

## UBC DMA Admissions Interview Guidelines for 2025/26

Approved by the Music Faculty at the Music Faculty Meeting on March 27, 2025

Revised on November 27, 2025 and December 11, 2025

**Number of Interviewees:** Each division chair—Opera/Voice, Strings, Wind/Brass/Percussion, Piano, and Composition—may submit up to three names of DMA applicants for the DMA interview round. The maximum number of DMA interviews should be fifteen.

**Schedule:** Applicants invited to the DMA admissions interview will be notified by the School of Music Graduate Admissions Assistant at least a week before the scheduled interviews.

**Interviewers:** Each applicant will be interviewed by two Music faculty members, including an academic faculty and a performance faculty, and each interview will be chaired by the Associate Director, Graduate.

**Format:** Each interview will last 30 minutes. It will be conducted on Zoom and recorded.<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose:** Applicants are expected to sustain a conversation with a group of Music faculty members, including performance and academic ones. There are no standard interview questions, but the interviewers may invite applicants to discuss their ideas for their DMA thesis or, for DMA composition applicants, their thesis composition and portfolio. This discussion may prompt interviewers to ask broader questions about applicants' backgrounds, knowledge of relevant musical topics (including their instruments), and, for DMA Composition applicants, interests and musical influences relevant to their proposed research-creation projects. Applicants may also be asked to share with the committee their reasons for applying for a DMA program and their career plans in general.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

Successful applicants will

- demonstrate a level of musical knowledge appropriate for the Doctoral of Musical Arts degree;
- discuss the repertoires they play in their audition (or, for DMA Composition applicants, discuss their musical interests and influences);
- discuss research about their instruments and their repertoire (or, for DMA Composition applicants, discuss some ideas for original research-creation projects);
- explain why they want to pursue a DMA degree and how this degree would fit into their careers.

---

<sup>1</sup> The recordings will not be shared with the applicants. They will be used strictly for Music's internal admissions processes only and will be destroyed by the end of that year's admissions cycle.