

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT AUDITION INFORMATION FOR 2025 APPLICANTS

For first study pianists, violinists and composers, the initial stage of our 2025 application process will be online/digital. All other auditions (including final round auditions for pianists, violinists and composers) will be held in person at the RCM main campus in South Kensington.

The deadline for completing our online application form will be the end of Saturday 1 March. We have done everything we can to ensure that the form is straightforward to navigate, but we strongly encourage you to access the form well before deadline, in order to allow time for us to respond to any issues that you might have (please send queries to jd@rcm.ac.uk).

In addition to completing the online application form, first study piano, violin and composition candidates will be expected to **upload video recordings of their performances** or **PDFs of their composition portfolios** to our secure online portal **by the end of Friday 7 March**. Outline details of online submission requirements are overleaf.

Our expected audition timeline is below. Please advise via the online application form of pre-existing clashes you have with any of these dates. Due to the complexities of the audition scheduling process, it is not possible for candidates to select a particular audition date. We will do what we can to work with candidates' declared availability, but we cannot guarantee to accommodate applicants with very limited availability. It is expected that, where necessary, auditionees will need to be excused from school to attend a live audition if offered. If you are unable to make any of the relevant live audition dates, please get in touch (jd@rcm.ac.uk) and note it in your application – you may be asked to submit online materials instead.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Sat 1 March (by end of day)	Online application form submission deadline
Fri 7 March	Recording/portfolio upload deadline (see next page for submission instructions)
Tues 11 March	Live single-round audition invitations emailed from RCMJD
Tues 18 March – Fri 24 April	Live single-round auditions on most weekdays
Fri 4 April (by end of day)	1st round online audition results for pianists, violinists and composers sent by email from JD office (with live audition invitations if applicable)
Mon 14 April – Thurs 24 April	Live final round piano, violin and composition auditions
Fri 25 April (by end of day)	Final audition results emailed from RCMJD
Thurs 1 May (by end of day)	Responses to all offer letters required

(continued overleaf)

APPLICATION/AUDITION FEES

We do not wish for the cost of the audition to prevent anyone from auditioning for the Junior Department; if you have any concerns about making payment, please contact us via jd@rcm.ac.uk.

Please note that any audition fee waivers must be agreed in writing by a member of RCMJD staff before your child's application is submitted. The audition fee is a contribution towards costs of the overall audition process and is non-refundable, even if a candidate is not selected for an in-person final round audition.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

FIRST ROUND ONLINE/DIGITAL AUDITIONS

First round audition panels (for first study pianists, violinists and composers) will convene digitally, reviewing the video recordings or composition portfolios that candidates have provided. For composition portfolio requirements please refer to our Auditions Special Conditions & Requirements document. Requirements for first study piano and violin video submissions are as follows:

First study: two short, contrasting pieces

Second study: one short piece (NB optional at this stage, and only if the applicant's form indicates they wish second study lessons to be part of their RCMJD programme if they are successful at audition).

Please note the overall duration of all pieces to be performed should be no more than 15 minutes.

The setup of the recording for each performed piece is your discretion (whether it be filmed at a live concert or at home, school etc). In all cases, our audition panels will appreciate it if the video and audio can be as high quality as possible (reasonable-quality recordings can be made on most mobile phones). The camera should remain as static as possible during each recording, and the applicant should be on screen throughout. When considering your camera angle, please bear in mind that the audition panel will need to look at the candidate's posture and technique. Finally, please don't edit recordings – each piece must be presented in one continuous shot.

It's preferable that pieces that have accompaniment are performed in this way (either with a live pianist or pre-recorded backing track). This gives our panel insight into how the applicant interacts with another musical line. However, if circumstances dictate that this isn't possible, performances of just the solo part are acceptable. Recordings should be as recent as is practical.

Detailed instructions about how to upload recordings to our online portal will only be distributed to candidates' parents/guardians once we have reviewed each application, which may take a few days. It is therefore advisable to complete your online application form as soon as you can, to then give yourself as much time as possible to record and upload your audition materials.

SINGLE/FINAL ROUND AUDITIONS

Single and final round auditions will be held in person at the RCM main campus (South Kensington).

For live auditions, individual study requirements are the same as for first round online auditions (see above). For final round piano and violin auditions, candidates should present performances of the pieces that they have submitted for their first round video audition. In addition, candidates will be asked to undertake aural tests, first study sight reading and a discussion with the audition panel.

You will need to use our official accompanist and will have time to rehearse with them before your audition.

Please also ensure that you read our **special audition requirements** document, available from our website: www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/rcmjddapply/rcmjdauditions/

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AUDITION RESULTS

Results will be sent directly to parents/guardians by email as soon as possible after the audition period. If you are offered a place then you will have a little time to decide whether you wish to accept the offer. There will be an opportunity to visit the Department before decisions are required.

If you decide to accept you will also need to decide (by the acceptance deadline) on which instruments you wish to have individual tuition, and whether you require standard length or extended lessons (for which there is an extra cost). You must also familiarise yourself with what the RCMJD offers and what is expected of students and parents before accepting your place, and will be asked to sign your agreement to our Regulations and Code of Conduct.

The decision of the audition panel is final, and we regret that we are unable to enter into correspondence about results, owing to the large volume of applications we receive.

LATE APPLICATIONS

We may offer auditions outside our main audition period and/or accept late applications in exceptional circumstances – please contact the Junior Department office via jd@rcm.ac.uk if this is relevant to you.

January 2025