

GSA APPLICANT GUIDE

Updated for Virtual Final Round, 2021

Instrumental Music



The Final Round of GSA's 2021 auditions/reviews will be held virtually using AuditionRoom, a feature within the existing application portal powered by Acceptd. Read below to learn what will be required in advance of and during a Final Round audition/review for this art form.

All applicants who advance to the Final Round will receive more instructions on how to access their audition/review; however, you can learn more about AuditionRoom [here](#) if desired. All Final Round auditions/reviews will take place on March 19th and/or 20th

Virtual Final Round Requirements

The Virtual Final Round for Instrumental Music will include the following (be sure to review the exact requirements for your specific instrument):

Submitted via Acceptd by end of day March 14th:

- a. Pre-Audition Questionnaire
- b. Prepared Ensemble Excerpt Video(s)
- c. Personal Solo(s) Video(s) and Sheet Music Upload(s)

Taking place during your assigned virtual audition time on March 19th or 20th:

- d. Sight Reading*
- e. Virtual Interview

*Please be ready to play your instrument for sight-reading at your assigned audition time on March 19/20 (except percussionists, who will not need their instrument; see below). As you will be reading music from your device via screen sharing, think about screen size and where you will place your device so you may play the sight-reading passage while viewing the music notation.

FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS:

a. Pre-Audition Questionnaire (due end of day, March 14th)

Applicants who advance to the final round will be forwarded to a new section of their application in Acceptd. This new part of the application will include a short questionnaire. This questionnaire may cover a range of topics, including your previous experience in your artform, your favorite artists, and/or your college and career goals. The questionnaire is not a quiz and is not scored, but it is a way for adjudicators to get to know you. The questionnaire may be used to customize questions in your interview.

REVIEW THE MORE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BELOW FOR YOUR SPECIFIC INSTRUMENT TYPE.

WOODWINDS & BRASS (FINAL ROUND)

b. Prepared Ensemble Excerpt Video (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Woodwind & Brass applicants will submit a video recording of a prepared ensemble excerpt. Applicants will play the excerpt alone, not as a part of an ensemble. This piece will be selected by the adjudicators, be about one minute in duration, and will be posted on the GSA website after finalists are announced. Applicants do not need to memorize this piece.

c. Personal Solo Video and Sheet Music Upload (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Woodwind & Brass applicants will submit a video recording of one personal solo. All applicants must upload a PDF of their music. No accompaniment (live, recorded or electronic) is allowed. This piece:

- will be selected by the student
- must be a new recording – may be the same or different solo from the preliminary round application. If you are performing the same piece as in the preliminary round, submit a new video of you playing the piece.
- need not be memorized
- will total 3 -5 minutes

The following will take place during your assigned audition time on March 19 or 20:

d. Sight Reading

All Woodwind & Brass applicants will sight-read a piece provided by the adjudicators at the time of virtual interview (the music will be provided via screen sharing).

e. Virtual Interview

Adjudicators will conduct a brief interview with each applicant. The duration of the interview is at the adjudicators' discretion.

STRINGS & GUITAR (FINAL ROUND)

b. Prepared Ensemble Excerpt Video (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Guitar & Strings applicants will submit a video recording of a prepared ensemble excerpt. Applicants will play the excerpt alone, not as a part of an ensemble. This piece will be selected by the adjudicators, be about one minute in duration, and will be

posted on the GSA website after finalists are announced. Applicants do not need to memorize this piece.

c. Personal Solo Video and Sheet Music Upload (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Guitar & Strings applicants will submit a video recording of one personal solo. All applicants must upload a PDF of their music. No accompaniment (live, recorded or electronic) is allowed.

This piece:

- will be selected by the student
- must be a new recording – may be the same or different solo from the preliminary round application. If you are performing the same piece as in the preliminary round, submit a new video of you playing the piece.
- need not be memorized
- will total 3 -5 minutes

The following will take place during your assigned audition time on March 19 or 20:

d. Sight Reading

All Guitar & Strings applicants will sight-read a piece provided by the adjudicators at the time of audition (the music will be provided via screen sharing).

e. Virtual Interview

Adjudicators will conduct a brief interview with each applicant. The duration of the interview is at the adjudicators' discretion.

