

**SIBELIUS** | **UNIARTS** | **ADMISSIONS** | **JUNIOR**  
**ACADEMY** | **HELSINKI** | **GUIDE 2018** | **ACADEMY**



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## JUNIOR ACADEMY

The Junior Academy is a national programme, which prepares young music students for professional studies. It functions as a part of the Sibelius Academy — in which teaching, artistic activity, and research form an interactive university-level learning environment.

The Junior Academy provides teaching in the fields represented at the Sibelius Academy: for example, instrumental and vocal music studies, composition, ensemble playing, and music perception skills.

## ELIGIBILITY

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.

Applicants who are under 18 years of age at the beginning of their first year at the Junior Academy [1<sup>st</sup> of August] and enrolled in elementary or secondary education in Finland are eligible for education.

Only applicants who have turned 15 by the end of the application period can be admitted to Classical Music Performance, voice as a main subject.

Only applicants who have turned 13 by the end of the application period can be admitted to Classical Music Performance on wind instruments, percussion, harp, or early music period instruments.

## RIGHT TO STUDY

The right to study at the Junior Academy is granted for a period of one academic year at a time. The Sibelius Academy decides annually 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.

For the students, an individual study plan will be drawn up. The plan will take into consideration the learning objectives for musical education as well as the objectives for comprehensive and secondary-level education. The study plan's objectives will be reviewed annually with the student.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

**The application period starts on 9 January 2018 and ends on 24 January 2018 (3 p.m. Finnish time).** The electronic application form will be published on the University of the Arts (Uniarts) 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 subsequently specified system **no later than 24 January 2018 (3 p.m. Finnish time)**. Further instructions for use of this system will be published on the abovementioned Uniarts Helsinki admissions website. *N.B.! Pre-examination assignments cannot be submitted by e-mail!*

The Sibelius Academy Admissions Office will answer the applicants' questions. The e-mail address is [siba.admissions@uniarts.fi](mailto:siba.admissions@uniarts.fi). Opening hours and more detailed contact information can be found at Uniarts Helsinki admissions website.

School and degree certificates or other certificates are not submitted during the application period.

## ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

A preliminary timetable for the entrance examinations will be published on Uniarts Helsinki admissions website in the spring of 2018. 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 the applicant has listed an e-mail address in the application form, an invitation to the entrance examination or a notification of rejection will be sent to them by e-mail.

*N.B.!* Please contact the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office if you do not receive e-mail from us 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 the applicant fails to provide the required pre-examination assignment (Composition and Music Theory) or if they have not provided it in the required format, they will not be invited to take part in the entrance examinations.

Applicants must attend the entrance examination in the place included in the invitation for the entrance examinations. The place cannot be changed. The applicant is 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 cannot change the scheduled time. If the applicant doesn't participate in the entrance examinations, their application will be rejected. The applicant must notify the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office if they are unable to attend the entrance examination.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

**The Dean's decision on admittance will be announced on Wednesday 6 June 2018 (9 a.m. Finnish time).**

The decision will be available on Sibelius Academy's premises in Nervanderinkatu 13, Helsinki. The decision will also be published on Uniarts Helsinki website including names of those applicants who have given permission to publish their names online.

Sibelius Academy will send e-mail to those accepted as students. Other applicants will not receive e-mail and they can check the results on Uniarts Helsinki website, or from the decision at Sibelius Academy premises. Applicants can also inquire about the results by e-mail at [siba.admissions@uniarts.fi](mailto: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.

A list of persons responsible for feedback on the applicant's entrance examination will be announced on Uniarts Helsinki website on the day of the admission decision. Feedback is available between 6 and 20 June 2018 (each main subject / main instrument will have a specific time slot for feedback). The feedback is intended to guide the applicants to improve their performances further and to find development areas for the entrance examination next year.

## ACCEPTING THE OFFERED STUDY PLACE AND BEGINNING THE STUDIES

New students will receive registration instructions with the acceptance letter.

Students admitted to the Junior Academy must submit a certificate of studying in elementary or secondary education in Finland in 2018–2019. If a student fails to provide the certificate in time, they will lose the study place at Sibelius Academy. Sibelius Academy will inform the selected new students about the schedule in the letter of acceptance.

Junior Academy students cannot skip one or two semesters between being accepted and starting their studies. To receive a place in the school, they must accept the offer of admission and start their studies in the autumn term following their admission.

The studies will begin with a briefing for the new Junior Academy students at the turn of August-September. The annual service fee for Junior Academy students is EUR 340 (EUR 170 per term).

The new students will be allocated to teachers and/or accompanists by the respective department heads. The students' preferences will be accommodated if possible.

# PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

## CLASSICAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE / INSTRUMENT

### **Accordion**

Three compositions of the applicant's choice, presenting different styles. All compositions must be played from memory. Prima vista assignment 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.

### **Early music instruments**

(N.B.! Only applicants who are over 13-year-old by 24 January 2018 can be accepted!)

Two pieces of different styles of the applicant's choice. Prima vista assignment if necessary. The Entrance Examination Board may listen to only a part of the audition.

All applicants to the early music instruments must play the pieces with a period instrument. 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 their own accompanist. If the applicant wishes to use the Academy's accompanist, they must state this in the application form. The accompanying instrument is harpsichord.

### **Harp**

(N.B.! Only applicants who are over 13-year-old by 24 January 2018 can be accepted!)

- 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**

(N.B.! Only applicants who are over 13-year-old by 24 January 2018 can be accepted!)

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 must bring the sheet music for the free-choice assignments to the entrance examination.

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

### **Piano**

Applicants born in 2004 and later:

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

All pieces must be played from memory.

Applicants born in 2003 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; and
- 3) A composition of the applicant's choice.

All pieces must be played from memory.

### **Woodwind and brass instruments**

(N.B.! Only applicants who are over 13-year-old by 24 January 2018 can be accepted!)

- 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 their 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. 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 or a viola.

## Accompaniment in the entrance examinations

The accompanying instrument is piano apart from when applying to early music instruments, where the accompanying instrument is harpsichord.

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

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

If the applicant intends to audition with an accompanist provided by the Academy, they are required to submit the sheet music no later than 13 April 2018 by e-mail to [siba.documents@uniarts.fi](mailto:siba.documents@uniarts.fi). The music sheets must be delivered in PDF format. Each music piece must be delivered as one file (not one page at a time). A file must not exceed 20 Mb in size. All sheets must include the name of the composer and the composition, the applicant's name, and the study programme that the applicant is applying for. In addition, the applicant must bring the sheet music to the entrance examination either as originals or as copies taped in book form.

It is 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 24 January 2018 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. Applicants must bring the sheet music for the accompaniment in the key they intend 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

### PRE-EXAMINATION ASSIGNMENTS

All applicants must submit a written account of their previous studies in music to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via subsequently specified system no later than 24 January 2018 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The account (a maximum of 1 standard page) must include the following details:

- The applicant's name



- A list of previous training and qualifications in the theory and history of music, and solfège and/or ear training and analysis, and where and when these subjects were studied. If the applicant has completed recognized courses, information about the course in which they attained the highest level or qualification should be provided.
- A list of 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).

All applicants for Composition programme 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 no later than 24 January 2018 (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. Further instructions for use of the subsequently specified system will be published on Uniarts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy>.

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

## **ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

The second phase of the entrance examination will consist of the following parts: 1) general tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception; 2) the programme's own test in music theory and analysis; 3) 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.

### **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, applicants must make a note of the language they wish 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 Uniarts Helsinki admissions 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, they 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 their 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, their 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.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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

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

## **Music Theory**

### **PRE-EXAMINATION ASSIGNMENT**

All applicants must submit a written account of their previous studies in music to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office via subsequently specified system no later than 24 January 2018 (3 p.m. Finnish time). The account (a maximum of 1 standard page) must include the following details:

- The applicant's name

- A list of previous training and qualifications in the theory and history of music, and solfège and/or ear training and analysis, and where and when these subjects were studied. If the applicant has completed recognized courses, information about the course in which they attained the highest level or qualification should be provided.
- A list of 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 system will be published on Uniarts Helsinki admissions website: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/apply-to-sibelius-academy>.

## **ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

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

All applicants for the main subject of Music Theory, who are deemed eligible, will receive an invitation with information of the time and place of the first part. On the grounds of the applicant evaluation methods in the first part, some of the applicants will be called for the second part.

The second part includes instrument auditions and an interview. A list of those selected the second part together with the timetable will be sent out by e-mail and posted on the front door of Sibelius Academy's T-building (Töölönkatu 28).

### **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, applicants must make a note of the language they wish 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 Uniarts Helsinki admissions 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, they 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 their 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, their 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 they can also present their compositions, arrangements, musical theses and other corresponding merits.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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 and analysis test arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants 43 %
- Interview (includes instrumental auditions) 40 %

## **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 their own choice from memory in the instrument audition. The audition can include additional assignments (for example scales, chords, blues in F or Bb) at the Entrance Examination Board's discretion. The examination may also include a brief interview.

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](mailto:siba.jazzvalinnat@uniarts.fi) by 20 April 2018, or bring them 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 Entrance Examination Board will assess the applicant on a scale of 0–25 points.

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