



UNIVERSITY OF
CHICHESTER

Conservatoire

YOUR

AUDITION

**A guide to audition for the joint
Cabaret Programmes**

- BA (Hons) Music and Cabaret Performance
- BA (Hons) Musical Theatre and Cabaret Performance
- BA (Hons) Jazz and Cabaret Performance
- BA (Hons) Songwriting and Cabaret Performance

UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER CONSERVATOIRE

Welcome to the University of Chichester Conservatoire. We are sending this booklet to support you through your audition process.

We pride ourselves on offering our candidates something different from our selection process: a real dialogue, which offers a sense of worth and achievement from the actual process itself; a sense of ownership for you in a two-way process and, ultimately, an opportunity for us both to make sure we begin your journey in the way we'd want to continue it – from a clear understanding of who you are, what you need, and how we can best prepare you for where you'd like to be by the end of your degree.

We offer a huge variety of music and music-related degrees which are all competitively applied for, and so we're as keen to get this right for you as you are.



Here are a few reasons why we think you'll be happy and successful studying Cabaret Performance at Chichester:

1. Chichester – a city full of art, culture (including Chichester Festival Theatre), great shopping, a busy Students' Union, the dramatic landscape of the South Downs, and the gorgeous seaside at West Wittering is within easy reach.
2. The variety of degree programmes on offer – we really do value choice within the Conservatoire and offer a wide variety of degree programmes so that we can support you in choosing a pathway which reflects your goals, needs, and a superb experience. We believe that the programme you choose has to be right, and it has to manage the task of taking you on a focussed, clear, and safe journey to the industry you hope to work within. If, en route, you decide that a different degree programme has begun to resonate with you, we also believe that exploring options and facilitating change is a crucial aspect of supporting our students.



3. Our facilities – we have an outstanding, purpose-built music building which houses many practice rooms, a large array of teaching and lecture spaces, band rooms, a studio, and various performance spaces. With nearly 1,000 students within the Conservatoire, there's a genuine sense of community which we love. In semester time, the facilities are open in the evenings and at weekends for rehearsals.
4. Our staff – as well as supporting student development and the student experience, our staff are active, practicing professional musicians and researchers who regularly perform and record. We have around 140 professional tutors who visit campus regularly throughout the semester to teach our instrumental and vocal one-to-one lessons, as well as ensemble coaching. As well as being supported by your one-to-one tutor and your module tutors, each student has an Academic Advisor who you can see as regularly as you need. We also have an excellent Student Support team who are always on hand.
5. Your interview – we are inclusive and welcoming; we judge you on your skills, your potential, and your personality, not your background. If you are invited for interview it will always be face to face, friendly and informal-feeling.

If you have any questions about the course, Conservatoire, or any aspect of the University, please contact us on the details at the end of this booklet.

**Yours sincerely, Ben Hall, Director of the
University of Chichester Conservatoire**



YOUR

AUDITION DAY



AUDITION SCHEDULE

10.45 AM Arrive at the main reception. There is parking available on campus (pay and display) and the campus is a 20 minute walk or five minute taxi ride from the station.

11.00 AM Part 1 – Your Cabaret audition with the Programme leader

1.00 PM Information about the course options and lunch break

2:00 PM Part 2 – Audition for your joint pathway
(Music, Musical Theatre, Jazz or Songwriting)

3.00 PM Q & A session – A chance to ask any questions you have



THE AUDITION DAY EXPLAINED



The audition for the Cabaret programmes is in two parts on the same day.

Firstly, (late morning) the candidate will meet with the Programme leader to perform one of their audition pieces. This will be followed by an informal chat. Secondly, in the early afternoon, the candidate will meet Ben Hall (the Head of the Conservatoire) to perform one of their audition pieces followed by an informal interview. We will accompany you so please bring copies of the piano accompaniment parts (not photocopies, please, unless you have the written consent of the copyright holder).

