

**SIBELIUS
ACADEMY** | **UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARTS** | **ADMISSIONS
GUIDE 2017** | **JUNIOR
ACADEMY**



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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Junior Academy admits students to following programmes: Classical Music Performance, Composition and Music Theory, Folk Music, and Jazz Music.

You can apply to following Classical Music Performance main subjects: Early music period instruments (wind instrument, string instrument, harpsichord, or lute), piano, accordion, kantele, guitar, woodwind and brass instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, or tuba), string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) percussion, harp, organ, or voice.

The right to study at the Junior Academy is granted for a period of one academic year at a time. The Sibelius Academy decides on the continuation of studies for a Junior Academy student with no separate selection procedures. The Junior Academy students will lose their right to study when they finish their elementary education or when they finish their secondary education. However, the latest they can study is until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 20 years of age, even if they have not yet completed the education mentioned above.

The annual service fee for Junior Academy students is EUR 340 (EUR 170 per term).

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants who are under 18 years of age at the beginning of their first year at the Junior Academy [1st of August] and enrolled in elementary or secondary education in Finland are eligible for education. Applicants to Classical Music Performance, voice as a main subject must be 15 years of age by the end of the application period.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application period starts on 10.1.2017 and ends on 25.1.2017 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The electronic application form will be published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy>.

The pre-examination assignments (Composition and Music Theory) must be submitted to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via the DecisionDesk system **by 25.1.2017 (3 p.m. Finnish time)**. Further instructions for use of the DecisionDesk system are published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website. *N.B.! Pre-examination assignments cannot be submitted by e-mail!*

The Sibelius Academy Admissions Office will answer your questions. The e-mail address is siba.admissions@uniarts.fi. You'll find the opening hours and more detailed contact information at the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website.

School certificates or degree or other certificates are not submitted during the application period. Students admitted to the Junior Academy must submit a certificate of studying in elementary or secondary education in Finland in 2017–2018. If a student fails to provide the certificate in time, he or she will lose the study place at Sibelius Academy. Sibelius Academy will inform the selected new students about the schedule in the letter of acceptance.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

A preliminary timetable for the entrance examinations will be published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy> in the spring of 2017. The applicants will be invited to the entrance examination by e-mail no later than 2-3 weeks before the examination. The exact dates will be announced in the invitation. If you have listed an e-mail address in the application form, an invitation to the entrance examination or a notification of rejection will be sent to you by e-mail.

N.B.! Please contact the Admissions Office if you do not receive e-mail from us 2-3 weeks before the examination at the latest! Some e-mail clients may treat our messages as spam, so please check your spam folder as well. Label the message as “not spam” so that you will receive our messages in the future as well.

If you fail to provide a pre-examination assignment or if you have not provided it in the required format (Composition and Music Theory), you may not get an invitation to the entrance examinations.

Applicants must attend the entrance examination in person. They are responsible for all travel expenses and lodging for the duration of the entrance examination. Each applicant has a scheduled time for the entrance examination that will be included in the invitation. The applicant can't change the scheduled time. If an applicant doesn't participate in the entrance examinations, his or her application will be rejected. The applicant must notify the Admissions Office if he/she is unable to attend the entrance examination.

If the entrance examination has several parts, you will be advised of when and where your results will be posted no later than at the entrance examination. At all the examinations, you must present official proof of identity, either a passport or a European Union identity card. The entrance examination is closed and attended only by you and, with the Entrance Examination Board's permission, your personal accompanist or other assisting musician. Your audition at the entrance examination will not be recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The Dean's decision on admittance will be announced on Wednesday 8.6.2017 (9 a.m. Finnish time) at Nervanderinkatu 13 in Helsinki. The decision will also be published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website including names of those applicants who have given permission to publish their names online.

If you are admitted, you will receive a letter of acceptance by post. Other applicants will not receive a letter. They can check the results on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website, and on a list at Sibelius Academy premises. You can also inquire about the results by e-mail at siba.admissions@uniarts.fi. If the admission criteria aren't met, some programmes may choose not to admit new students.

The decision made by the Dean on accepting a candidate as a student in the Junior Academy cannot be appealed.

When informed of the results of student admission, you will be notified as to where you can access information on the particular admission criteria that were applied to you. A list of persons responsible for feedback on your entrance examination will be announced on the University of the Arts Helsinki website on the day of the admission results. Feedback is available between 8.-22.6.2017 (each main subject / main instrument will have a specific time slot for feedback).

PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE / INSTRUMENT

Accordion

Three compositions of the applicant's choice, presenting different styles, to be played from memory. Sight reading if necessary.

The Entrance Examination Board may listen to only a part of the audition. Each applicant will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes.

Harp

- 1) Two solo pieces of different styles of the applicant's choice (total duration approx. 10 minutes)
- 2) Playing a prima vista and tests of musicianship performed in an entrance examination situation at the Entrance Examination Board's discretion
- 3) Interview

All pieces are to be played without accompaniment. The pieces need not be played from memory.

The applicant is required to exhibit at least PT3-level performance or equivalent skills.

Percussion

The applicant will prepare a free-choice demonstration of their skills on the following instruments (duration approx. 5 minutes / instrument):

- 1) side drum
- 2) timpani
- 3) melodic percussion instrument (xylophone, vibraphone, or marimba)

Playing a prima vista and tests of musicianship performed in an entrance examination situation at the Entrance Examination Board's discretion, and an interview are also included.

All pieces are to be played without accompaniment. The pieces need not be played from memory.

The applicant is required to exhibit at least PT3-level performance or equivalent skills.

Piano

Applicants born in 2003 and later:

- 1) A composition by J.S. Bach;
- 2) A fast movement from a Viennese-Classical sonata or sonatina or other equivalent composition;
- 3) A composition of the applicant's choice.

All pieces must be played from memory.

Applicants born in 2002 and earlier:

- 1) A three-part invention or prelude and fugue by J.S. Bach or other equivalent composition
- 2) A fast movement from a Viennese-Classical sonata
- 3) A composition of the applicant's choice

All pieces must be played from memory.

Woodwind and brass instruments

- 1) Two pieces of different styles of the applicant's choice; one of them must be a piece with piano accompaniment
- 2) Playing a prima vista and tests of musicianship performed in an entrance examination situation at the Entrance Examination Board's discretion
- 3) Interview

Total duration of the free-choice pieces:

- Flute, clarinet, and saxophone: 15-20 minutes
- Other wind instruments: approx. 10 minutes

The pieces need not be played from memory. Pieces requiring accompaniment are played with accompaniment. An accompanist provided by the Academy will be available. The applicant may also bring his/her own accompanist. If the applicant wishes to use the Academy's accompanist, they must state this in the application form.

The applicant is required to exhibit at least PT3-level performance or equivalent skills.

Other classical music instruments than those mentioned above

Two pieces of different styles of the applicant's choice. Prima vista assignment if necessary. All applicants to the early music instruments must play the pieces with a period instrument. The Entrance Examination Board may listen to only a part of the audition.

The pieces must be played from memory, unless the instrument is an organ, a viola, or an early music instrument.

Accompaniment in the entrance examinations

The accompanying instrument is piano apart from when applying to Early Music programme, where the accompanying instrument is harpsichord.

Cello and viola, woodwind and brass instruments, early music instruments:

Compositions requiring accompaniment are played with accompaniment. An accompanist provided by the Sibelius Academy will be available. The applicant may also bring his/her own accompanist. If the applicant wishes to use the Academy's accompanist, they must state this in the application form.

If you intend to audition with an accompanist provided by the Academy, you are required to submit the sheet music no later than three weeks before the audition via e-mail to siba.admissions@uniarts.fi. In addition, the applicant must bring the sheet music to the entrance examination either as originals or as copies taped in book form. It's not possible to practice with the Academy's accompanist before the audition.

Other instruments:

All works (also those normally requiring accompaniment) should be performed without accompaniment.

CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE / VOICE

(N.B.! Only applicants, who are over 15-year-old by 25.1.2017, can be accepted!)

Entrance examination programme:

- 1) An aria from an oratorio or opera
- 2) A song (Lied)
- 3) A demonstration on a second instrument

Songs must be performed from memory. The applicant must bring the sheet music for the accompaniment in the key he/she intends to sing in to the entrance examination. The Academy will provide a pianist.

COMPOSITION AND MUSIC THEORY

The applicant is presumed to possess good basic qualifications in music theory and solfège as well as practical musical ability and a wide knowledge of both early and modern Western music. The applicants applying to Composition are also presumed to be musically creative.

