productions of another artist/band. In addition, please prepare a short live instrumental or vocal performance of your choosing; this can be performed with or without backing track. If in-person, we can provide playback facilities for Avid Pro Tools, Apple Logic Pro and Ableton Live only. It is advisable to bring your own laptop running any application you prefer and please note that for the purposes of setting up quickly, mini-jack output is the most convenient.

BA (Hons) Music (Session Musicianship)
Perform two contrasting pieces of your choice. Both should be performed on the same instrument which will be your first-choice study instrument. You should use track to accompany yourself.

Tips for choosing and preparing your pieces:
• Choose pieces from contemporary genres such as Pop, Rock, Jazz, etc.
• Avoid classical repertoire and musical theatre songs.
• Your pieces should show what you do best and reflect your interests.

LIPA actively explores the ethical, pedagogical, and practical impacts of AI across music. During your audition, it is important that we see your own work and what you can deliver without the use of AI.

If we offer you a place at LIPA: On courses where one-to-one tuition is applicable, we will offer you **one-to-one tuition on the instrument that you demonstrated at your audition. This will be confirmed in your offer letter.**

In-person auditions

The following schedule is for Liverpool auditions only, in-person audition schedules in other countries will vary and you will be given a schedule in advance of the event.

The audition day
Once registered, you will be allocated a time slot for the individual audition.

Schedule	Time
Registration	12.00 – 12.30
Welcome talk about the audition	12.30 – 12:45
Music theory test	12.45 – 13.30
Building tours	13.30 – 17.00
Individual auditions	13.30 – 17.00

Registration
Please use the Pilgrim Street entrance, where you will be met by Admissions staff or Ambassadors.

Welcome talk about the audition
This welcome session gives you a brief overview of what to expect.

LIPA music theory test
Understanding popular music theory is an integral part of communicating with other musicians and is something that we require all our music students to engage with. This multiple-choice test will ask questions (both written and aural) surrounding intervals, triads, seventh chords, key signatures, modes, minor scales, rhythms and time signatures in all keys. You will be expected to score a passing mark of 40% to enrol with us in September.

Tour of the building
During the day, we offer you a short tour of our building and Music facilities. The tour is usually guided by Music students. You are not being assessed during this. We include it in the event to help give you a better insight into LIPA and our facilities.

Solo audition and interview (30 minutes)

We ask you to perform pre-prepared pieces in your solo audition. See page two for more information relating to the course you are auditioning for. We may ask you questions about your pieces or questions relevant to studying here. We may ask you to complete short musical exercises or short aural tests.

Accompaniment

Vocalists may bring **one** accompanist with them or accompany themselves on guitar or piano/keyboard. All auditionees may perform their two pieces with a backing track. Please inform us on the day if you need audio playback. If you are an instrumentalist and wish to bring an accompanist, please email the Admissions Team admissions@lipa.ac.uk before your audition.

What to bring to the audition

You will need to bring your own instruments with you (not drummers and pianists). Please ensure you bring with you any spares or accessories you may need. For example:

- Electric Guitar/Bass Guitar - a jack lead (1/4" to 1/4")
- Effects pedals and any connecting leads
- Strings (Guitars & string players)
- Drummers - bring your sticks
- Piano/Keys – you may be required to play a digital or acoustic piano.
- Reeds or Valve Oil (Woodwind or Brass players)
- Laptop (DAW) for Songwriting & Production playback.

We recommend bringing water with you as there are likely to be periods when you will be waiting for the next stage of the process. We have a café on site which is usually open on audition days, although often has limited choice at these times. There are vending machines that accept card payment, or you are welcome to bring your own packed lunch.

Online auditions

Individual audition/Interview

Your audition also includes an interview and music theory test and should last up to 50 minutes and will take place on 'LIPA Meet-Up'. It includes an opportunity for you to ask us any questions you have about the course.

We will ask you to perform and/or playback (course dependent) two pieces that you have prepared for us and may also ask you to complete short musical exercises or aural tests relevant to the course you are auditioning for. The details of what is expected from you for each course can be found on page two.

We have put together a short guide for LIPA Meet-Up (pages 7-9) to ensure you are fully set up for the audition. Please look at this to check you can share your screen, share your sound and have the right equipment to hand.

Should you be presenting a DAW session as part of your audition, please also prepare export or 'bounce' of your DAW session as an '.mp3' file, as a backup to mitigate against internet connection issues.

