



MOUNTVIEW

MA/ MFA MUSIC DIRECTION

CANDIDATE'S BRIEFING FOR ONLINE INTERVIEWS

What to prepare for your interview

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Your interview will take on Zoom, via a link that will be sent to you ahead of the day of your interview. The online interview process will give you the opportunity, as far as possible through an online medium, to demonstrate the individual and personal set of skills that coalesce in an effective musical director. Your interview process will take the following structure:

Submissions

Your submitted work for consideration as a part of your interview process, will be required to be uploaded to Google Classroom no less than fourteen calendar days in advance of your Zoom interview. You should:

1. Record a video of you playing two pieces at the piano. One of these should be a classical piece that shows dexterity, control, and good finger and pedal technique; the other should be a musical theatre piece. This will ideally be a musical theatre overture, or a substantial dance break (ie. at least three pages of music), which shows a sense of the orchestration and stylings of the music in your realisation of that at the piano. Each piece should have a duration of no longer than three minutes. The camera should show the full extent of the keyboard and clearly show your hands as you are playing.
2. Record a video where you coach a singer on the interpretation of one of a choice of songs. Mountview will supply to correct sheet music to use. Your video should last approximately ten minutes, and should focus on supporting the singer in their interpretation of both music and lyric text as if you were musical directing the number for the show or coaching the singer for an upcoming audition. While singing technique advice on placement and breathing can support this process, you are not expected to give the singer a technical lesson. If you have no singer available, you may create a 'youtube' style masterclass video where you coach elements of the chosen song designed for a singer or singers who are not present at the same time as you are giving the coaching, but watching your tutorial at a later date. Please choose one from the following list of songs:
 - Where Is the Life That Late I Led? (*Kiss Me Kate*) (Legit.)
 - Everybody Loves Louis (*Sunday in the Park with George*) (Sondheim)
 - Right Hand Man (*Something Rotten*) (Contemporary)
 - You'll Be Back (*Hamilton*)

Online Interview

Your submitted work will be reviewed ahead of your interview. Though you will not be required to play any of your prepared work in the interview, you may be asked repertoire choices and interpretative decisions. Your interview will then take the following form:

1. You will be emailed two pieces to sight-read at the start of your interview. The first will be a short extract from a song and the second will be a complete song to sight-read. These will be contrasting periods and styles of music. You are not expected to play every note on the page, but rather to give a musically coherent, harmonically and stylistically accurate reading of the song, which a singer could comfortably work with in a class or audition context. Please ensure you have working internet to download the music that will be attached to this email, and either access to a printer or a tablet to read the music from at the keyboard.
2. The remainder of the interview will be a free-form discussion of your previous studies and experiences, as well as aspirations for the future. There are no 'wrong' answers, and this allows us to see how you might benefit from the Mountview MD training, as well as for you to get a more detailed idea of how the course works and integrates with life at Mountview. This will also be a chance for you to ask any questions you have. You may also wish to bring examples of work (such as orchestrations or backing tracks) that you feel support your application.

After your interview day, we aim to confirm the result within 2 weeks. All results are communicated via email to the applicant by the Admissions Team. Results cannot be confirmed over the phone. You will then receive your official offer letter by email following which you will have 2 weeks to respond to your offer and if accepting, pay a £1,000 deposit.

Application for the MFA is by the same process as the MA.

How to record and submit your videos

Here is a video on how to record and submit your recordings, filmed by our alumni students. PW: MVAudition2021
[Submission video](#) / [Subtitled submission video](#)

Recording

- Ensure the camera is framed in a medium close up, (head and shoulder in the frame – landscape).
- Introduce yourself, the play, your character and the author clearly before starting your pieces.
- Record both songs in one video. We are unable to accept a video per song. Please allow a gap after your first song, before starting your second song. You are welcome to film the songs separately and edit them together to create one video.
- Aim for a plain background.
- Ensure your face is not in shadow where possible and there is sufficient lighting on your face.
- Ensure your volume is not too quiet, or too loud and distorting.

Submitting

Full details on how to submit your video can be found within your Mountview Application Portal.

Additional information

Mountview is committed to providing a supportive environment for applicants during their time with us. We understand that auditions can be a source of stress and anxiety for many people and we aim to support our applicants through this process. Our Student Welfare Manager works with the Admissions Office to ensure that any applicant who discloses a need for support or adjustments can participate fully with the audition experience.

If you have any access requirement or have any further questions please contact:

Admissions
admissions@mountview.org.uk · 020 8829 0037

Confirmation

To confirm your audition deadline date, please complete the confirmation form in your audition invite email.

Failure to attend an interview without prior notification (i.e. one week) may result in the withdrawal of your application.

We look forward to meeting you at your interview.

