

**GUIDING YOUR MUSIC  
STUDENTS THROUGH THE  
UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE  
APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Help your students apply,  
audition, and choose their  
right fit school.



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# TYPES OF MUSIC SCHOOLS

## CONSERVATORY:

An education focused on music. Students generally receive a Bachelor of Music degree. Most do not require math or science courses. Curriculum covers:

### Understand

- Music Theory
- Music History
- Aural Skills
- Piano Skills

### Perform

- Private Lessons
- Large Ensembles
- Small Ensembles
- Productions

### Grow

- Humanities
  - Electives
- Still with a focus on music*

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC:

A music school or department within a larger institution.

Students are generally granted a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree. Students receive a broader liberal arts education and study a variety of subjects in addition to music.

### Major

If students major in music, the majority of their coursework will be music focused.

### Minor

If students minor in music, they have a smaller load of music classes.

# WHICH MUSIC SCHOOLS SHOULD THEY APPLY TO?

WE SUGGEST ASKING STUDENTS 3 QUESTIONS:

**1** **Who** do they want to learn from?

**2** **What** type of community do they want to join?

**3** **Where** do they want to be?

The who, what, and where of the college experience is unique to each institution. Help your students decide what is the best for their goals. Check out MSM's experience below:

**Who:** MSM's world-renowned New York City-based faculty inspire, nurture, and help students jump-start their musical career. The faculty that students work with at MSM will become their colleagues in the professional world, and studying with them gives students a major career advantage from day one.

**What:** The MSM community is not only rich in musical and artistic excellence, it is a welcoming and likeminded campus with an abundance of student organizations and a close-knit residential community.

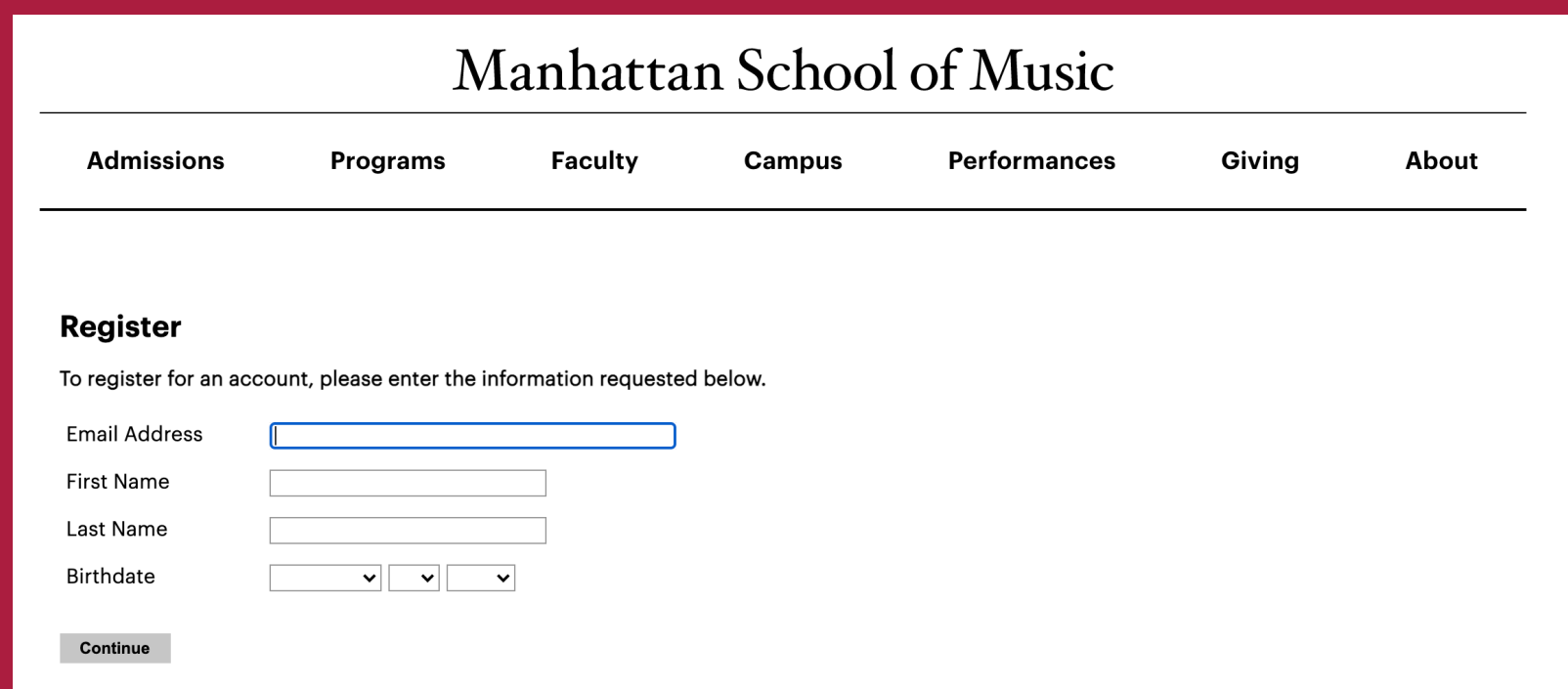
**Where:** The MSM campus is conveniently placed to offer students quick and easy access to New York City. The nearby 1 train leads downtown to iconic performance venues like Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Broadway Theatre district in Times Square, and more. The campus itself neighbors Columbia University and Barnard College, and is nestled between parks and historic monuments along the Hudson River.