If you need particular equipment, such as a drum kit, orchestral percussion or a concert harp, please let the admissions team know so we can have this available for you. If you need to borrow an instrument because you won't be able to bring your own, like a double bass, let us know so we can make sure there is one for you to use. After the audition we'll meet up with your guests (if they've come along with you) and take the opportunity to answer questions-often it's easier to think of questions after you have performed.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS BY COURSE

Music and Cabaret Performance

Please prepare 2 contrasting pieces (instrumental or vocal) in any style. If you are auditioning primarily as a singer, in addition, please prepare a short, spoken introduction that shows off your personality. If you wish to perform on more than one instrument, or on an instrument and as a singer, just let us know on the day. There is also an option to take dance as part of this course. Please provide evidence of any previous dance experience if you wish to be considered for this option.

Musical Theatre and Cabaret Performance

Please prepare 2 contrasting songs with at least one from the musical theatre repertoire. In addition, please prepare a short, spoken introduction that shows off your personality. If you are wanting to be considered primarily as a dancer, in addition to the singing you will also be asked to provide details of your dance experience and any examinations obtained. Candidates may not be required to dance on the day as the dance classes on the course are streamed according to ability. However, you will be expected to show evidence of a thorough training in dance to specialise as a dancer on the course.

Jazz and Cabaret Performance

Please prepare 2 contrasting pieces (vocal or instrumental), with at least one being in a jazz style. If you would like to perform on more than one instrument or on an instrument and as a singer, just let us know on the day.

Songwriting and Cabaret Performance

Please prepare 2 contrasting songs, with one being an own composition. If you prefer you can bring a recording of your own song. You can either choose to be accompanied on the piano (if you provide sheet music) or accompany yourself on the piano and/or guitar. You will be required to perform at least one song on the day.





ONLINE SUBMISSIONS

Please provide; (compulsory)

- 1) 2 contrasting songs, 1 from musical theatre repertoire. If auditioning as an instrumentalist, 2 contrasting instrumental pieces from any genre.
- 2) 1 piece of short, spoken introduction (showing ability to engage). This can be introducing yourself and what you are going to sing, and/or why you have chosen the piece or some fun facts about yourself. The main point is that it shows personality and engagement.
- 3) If you are primarily wanting to be considered as a dancer, footage of dance, (solo or group work) must also be offered in addition to 1 and 2.

In addition: (optional)

You can also include any other skills you have which may be of interest to show your all-round experience as an entertainer. For example: musical instruments, comedy, magic, circus skills.

If you are feeling anxious about the audition, do contact us to arrange to perform something informally in advance of your audition day. This can often help to calm the nerves and give you a chance to chat about the work that you're planning to offer and look at ways to strengthen your playing and singing.

Please don't worry, lots of people do this – just email conservatoire@chi.ac.uk



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We hope you have a really great time on the audition day. At the end of the audition, we'll discuss your application and decide how to proceed. Then we pass on the details to the admissions team who will update UCAS.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **We make bespoke offers:** The offer we make is for YOU. If we offer less than your predicted grades, it's because we want you to come here and want to take a bit of the pressure off you heading into your exams.
- **We don't do unconditional offers:** Unless you already have your grades (you are a mature student), we will always insist on certain grade achievements. We want you to succeed in all aspects of your academic life including your A levels, BTEC etc.
- **What if I don't get my grades?:** Don't panic. We gave you an offer because you were good enough for our department at audition. Ring us on the clearing hotline and we will discuss things with you.
- **We may offer you a different course:** We sometimes offer students places on a course within our department that is different to the one they applied for. If we want you to consider a switch, we will start the conversation at your audition or shortly afterwards. We will explain our reasoning, which will be about placing you on the most appropriate programme – where we think you will thrive.





STAYING IN TOUCH



Please contact us directly if you
have any questions:

conservatoire@chi.ac.uk

Join us on social media:

 **[@ChiUniMusic](https://twitter.com/ChiUniMusic)**

 **[@ChiUniMusicEvents](https://www.facebook.com/ChiUniMusicEvents)**