PIANO (FINAL ROUND)

b. Prepared Ensemble Excerpt Video (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Piano applicants will submit a video recording of a prepared ensemble excerpt. Applicants will play the excerpt alone, not as a part of an ensemble. This piece will be selected by the adjudicators, be about one minute in duration, and will be posted on the GSA website after finalists are announced. This piece should not be memorized.

c. Personal Solo Video and Sheet Music Upload (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Piano applicants will submit a video recording of **ONE** personal solo. All applicants must upload a PDF of their music. This piece:

- will be selected by the student

- must be a new recording – may be the same or different solo from the preliminary round application. If you are performing the same piece as in the preliminary round, submit a new video of you playing the piece.
- must be memorized
- will total 3 -5 minutes

The following will take place during your assigned audition time on March 19 or 20:

d. Sight Reading

All Piano applicants will sight-read a piece provided by the adjudicators at the time of audition (the music will be provided via screen sharing).

e. Virtual Interview

Adjudicators will conduct a brief interview with each applicant. The duration of the interview is at the adjudicators' discretion.

PERCUSSION (FINAL ROUND)

Those applying in Percussion must audition on both one keyboard instrument (xylophone, vibraphone, marimba) and one non-keyboard instrument (multiple percussion, timpani, snare, drum set). **Applicants invited to the Final Round must audition on the same two instruments as the Preliminary Round.**

b. Prepared Ensemble Excerpt Videos (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Percussion applicants will submit two video recordings, each consisting of a prepared ensemble excerpts for one of the same two instruments as the Preliminary Round; one for a keyboard instrument (xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, etc.) and one for a non-keyboard instrument (multiple percussion, timpani, snare, drum set, etc.). Applicants will play the excerpts alone, not as a part of an ensemble. The pieces will be selected by the adjudicators, be about one minute in duration each, and will be posted on the GSA website after finalists are announced. Applicants do not need to memorize these pieces.

c. Personal Solo Videos and Sheet Music Uploads (due via Acceptd end of day March 14)

All Percussion applicants will submit two personal solo videos; one for a keyboard instrument (xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, etc.) and one for a non-keyboard instrument (multiple percussion, timpani, snare, drum set, etc.). All applicants must upload a PDF of their music for each piece. No accompaniment (live, recorded or electronic) is allowed.

These pieces:

- will be selected by the student
- must be a new recording – may be the same or different solo from the preliminary round application. If you are performing the same piece(s) as in the preliminary round, submit a new video of you playing the piece.
- need not be memorized
- will total 6 -10 minutes for **both** instruments (3 -5 minutes per instrument)

The following will take place during your assigned audition time on March 19 or 20:

d. Sight Reading

All Percussion applicants will **verbally** sight-read a piece (without an instrument or practice pad) provided by the adjudicators at the time of audition (music will be provided via screen sharing). Percussionists do not need access to their instruments on the day of their audition.

e. Virtual Interview

Adjudicators will lead a brief interview with each applicant. The duration of the interview is at the adjudicators' discretion.

Criteria

The work of each student will be given an objective review by the adjudicators as to how they fulfill each of the following criteria:

Rhythm/Tempo/Evenness

An ideal applicant plays evenly with correct rhythms; there are no pauses or restarts.

Technical Accuracy

An ideal applicant plays with proper fingering, bowing or sticking technique; solos are played with precision.

Musicality/Tone/Intonation

An ideal applicant plays in an appropriate stylistic manner with musical expression, with characteristic instrument sound, and in tune.

Dedication to Artform, Growth, and Community

An ideal applicant demonstrates a commitment to and passion for their artform, as well as a desire and ability to grow as an artist. The applicant can thoughtfully and

authentically explain why they want to attend GSA and how they are uniquely qualified to contribute to a robust, diverse community of artists.