Composition

All applicants must submit a written account of their previous studies in music to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via the DecisionDesk system no later than 25.1.2017 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The account (a maximum of 1 standard page) must include the following details:

- Your name
- Please list all previous training and qualifications in the theory and history of music, and solfège and/or ear training and analysis. State where and when these subjects were studied. If you have completed recognized courses, please provide information about the course in which you attained the highest level or qualification.
- Please list your previous instrumental studies and other musical activity
- Applicants applying to the main subject Composition must also submit an account of their previous studies in composition (teacher's name, duration and form of studies, institution, and official attainments, if any).

The written account cannot be submitted by e-mail. Further instructions for use of the DecisionDesk system are published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy>.

All applicants for Composition should send to the Sibelius Academy, in addition to the written account mentioned above, a selection of samples of their own compositions. The amount of the samples is limited. The selection must include:

EITHER

two complete works (no limitations on the number of pages)

OR

one complete work (no limitations on the number of pages) and not more than altogether five pages of excerpts from other works.

Samples exceeding the limit will not be considered.

A sample page must be a copy of the original and in the same size as the original.

There must, however, in both cases be at least five pages in the selection. The excerpts may be sections from larger works. In that case the excerpts must be accompanied by an account of the work as a whole.

The samples should be submitted to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via the DecisionDesk system no later than 25.1.2017 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The samples cannot be sent by e-mail. The compositions must be written on pages not exceeding the A3 size. Should a sound version already exist, this should also be included.

Based on the score for the composition samples, some of the applicants will be invited to the second phase of the examination.

The second phase of the entrance examination will consist of the following parts: a) general tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception; b) the programme's own test in music theory and analysis; c) an interview and an audition in an instrument.

Together with the invitation letter, applicants invited to the second phase will receive a composition assignment. The applicant must bring the completed assignment to the theory and analysis examination organised by the Department of Composition and Music Theory on the first day of the examination, and also bring it to the interview and perform it on their main instrument or the piano.

At the interview, applicants who are invited to the second phase must also provide an essay (of a maximum of 50 words) on their expectations for composition studies.

When selecting students for Composition, the different factors are weighted as follows:

- composition samples 20 %
- general tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception 17 %
- music theory test arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants 23 %
- interview (includes a discussion of the pre-examination assignment and instrument auditions) 40 %

General tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception

The first part of the assignments in music theory, solfège and aural perception tests the applicant's aural ability to recognize works and different styles in music and the second the applicant's basic theoretical knowledge of music. The third part is a solfège assignment, which may include identification of intervals and chords, melody and rhythm dictation, and sight reading.

The theory and aural perception test may be taken in Finnish, Swedish or English. In the application form, the applicant must make a note of the language he/she wishes to be tested in. Applicants may prepare for the general music theory, solfège and aural perception tests by reviewing entrance examination questions from the previous years. The questions have been published on the University of the Arts Helsinki's website.

Music theory and analysis tests arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants

This tests the applicant's analytical perception, ability to describe music in writing and knowledge of music theory and music history. The examination may include the following areas: figured bass, the sonata form and other traditional forms (recognition of bridge passages and cadences), basic post-tonal concepts, perception of texture by ear.

Instrument auditions

The interview includes an audition in a main instrument. If the applicant's main instrument is piano, he/she should be prepared to play a J. S. Bach Invention or some other comparable composition, a fast movement from a Viennese classical sonata and a composition of his/her own choice. There is also a sight reading assignment.

If the applicant's main instrument is other than the piano, the requirements are a classical sonata or two other equally demanding compositions.

Applicants whose main instrument is other than the piano should be prepared to play a piece on the piano. Free accompaniment, score reading, improvisation or other samples of the applicant's practical ability as a musician may also be included in the examination.

Interview

The interview will assess the applicant's abilities to analyze compositional solutions, his or her motivation for composing and systematic training in composition, knowledge of repertoires, and skills for theory and analysis. The Entrance Examination Board will also assess the applicant's suitability for training in composition and music theory.

Music Theory

All applicants must submit a written account of their previous studies in music to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via the DecisionDesk system no later than 25.1.2017 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The account (a maximum of 1 standard page) must include the following details:

- Your name
- Please list all previous training and qualifications in the theory and history of music, and solfège and/or ear training and analysis. State where and when these subjects were studied. If you have completed recognized courses, please provide information about the course in which you attained the highest level or qualification.
- Please list your previous instrumental studies and other musical activity
- (Applicants applying also to the main subject Composition must submit an account of their previous studies in composition (teacher's name, duration and form of studies, institution, and official attainments, if any).)

