

13+ Music Scholarship Information

September 2026 entry

Candidates will sit Music Scholarship Auditions at Oundle School during week commencing 26 January 2026. The deadline for completed Music Scholarship application forms is **Friday 17 October 2025**.

Performance

The importance is to make contact with the listener / audience, possibly performing from memory, making sure that the music stand is in the right place and at the right height. Careful tuning is vital. Get to grips with tempo beforehand – work carefully with the accompanist so that they do want you want. Present a performance that communicates – use eyes, smile. Please bring copies of the music you are going to perform.

Please prepare:

- Two contrasting pieces on the first study instrument
- One piece on second study instrument
- One piece on third study (if you wish – not compulsory)

Musicianship Tests

Please prepare:

- Sight-reading on first study instrument
- For those not offering voice as an instrument, we ask pupils to sing a short song (this need not be difficult - a folk song verse would be ideal; we are simply looking for the ability to pitch and phrase musically). This should be sung unaccompanied.

Sight-reading

Take note of the time and key signature. Look through for accidentals and silently rehearse the rhythm and any tricky looking passages. Look at any tempo markings, expression and dynamic markings. Try to play the piece, accurately, confidently and with some character.

Portfolio

Bring one that you have prepared yourself. Include a brief CV, personal achievements, marks, any performance experience – exams, festivals, ensembles, bands, orchestra, music tour marks, certificates, a bit about yourself and any compositions you may have written.

Interview

This will come at the end of the audition. You should have clear ideas as to why you want to come to Oundle, your own musical taste, what might be expected of a music scholar. You should also be prepared to talk about yourself, what you enjoy about music-making and anything else you could offer the school.

Aural

There will be tests on pitch, rhythm, intervals, singing upper, middle or bottom notes of chords. The rhythmical test will involve clapping back a short phrase and then developing a clapping conversation. The advice with aural tests is to go for a response rather than taking your time. So often a pause can make it much harder to give the answer.

The final piece of advice is to enjoy your day. We really do understand that it is a stressful occasion but try not to worry too much. A candidate who enjoys their music-making is far more likely to impress the panel.

We welcome you sharing this information with teachers and Directors of Music.

Richard Dawson

Director of Music

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