

Jazz entrance examination programme

1. Video recording

Instrument/vocal studies entrance examination

The video recording consists of two compositions from the jazz repertoire. Both compositions are different in tempo. See "Repertoire video recording and live test per instrument" for more details. Candidates may accompany themselves (e.g. via backing track, play-along CD, etc.) or have themselves accompanied, depending on their capabilities. Playing without accompaniment or e.g. only playing with a metronome is also allowed.

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

If you do not live in Belgium, the live audition can be replaced by additional recordings + a zoom meeting. International students who cannot come to the live audition must record all three pieces for round 1. See "Repertoire video recording and live test per instrument" on p.2 for more details. Send us recordings where we can see you playing with a live band.

If you are selected for round 2, you must send a recording of the compulsory piece within a week. For the recording of the compulsory piece, you may accompany yourself (e.g. via backing track, play-along CD, etc.) or let others accompany you. Playing without accompaniment or, for example, only with a metronome is also allowed for the recording of the compulsory piece.

During round 2 (the 'live audition'), you will be invited to come online for a motivational interview with the jury. Make sure you keep your instrument handy during this online interview, in case the jury wants to hear some additional exercises.

2. Motivation video

Tell us why you want to study jazz at the Antwerp Conservatoire. Be sure to include the following questions:

- Why choose a jazz programme?
- Why choose Conservatoire Antwerp?
- How long have you been playing your instrument?
- Where and with whom have you taken instrument lessons in the past?
- What field of study did you pursue in high school?
- Did you do any other studies after high school?

3. Live test instrument/vocal studies

- Performance: performing a prepared composition from the jazz repertoire. This composition should preferably be of a different tempo to the compositions on the video recording. The admissions committee may also request the candidate to perform one or both compositions from the video recording live. See "Repertoire video recording and live test per instrument" for more details.
The candidate will be accompanied by an on-site rhythm section and must bring his/her own parts for these instruments (melody + chord progression will suffice).
- Prima vista: playing by sight a simple excerpt of a work from the jazz idiom: melody + improvisation (except bass) + chord progression (piano and guitar only).
- Technique: the admissions committee may ask the candidate to take a short technical test: major and minor scales, (broken) chords.
- Hearing exercises: the admissions committee may ask the candidate to imitate a melodic line or rhythmic pattern or to recognise pre-recorded chords or chord progressions.
- Imposed work: the candidate will be sent the imposed work by email one week prior to the entrance examination.

Repertoire video recording and live test for each instrument:

Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Flute

1 blues, 1 ballad, 1 choice piece (swing or Latin): melody + improvisation on each. Blues or choice piece in medium or fast tempo. Candidates choose which two pieces to record and which piece to prepare for the live test. If you wish, you may add to your recordings an additional piece in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. own composition, other genre, ...)

Guitar

1 swing piece (medium or fast tempo), 1 ballad or medium-slow, 1 choice piece. For each of these pieces: melody, improvisation on the chord progression and 1 chorus accompaniment of a piano solo. Candidates choose which two pieces to record and which piece to prepare for the live test. If you wish, you may add to your recordings an additional piece in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. own composition, other genre, ...)

Double bass, Bass guitar

1 swing piece, 1 'even-eights' piece, 1 choice piece. Candidates must incorporate the following elements into their playing: 1 theme, at least 1 improvisation, 'two-beat' and walking-bass'. Candidates choose which two pieces they record and which piece they prepare for the live test. If you want, you may add to your recordings an additional piece in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. own composition, other genre, ...)

Drums

2 swing pieces (1 piece or a fragment of it with brushes), 1 Latin piece. Improvisation: at least once '4 by 4' or '8 by 8' (interspersed with piano solo). Candidates choose which two pieces to record and which piece to prepare for the live test. If you wish, you may add to your recordings an additional piece in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. own composition, other genre, ...)

Piano

1 swing piece, 1 ballad, 1 choice piece; swing piece or choice piece in medium or fast tempo. For each of these pieces: melody, multiple choruses improvisation on the chord progression and 1 chorus accompaniment of a bass solo. Candidates choose which two pieces to record and which piece to prepare for the live test. If you want, you may add an extra piece to your recordings in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. your own composition, other genre, ...).

Vocal studies

1 blues (theme with or without lyrics, improvisation), 1 ballad (theme with lyrics, improvisation not compulsory), 1 standard (swing or Latin, medium fast tempo, theme with lyrics, improvisation with or without lyrics). Candidates choose which two pieces to record and which piece to prepare for the live test. If you wish, you may add to your recordings an additional piece in which you show a little more of your musical personality (e.g. own composition, other genre, ...)

4. Content of theoretical tests: Reading and hearing training

Hearing training: written test (in group)

Recognising and noting by ear:

- a pre-played melo rhythmic dictation
- scales (major and minor), pentatonics (major and minor), blues scale
- single intervals (large, small, pure, reduced, excessive)
- triads with inversions (major, minor, diminished, excessive)
- four-syllable root sounds (major, dominant, minor, minor-large, semi-reduced, diminished) as consonants and broken
- simple progressions (I-VI-II-V/II-V-I)

Reading training: oral test (individual)

Singing on sight a melody in G and F clef by note names.