The written account cannot be submitted by e-mail. Further instructions for use of the DecisionDesk system are published on the University of the Arts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy>.

The entrance examination for the main subject of Music Theory is divided into two parts: general tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception and theory and analysis assignments for Composition and Music Theory applicants.

All applicants for the main subject of Music Theory, who are deemed eligible, will get an invitation with information of the time and place of the first part. On the grounds of the applicant evaluation methods in Part 1, some of the applicants will be called for Part 2, which includes instrument auditions and an interview. A list of those selected to Part 2 and the timetable for Part 2 will be sent out by e-mail and posted on the front door of Sibelius Academy's T-building (Töölönkatu 28).

When selecting students for Music Theory, the different factors are weighted as follows:

- general test in music theory, solfège, and aural perception 17 %
- music theory test arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants 43 %
- interview (with instrumental auditions) 40 %

General tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception

The first part of the assignments in music theory, solfège and aural perception tests the applicant's aural ability to recognize works and different styles in music and the second the applicant's basic theoretical knowledge of music. The third part is a solfège assignment, which may include identification of intervals and chords, melody and rhythm dictation, and sight reading.

The theory and aural perception test may be taken in Finnish, Swedish or English. In the application form, the applicant must make a note of the language he/she wishes to be tested in. Applicants may prepare for the general music theory, solfège and aural perception tests by reviewing entrance examination questions from the previous years. The questions have been published on the University of the Arts Helsinki's website.

Music theory and analysis tests arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants

This tests the applicant's analytical perception, ability to describe music in writing and knowledge of music theory and music history. The examination may include the following areas: figured bass, the sonata form and other traditional forms (recognition of bridge passages and cadences), basic post-tonal concepts, perception of texture by ear.

Instrument auditions

The interview includes an audition in a main instrument. If the applicant's main instrument is piano, he/she should be prepared to play a J. S. Bach Invention or some other comparable composition, a fast movement from a Viennese classical sonata and a composition of his/her own choice. There is also a sight reading assignment.

If the applicant's main instrument is other than the piano, the requirements are a classical sonata or two other equally demanding compositions.

Applicants whose main instrument is other than the piano should be prepared to play a piece on the piano. Free accompaniment, score reading, improvisation or other samples of the applicant's practical ability as a musician may also be included in the examination.

Interview

The interview will assess the applicant's abilities to analyze compositions, his or her motivation for working in the field, knowledge of repertoires, and skills for theory and analysis. The Entrance Examination Board will also assess the applicant's suitability for training in composition and music theory.

If the applicant so wishes, during the interview he or she can also present his/her compositions, arrangements, musical theses and other corresponding merits.

FOLK MUSIC

The performance as a whole should last 10-15 minutes. In addition to their main instrument, applicants may include a demonstration in a second instrument. The music must be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Double bass or electric bass players and percussionists may use an assistant musician for part of their performance.

The repertoire may consist of traditional or new music, or music of the applicant's own composition, and improvisation. If the repertoire consists mainly of traditional music other than Finnish, the performance must nevertheless include a sample of Finnish folk music.

All applicants invited to take the Folk Music entrance examination for the Junior Academy must also attend a musicality test arranged by the Folk Music Department. The test will assess the applicant's ability to perceive tonal music, to distinguish between sounds and to memorize melodies.

Applicant selection will consider ensemble lineups.

JAZZ MUSIC

All applicants will perform two prepared jazz compositions of his/her own choice from memory in the instrument audition. The audition can include additional assignment (for example scales, chords, blues in F or Bb) at the Entrance Examination Board's discretion.

Each applicant will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Academy will provide all applicants with accompanists (piano, bass, drums). The applicant must perform with the accompanying ensemble. The applicant must submit sheet music for the accompanists by e-mail to siba.jazzvalinnat@uniarts.fi by 21.4.2017, or bring them with him/her to the audition.

The applicant must perform jazz compositions that are different (for example in tempo, style and key), and they must include an improvised solo in accordance with the chords and form of the composition. For singers, an interpretation of the melody is sufficient. Scat song is optional.

The board will assess the applicant on a scale of 0–25 points.

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