# THE APPLICATION

## STEP 1: VISIT THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE



## STEP 2: START AN APPLICATION



Manhattan School of Music

Admissions Programs Faculty Campus Performances Giving About

**Register**  
To register for an account, please enter the information requested below.

Email Address

First Name

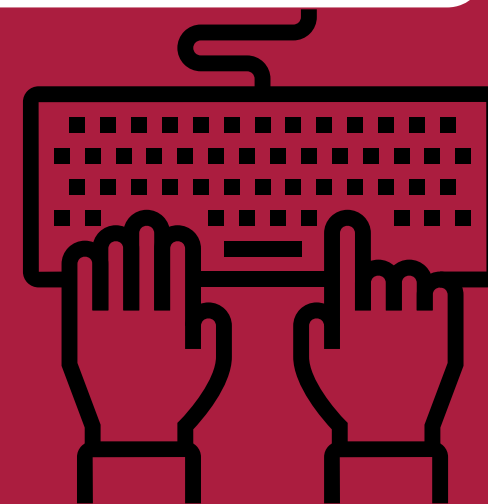
Last Name

Birthdate

Provide your full name, email address, and birthdate to get started!

## STEP 3: SHARE BACKGROUND INFO

Be prepared to provide personal information, academic history, primary music teacher details, and more.



## STEP 4: UPLOAD MATERIALS

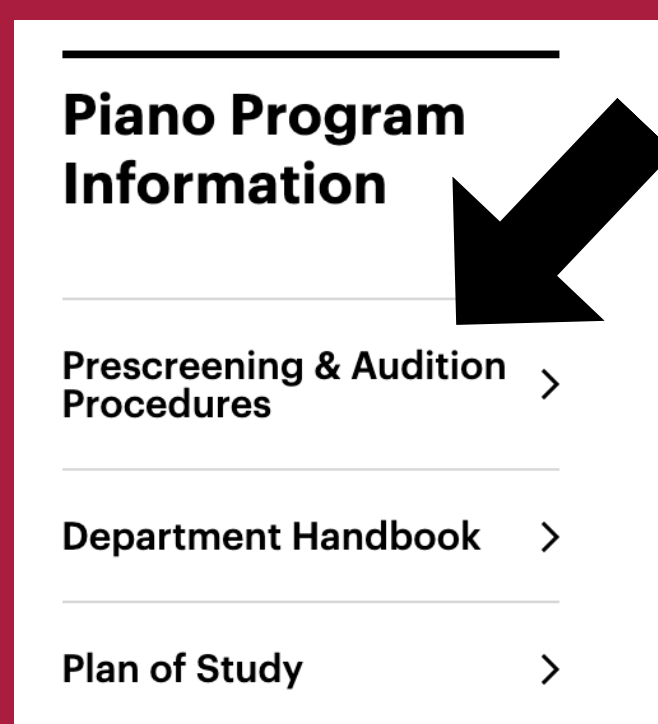
Each school's requirements differ, but common documents include



Repertoire Studied ✓  
Artistic Resume ✓  
Transcripts ✓  
Essays ✓

## STEP 5: SUBMIT PRESCREEN VIDEOS

Some majors require the submission of a prescreen in order to be invited to a final audition.



**Piano Program Information**

Prescreening & Audition Procedures >

Department Handbook >

Plan of Study >

If their instrument area requires a prescreen, students should upload it to their application for review.



# PREPARING AUDITION REPERTOIRE

## STEP 1

### FIND REQUIREMENTS

Most schools post their audition requirements on their website by September 1. Students should be sure to review the requirements for the specific instrument and program they're applying to. Note that requirements vary from school to school.

## CHOOSE REPERTOIRE THAT SHOWS THE STUDENT AT THEIR BEST!

## STEP 2

College faculty want to hear students at their best! What are the student's musical strengths? What can they feel confident in mastering by the time they record their prescreening videos? Help students choose repertoire within the requirements that let their best qualities shine through.

## STEP 3

### SEEK ADVICE

Encourage students to discuss with their music teachers, mentors, and peers.

# WRITING THE APPLICATION ESSAY

Guide your students in curating a personal story that allows their unique qualities to shine through.

## ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Each school will ask different questions. Be sure students tailor their essays to each individual school, expressing why THEY are interested in a particular college.

## TRY THIS EXERCISE WITH YOUR STUDENT :

- Write down 10 words, phrases, or sentences that best describe you as a musician.
- Write down 10 words, phrases, or sentences unrelated to music that best describe you as a human being.
- Now circle or highlight the 3 words, phrases or sentences in the musical and non-musical categories that you feel are the main points you want to get across.

## THINK ABOUT STRUCTURE:

- What has the student's journey been so far and how has that prepared them for this particular college?
- What do they hope to get out of this education?
- How will they make the world a better place with the skills they gain at this school?