If you are a vocalist, you can either perform your song to a backing track or with an instrument. If using a backing track, please make sure you have this prepared and set up in advance for each piece. If accompanying yourself on an instrument, we won't be assessing your performance on the instrument. We will only be assessing your vocal performance.

The online audition will be with one member of LIPA Music teaching staff and will be recorded and stored in line with safeguarding policies.

Music theory
Understanding popular music theory is an integral part of communicating with other musicians and is something that we require all our music students to engage with. As part of your audition, you will sit the same LIPA Music Theory Test as our in-person auditionees to gauge your understanding of intervals, key signatures, time signatures, chords, scales and modes. You will be expected to score a passing mark of 40% to enrol with us in September.

Tips for taking part in your online audition

- You will need a good internet connection
- You will need headphones
- Your device will need to have a screen, microphone and a webcam. If you have any concerns about your equipment for taking part in the online audition, please contact international@lipa.ac.uk
- Please ensure you are in a quiet room, where you will not be disturbed during the audition event.
- Please ensure you are in a well-lit space so you can be clearly seen and heard during your online audition.
- Test your camera and microphone before your online audition and clean the camera lens.
- Make sure your device is fully charged and/or is plugged into a power source.
- Position your camera so we can see you performing on your instrument.
- Make a note of any questions you want to ask about what it's like to study here.

Other useful information

Do you have an access need related to a disability that may require specialist arrangements?
If you think you will require any type of support or reasonable adjustment for your audition, please contact our Student Disability Officer, at wellbeing.disability@lipa.ac.uk

When will you hear from us after the audition?

We need time to reflect on the candidates we've seen, so we do not tell you the

outcome of your audition on the day itself. We don't like to keep you waiting though, so we always aim to communicate our decision to you within 10 working days of attending your audition. When we audition you, we may consider you for other Music pathways, so it's possible we might make you an offer for an alternative pathway to the one that you originally applied for.

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, if you are unsuccessful, we are unable to offer feedback.

Any questions?
If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the audition, please email:

UK applicants: admissions@lipa.ac.uk

Applicants from outside the UK: international@lipa.ac.uk

We wish you the best of luck and look forward to meeting you at your audition.

The LIPA Music Team

LIPA Meet-Up

Online Audition Guide for Applicants

Your audition details	
Meet-Up web address	https://meet.lipa.ac.uk
Meeting name	Sent to you by email before your audition
Help before or during your audition	music.auditions@lipa.ac.uk

1. Before your audition

Please work through this checklist the day before your audition and again about 15 minutes before your start time.

What you will need

- A laptop or computer.
- If on Mac – Google Chrome. You may need to install this ahead of time.
- If on Windows – Microsoft Edge
- Headphones
- Microphone and/or audio interface, connected and switched on.
- Your DAW (e.g. Logic Pro, Pro Tools, Ableton Live, Cubase) open with your project loaded.

2. Joining your audition

1. Open Chrome or Edge and go to the Meet-Up address: https://meet.lipa.ac.uk
2. Type the **meeting name** exactly as it appears in your email and select **Start meeting** (or press Enter). Alternatively, if you were sent a full link, simply click it.

