

Audition Requirements for MSU Denver at DIME Detroit Degree Programs

Audition Requirements for All Programs

Part I - Important General Information

SCHEDULING AN AUDITION

To schedule your audition, call us at **313-223-1600** or contact DIME's Head of Recruitment and Admissions: **Elise Mccoy** elisemccoy@dime-detroit.com

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ◆ Auditions are organized as follows:
 - ◆ **Interview** (30 minutes)
 - ◆ **Audition with Faculty** (15 minutes)
- ◆ **About the Interview:** The interview consists of a discussion detailing any previous formal musical training, past performances on stage and in studio, knowledge of music history and repertoire, self-directed practice in composition/improvisation, leading bands and promoting projects, booking and managing shows and sessions, and applying synthesis of skills towards musical goals. Additionally, applicants will discuss their overall career aspirations in the music industry.
- ◆ **About the Audition:** The assessment consists of demonstrations of performance, musicianship, composition/improvisation, and accurate understanding of musical terminology and notation.
- ◆ **Provisional Acceptance into your chosen Program:** In some cases, applicants who perform well but are not able to successfully complete all portions of the audition may be given Provisional Acceptance into the MSU Denver at DIME Detroit program. This will require a student to re-audition after their second semester in order to continue in the program.
- ◆ **After Your Audition:** If a student successfully completes their audition and is recommended for an MSU Denver at DIME Detroit BA degree program, they will be asked to submit a formal application to Metropolitan State University of Denver. The recruitment and admissions team will provide instructions on how to apply, and students will have the opportunity to apply on site if requested. MSU Denver requires a \$25 application fee.
- ◆ **Please Note:** Students may be accepted to MSU Denver and begin their coursework with a provisional pass of their audition; however, they must successfully reaudition prior to being accepted into any of the following degree programs. Students will be expected to work on sight-reading, improving technical ability on their instrument, or other aspects of the audition as required.

Part II - Audition Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Commercial Music Performance

- 1. Guitar 2
- 2. Bass 2
- 3. Drums 3
- 4. Vocals 3

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Commercial Songwriting

- 5. Songwriting..... 4

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Music Industry Studies

- 6. Music Industry Studies..... 4

Part II - Audition Requirements

GUITAR

- ◆ **Perform two prepared songs, at least 3 minutes in length per song, chosen from the applicant's current known repertoire:**
Applicants should choose pieces that accurately portray their personal styles, display their current level of musicality, and demonstrate an understanding of timing, technique, intonation, dynamics, and comfort on stage. Songs should be performed with a backing track if possible.
- ◆ Identify the key and basic chord progression of each song performed.
- ◆ Play two octave major, minor, and pentatonic scales with corresponding arpeggios.
- ◆ Play a I-IV-V progression in 2 styles (examples: blues, rock, funk, soul) and demonstrate understanding of transposition.
- ◆ Demonstrate knowledge of chord extensions (examples: C7, Am9, F#maj7 b5, Am7, etc.)
- ◆ Improvise a solo over a blues progression.
- ◆ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music.

BASS

- ◆ **Perform two prepared songs, at least 3 minutes in length per song, chosen from the applicant's current known repertoire:**
Applicants should choose pieces that accurately portray their personal styles, display their current level of musicality, and demonstrate an understanding of timing, technique, intonation, dynamics, and comfort on stage. Songs should be performed with a backing track if possible.
- ◆ Identify the key and basic chord progression of each song performed.
- ◆ Play a one octave major, minor, and pentatonic scale of your choice with corresponding arpeggios.
- ◆ Play a I-IV-V chord progression in 2 styles (examples: blues, rock, funk, soul) and demonstrate understanding of transposition.
- ◆ Improvise a bass line over a blues progression.
- ◆ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music.

DRUMS

- ◆ **Perform two prepared songs, at least 3 minutes in length per song, chosen from the applicant's current known repertoire:**
Applicants should choose pieces that accurately portray their personal styles, display their current level of musicality, and demonstrate an understanding of timing, technique, dynamics, and comfort on stage. Songs should be performed with a backing track if possible.
- ◆ Identify the time signature and estimated tempo of each song performed.
- ◆ Demonstrate basic rudiments (doubles, ruffs, flams, paradiddles, double-paradiddles, etc.)
- ◆ Play grooves in several different time signatures (4/4, 5/4, 6/8, 7/8, etc.)
- ◆ Play grooves in various styles (Rock, Funk, Blues, Bossa, Samba, Swing, Ballad, etc.)
- ◆ Improvise a short drum solo demonstrating technical knowledge and musicianship.
- ◆ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music.

VOCALS

- ◆ **Perform two prepared songs, at least 3 minutes in length per song, chosen from the applicant's current known repertoire:**
Applicants should choose pieces that accurately portray their personal styles, display their current level of musicality, and demonstrate an understanding of timing, technique, intonation, dynamics, and comfort on stage. Songs should be performed with a backing track if possible.
- ◆ Identify the key of each song performed.
- ◆ Sing major and minor scales in 1 octave, ascending and descending.
- ◆ Improvise a melody over a chord progression played by the assessor.
- ◆ Match vocal pitch to notes played on piano.
- ◆ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music.

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Commercial Songwriting

- ❖ Applicant is required to audition by performing two original compositions vocally and/or while accompanying themselves on an instrument such as guitar or piano. Applicants can provide an additional accompanist if we are notified at least 24 hours in advance. Chosen songs should demonstrate the applicant's understanding of song structure, chords, melody, and rhythm while also demonstrating personal style and versatility. Instrumental accompaniment is preferred, but applicants are permitted to perform songs along with a backing track.
- ❖ Identify the key and chord progression of each song performed.
- ❖ Discuss the subject and lyrical content of each song performed.
- ❖ Discuss applicant's songwriting methodology and process.
- ❖ Sing or play major and minor scales in 1 octave, ascending and descending.
- ❖ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music on piano, voice, or guitar.

Bachelor of Arts in Music: Music Industry Studies

- ❖ Applicants will be asked to outline relevant experience in the music industry. This includes but is not limited to: self-management or managing another artist, booking shows for artists or venues, and promoting events, recordings, or artists in a number of ways.
- ❖ Submit 1-3 representations of your music or music you represent. Acceptable formats include CD or flash drive, or emailed links to websites or music streaming services. We can also accept show posters, letters of recommendation, resumes, or any other evidence of your work within the music industry.
- ❖ Discuss books, magazines, blogs, periodicals, and industry websites that you are following which help you feel connected and informed about today's music industry.
- ❖ **Please Note:** Students who are not prepared to fully complete the audition requirements below must still complete an audition to the best of their ability. They may be asked to take a music theory aptitude test, and if successful, given provisional acceptance to the program and be asked to work independently on the tasks below. Students who are granted provisional acceptance must complete a full audition at the end of the second semester.
- ❖ Applicants will be asked to demonstrate musicianship and performance ability on an instrument by performing two songs chosen from the applicant's current known repertoire, either with a backing track or self-accompanied.
- ❖ Identify the key and chord progression of the song performed.
- ❖ Sight-read a provided piece of notated music on piano, voice, or guitar.
- ❖ Sing or play major and minor scales in 1 octave, ascending and descending.