



School of Applied Arts  
& New Media

## Message from the Dean

Thank you for considering the Nova Scotia Community College's *School of Applied Arts & New Media* to pursue your education.

As a potential student in the **Music Arts** diploma program, we want to be sure you are prepared and successful in your choice of studies. Therefore, we will be asking you to forward some additional supporting material and documentation that will illustrate your potential in this field and will help demonstrate concrete evidence of commitment and achievement in areas that are valued within the complex music profession.

To be considered for acceptance into the program you will have to submit a completed NSCC **Program Application** form and meet the basic program entrance requirements. In addition, you must also submit:

- *Letter of Intent*
- *Music Arts Program Audition Form* where you will declare your primary instrument

Success in music arts also requires a solid understanding of business practices in the performing arts. The music program has a significant business component drawn from the music business certificate program. Please take the time to consider this important element when preparing your letter of intent.

As part of this assessment, you will also be asked to complete an instrument audition and a short test on Theory/Ear Training. There is a link on the program description page that will connect you with the web page that outlines the specific process and provides you with some additional information to help you prepare.

In preparing to submit your application, the supporting material and relevant documentation, there are a few things you will want to do that will help you with this process. You will want to begin by reflecting on why you would like to join NSCC and study your chosen program. Take some time to research the program and the required courses. Have a look at career pathways and review the skills that you currently have that you can build upon by studying in the program.

You will find detailed information below about the additional material you must submit as part of your application and the process to submit this material.

Thank you for choosing NSCC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Tawse".

Bruce Tawse  
Dean, Applied Arts & New Media



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## Entrance Requirements for Music Arts

**Please send your NSCC application form, transcripts and supporting information to the address below:**

NSCC Admissions  
PO Box 220  
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4  
Telephone: (902) 491-4911 in Metro Halifax  
Telephone: 1-866-679-6722 toll free  
TTY: (902) 491-5509 in Metro Halifax  
TTY: 1-866-288-7034 toll free

### Letter of Intent

You must submit a 500 word Letter of Intent that should describe your reason for applying to the *Music Business* program as well as your expectations of this program. Your letter should identify how the program will help to support your career and help you to be successful in the music industry. Please include your short range and long term goals as they relate to the music business. Your letter can contain information about any experience you may have in any one or more of the following areas:

- The production of live music or other types of event productions
- Experience in bands, as a performer, DJ or soloist
- Professional development workshops, conferences or seminars you have participated in
- Appreciation and experience of music as a fan and audience member
- Experience in business or leadership in your community, paid or voluntary

### 1. Music Arts Program Audition Form

You are required to identify your primary and secondary instrument from the list below and submit the form to the admissions office.

- Bass
- Brass
- Guitar
- Keyboard
- Percussion
- Voice
- Saxophone/Woodwinds

## Skills Assessment/Audition

To ensure that you will have a reasonable probability of success in Music Arts Diploma program you will be invited to an audition in order to demonstrate your musicianship and level of theory comprehension. The application process consists of:

1. **Theory/Ear Training evaluation** (written on the day of, but before the audition) 30%
  - Basic theory
    - note and interval naming
    - scales and modes
    - key signatures
    - time signatures
    - simple chord construction
  - Ear Training Exam (administered before audition)
    - Intervals
    - Chords
  
2. **Technical Assessment:** (on principal and secondary instruments) 30%
  - Scales (rudiments for drummers)
  - Chords ( styles for drummers)
  - Sight reading
  - Improvisation (you may use backing tracks)
  - Technique (are the above rudiments executed with proper technique)
  - Time (are the above rudiments executed with good time)
  
3. **Performance, Professional Assessment** 40%
  - Prepare two contrasting pieces  
With or without accompaniment i.e. jazz standard, classical piece, blues standard or any style that shows your musical ability. (Please see examples)
  - Musicality Interpretation, feel, tone, tuning and performance ability will be assessed
  - Participate in a discussion of your goals and aspirations and why you have chosen the NSCC.

### Example Theory Comprehension Test Topics

- Pitches in treble and bass clefs
- Simple note and rest values
- Meters and time signatures
- All major scales and their key signatures
- All minor scales (in all three types: natural, harmonic and melodic) and minor key signatures
- The size and quality of all simple intervals (e.g., major thirds, augmented fourths)
- All types of triads seventh chords (spell major and minor triads as well as any common type of seventh chords; identify triads and seventh chords within a simple piece of music and determine their harmonic function) (major, minor, augmented and diminished)

Basic Theory / Ear Training Websites

[www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca](http://www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca)

[www.teoria.com](http://www.teoria.com)

[www.ossmann.com/bigears/](http://www.ossmann.com/bigears/)

## **Instrument Audition Requirements**

All auditions will be evaluated on technique, tempo, tuning and tone  
It is highly recommended that applicants use a metronome while practicing scales, arpeggios, and prepared pieces

### **Bass**

Notes:

- An amplifier will be provided for the audition
- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes if needed
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged

Scales:

- Major, minor, melodic minor, harmonic minor scales
- mixolydian, dorian modes

Chords:

- Arpeggios consisting of:
  - Major, Major 7, Dominate 7, Minor, Minor 7, Minor 7b5, Diminished, Augmented

Sight Reading:

- Read from bass clef of a variety of styles
- Read from chord chart

Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Ability to solo over set chord structure
- Jazz standard or Jazz Blues

Prepared pieces: (examples)

Selection of two of the following:

- Melody and Walking Bass line of:
  - Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
  - Jazz Blues standard (12 bar blues)
  - Classical Piece
  - Traditional
  - Contemporary Song
  - Original composition

### **Brass**

Notes:

- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged

Scales and Arpeggios:

- Major, minor, melodic minor, harmonic minor scales (modes are an asset)
- Arpeggios consisting of:
  - Major, Major 7, Dominate 7, Minor, Minor 7, Minor 7b5, Diminished

Sight Reading:

- Read from sheet music of a variety of styles

Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Jazz Standard (AABA)
- Jazz Blues (12 bar blues)
- Other prepared piece

Prepared Pieces: (examples)

Selection of two of the following:

- Jazz Standard
- Classical Piece
- Traditional Piece
- Original composition

## **Guitar**

### Notes:

- An amplifier will be provided for the audition
- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes if needed
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged

### Scales

- 2 octave major, minor, melodic minor, harmonic minor scales
- mixolydian, dorian modes

### Chords:

- Major, Minor, Diminished, Augmented
- Maj 7, min 7, Dom 7, min 7b5, dim 7
- Rhythm Changes (I-VI-II-V)
- Arpeggios

### Sight Reading:

- Single note
- Chord charts

### Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Chord melody of a Jazz Standard
- Rhythm Changes (I-VI-II-V)

### Prepared Pieces: (examples)

#### Selection of two of the following:

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Classical Piece
- Traditional Piece
- Original composition

## **Keyboard**

### Notes:

- Piano will be provided for audition
- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes if needed
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged
- Metronome will be provided

### Scales:

- 4 octave Major, Melodic Minor, Harmonic Minor scales (both hands together)

### Chords:

- Major, Minor, Diminished, Augmented
- Maj 7, min 7, Dom 7, min 7b5, dim 7
- Rhythm Changes (I-VI-II-V)
- Arpeggios

### Sight Reading:

- Classical Piece
- Jazz Standard
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Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Chord melody of a Jazz Standard
- Rhythm Changes (I-VI-II-V)

Prepared Pieces: (examples)

Selection of two of the following:

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Classical Piece
- Traditional Piece
- Original composition

## **Percussion**

Notes:

- Drum set will be provided for audition
- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes if needed
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged

Rudiments:

- Snare rudiments (etudes)

Sight Reading:

- Ability to read various rhythms
- Ability to read from a drum chart

Improvisation:

- Ability to play and solo in a variety of styles

Prepared Pieces:

- Play time in a variety of styles and tempos:
  - Jazz
  - Latin rhythms
  - Rock
  - Funk
  - Shuffle

## **Voice**

Notes:

- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes if needed
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged
- Accompaniment must be provided by the applicant (guitar, piano and or rhythm section)

Sight Reading:

- Classical Piece
- Jazz Standard
- Traditional Piece
- Original composition

Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Chord melody of a Jazz Standard
- Rhythm Changes (I-VI-II-V)

Prepared Pieces: (examples)

Selection of two of the following:

- Jazz Standard (AABA song structure)
- Jazz Blues Standard
- Classical Piece
- Other prepared piece

Basic proficiency on one of the following instruments: (ability to play instrument for self accompaniment)

- Piano
- Guitar

### **Saxophone/Woodwinds**

Notes:

- A stereo will be provided for accompaniment purposes
- Bringing an accompaniment CD/DVD to audition is encouraged

Scales and Arpeggios:

- Major, minor, melodic minor, harmonic minor scales
- Arpeggios consisting of:
  - Major, Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor, Minor 7, Minor 7b5, Diminished

Sight Reading:

- Read sheet music from of a variety of styles

Improvisation examples: (bring accompaniment CD's if needed)

- Jazz Standard (AABA)
- Jazz Blues (12 bar blues)
- Other prepared piece

Prepared Pieces:

Selection of two of the following:

- Jazz Standard
- Classical Piece
- Selection from the Charlie Parker Omnibook
- Traditional Piece
- Original composition

### **Other Instruments**

Applicants who play other instruments will be considered on an individual basis.

### **Other information**

#### **Application Review Process**

Applications are reviewed as they are received and applicants meeting the criteria of the program prerequisites and entrance portfolio threshold score will be offered a seat in a program section as available. Accordingly, early preparation and submission is recommended. If a seat is not available in the location or program you selected, you may be offered an opportunity to enter a similar program or alternative campus. If your entrance portfolio does not meet the standard, deficiencies will be noted and you will be given the opportunity to address them and re-submit your application as time permits.

**Last Modified 15.06.09**