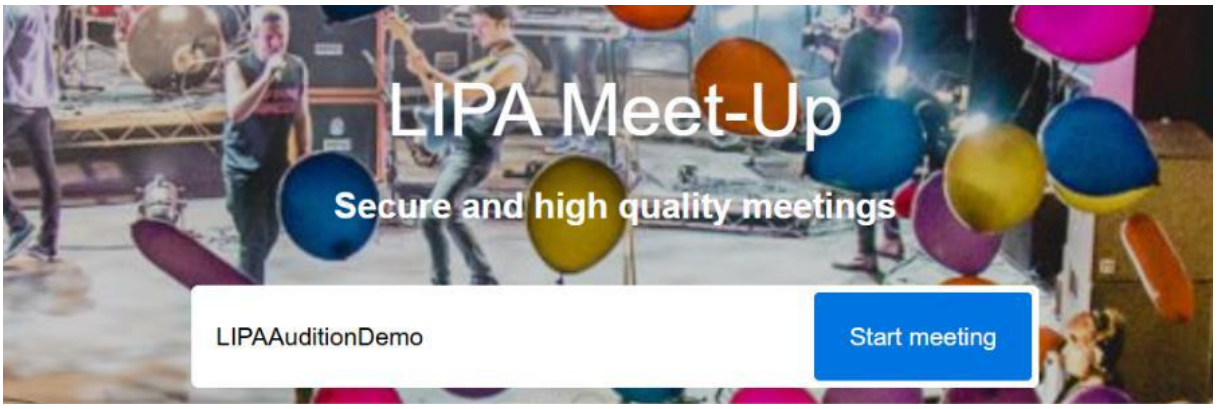


Figure 1: Meet-Up home page with the meeting name entered

3. Your browser will ask for permission to use your **camera** and **microphone**. Select **Allow**.

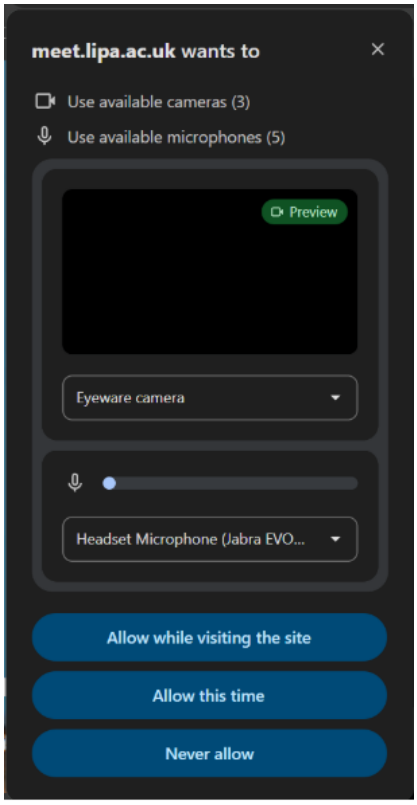


Figure 2: Browser asking for camera and microphone permission

4. You will now see the **pre-join screen** with a preview of your camera. Type your **full name as it appears on your application** so the panel can identify you.
5. Select the small **arrow next to the microphone icon** and choose your audio interface or microphone. Select the **arrow next to the camera icon** to choose your camera.

6. When you are ready, select **'Join Meeting'**.

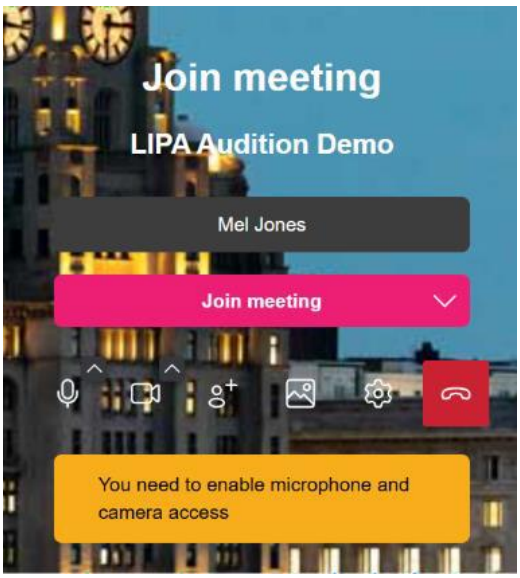


Figure 3: Pre-join screen showing name box, device arrows and Join Meeting button

3. Waiting in the lobby

Your audition room has a **lobby** (a virtual waiting room). After you select Ask to join, you will see a message saying that you are asking to join the meeting. A member of staff will let you in when the panel is ready.

- **Do not close or refresh the browser tab** while you wait, or you will leave the queue.
- Waiting a few minutes is normal, especially if the previous audition is running over.
- While you wait, open your DAW and check that your headphones and microphone are working.
- If you have been waiting for more than 10 minutes after your scheduled time, contact **music.auditions@lipa.ac.uk**

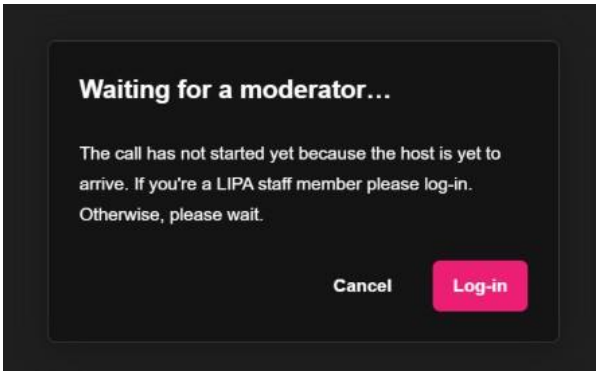


Figure 4: Lobby waiting screen ("Asking to join meeting")

Once you are admitted, you will be taken straight into the meeting, and the panel will greet you. They will usually start with a short sound check.

Don't worry if things go wrong – the auditioning panel will be there to help you! Relax, enjoy your audition and just be yourself.