Sight-Reading Proficiency (Final Round only)

A successful applicant plays in time with correct rhythms; there are no pause or restarts. In melodic sight reading, pitches are played accurately; the piece is played in an appropriate stylistic manner with musical expression, with characteristic instrument sound, and in tune.

Tips

These tips are suggestions. They are NOT eligibility requirements for admittance to GSA.

TIPS FOR SELECTING YOUR MUSIC:

Choose repertoire that:

- demonstrates both technically and musically the best aspects of your playing.
- is from the standard repertoire literature or equivalent music from your area.
- you know well, have performed before, and enjoy playing.
- demonstrates your ability to perform in time with other musicians—avoid selecting a piece that is primarily rubato in nature.
- is not too difficult or too easy for you to play—difficult literature performed poorly is not impressive, and easy literature, although performed well, may not provide enough information for the judges.
- Jazz and contemporary music selections are allowed, but classical literature is preferred. Avoid performing excerpts from previously used auditions (e.g. All-State music).
- Seek advice from your private teacher, ensemble director, or someone who is familiar with the GSA instrumental music program.
- While you may select a solo longer than the guideline duration of three to five minutes, know that only three to five minutes of your video will be viewed by the adjudicators. We encourage you to choose a three-to-five-minute solo if possible.

TIPS FOR RECORDING YOUR APPLICATION VIDEOS:

- Avoid over practicing on the day that you record your audition. Allow plenty of time for yourself to warm up, tune your instrument, mentally go over your audition music, and collect your thoughts before you record your solo.
- Be sure to observe all dynamic, articulation, tempo, and stylistic markings written in your solo. You may skip over long rests when playing your prepared

piece but should count in time all rests two measures or less.

PREPARATION TIPS FOR THE FINAL ROUND MATERIALS:

- Dress presentably, but comfortably. Do not overdress or underdress in anything that could cause a distraction from your audition.
- Submit your best work! Be sure to observe all dynamic, articulation, tempo, and stylistic markings written in your solo. If you intend to perform your piece significantly different from what is indicated on the score, be sure to write any of these changes on the music. If there are any cuts in your music, be sure to have them clearly marked. You may skip over long rests when playing your prepared piece but should count in time all rests two measures or less.
- Play confidently at all times in your videos. Once you begin playing, do not stop even if you make a mistake, ignore it and keep playing. Isolated mistakes do not automatically disqualify you from being accepted into the program. When you are finished playing, do not decide for the adjudicators through any verbal or physical gestures how well or poorly you perceived your playing to be.
- Practice sight reading music daily, as this is an important element of the audition process.
- Relax and enjoy yourself. The adjudicators want you to do well. They have all been through many auditions themselves and have experienced being nervous before. When performing, concentrate on your music rather than on what you imagine the adjudicators are thinking.
- Pay close attention to the adjudication criteria. While GSA students are accepted based on their holistic identity as a young artist, the criteria are the foundation of how your materials are being scored.
- **Remember the adjudicators are very excited to see your work and they want you to do well!** We know it takes hard work to submit this application, and that it can be scary to “put yourself out there.” We have faith in you, so put your best foot forward and don’t be afraid to show us the wonderful artist you are. You prove a level of dedication just by submitting your application, and you should be proud of yourself.

Application Timeline/Deadlines

January 10, 2021 - GSA Application Due

February 19, 2021 – GSA Finalists Announced

By March 5, 2021 – Finalists receive time/date for their Final Round Audition/Review



March 14, 2021 – By end of day, initial materials due in Acceptd (see details above)

March 19 & 20, 2021 – Virtual Final Round Auditions/Reviews

Friday, April 16, 2021 – Announcement of GSA 2021 Accepted Students and Alternates

June 27 – July 17, 2021 – GSA 2021 Summer Program

For technical support with the application, contact Acceptd

Email: support@getacceptd.com

Phone: 1.888.725.2122, press 2

For questions about Summer Program, the content and/or requirements of the application,

contact GSA

Email (preferred): gsainfo@kentuckyperformingarts.org

Phone: 502.566.5192