Musical Aptitude Test

The Musical Aptitude Test is of approximately 40 minutes’ duration and does not require any previous knowledge of music or music theory. There will be 60 questions to include pitch, rhythm, texture and melody.

Pitch - Candidates will listen to two sounds and have to identify whether the second sound is higher, lower or the same as the first sound. There are 10 questions in this section.

Shape - Candidates will listen to a melody and identify the shape of the music by picking from a choice of graphic scores. There are 10 questions in this section.

Volume - Candidates will listen to a piece of music and identify the contrast in volume by picking from a choice of graphic scores. There are 10 questions in this section.

Lengths of sound - Candidates will identify the correct duration of notes in a piece of music from a selection of graphic scores. There are 10 questions in this section.

Texture - Candidates will listen to a piece of music and identify how many different instruments are playing. There are 10 questions in this section.

Speed of the Music - Candidates will identify the tempo of a piece of music and whether there are any changes. There are 5 questions in this section.

Mood and Emotion - Candidates will identify the mood of a piece of music and justify their answer. There are 5 questions in this section.

Candidates who achieve the qualifying mark in the test will be invited to an audition to perform a single piece on their chosen instrument or vocally during the week commencing 9th July 2012. This will be a free choice of piece, which should last no longer than three minutes. The purpose of the audition is not to assess ability but rather to determine whether the candidate has the capacity to learn or develop musical skills and benefit from the facilities at the academy.