Music Admission

Overview:
- Many Different Programs
  - BM: Spend about 75% of time in music, 25% in academics
  - BA: More traditional college, but still very focused
    - Sometimes an audition, but always submit an arts supplement
  - Music conservatories, music programs within Universities, dual degree programs, strong departments within more traditional colleges
  - Double Major vs Dual Degree
    - Dual Degree typically takes extra time and is extremely rigorous
    - Apply to both conservatory and university for dual degree – must be accepted by both
  - 5 year BM/MM

Things to Consider:
- Conservatories are extremely competitive – it’s important to have a range of schools on the list
- Conservatories are very much about the teacher, rather than the ‘general fit’ of the school (counterintuitive)
- Trial lessons are very important
  - Students reach out to teachers and ask to have a lesson
    - Usually, there is a fee
  - Great way to learn more about a teacher’s style and approach
  - Timing: throughout a student’s junior and senior years
- Many teachers teach at multiple schools
  - The size of the studio varies by school, so applying to the same teacher at different schools can increase chances
- How is the program structured?
  - Performance opportunities, theory
- How big is the studio? How many openings are there?
  - How many undergrads does the teacher work with?
  - How much personal attention with the teacher vs with graduate students?
- Doing a summer program is recommended for students interested in applying to conservatories
- Look into joining regional orchestras, chamber ensembles, etc. (get involved!)

Applications, Auditions, and Pre-Screenings

**Every school is different – ALWAYS check requirements!**
- Deadlines are often early – December 1st is quite common, even for conservatories/programs within larger universities (and even when the university has a different deadline for academic applicants)
- Many instruments require pre-screening (voice, violin, piano, composition)
  - Important to follow exact guidelines (DVD vs CD vs online)
  - Pre-Screening results usually come around January, and auditions extend through the middle of March
(Applications, Auditions, and Pre-Screenings cont.)

- Audition repertoire varies with each school – looking up the requirements (which are often very rigid) is incredibly important
- Sight reading, solfege, ear training, music theory test, etc., are all possible factors in an audition
- Almost always a panel of ‘judges’, rarely a formal interview component
- Regional auditions are wide-spread and usually recorded
- Students either submit a repertoire list or bring one with them
- ‘Why Music’ is a common supplemental essay question
Strong Music Conservatories (Dual Degree in Parentheses)
The Julliard School (Columbia University)
New England Conservatory (Tufts University and Harvard University)
Cleveland Institute of Music (Case Western Reserve University)
Oberlin Conservatory (Oberlin College)
Bard Conservatory (Bard College)
Peabody Institute (Johns Hopkins University)
Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester)
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Boston Conservatory
The Colburn School (free tuition)
Curtis Institute of Music (free tuition)
Mannes College of Music
Manhattan School of Music
The Hartt School
Longy School of Music
Berklee College of Music
Westminster Choir College

Strong Music Conservatories within Universities (and Liberal Arts Colleges)
Boston University
Northwestern University
University of Michigan
Indiana University
Rice University
Carnegie Mellon University
New York University
Millikin University
McGill University
Furman University
Rider University
Mercer University
Yale University
Harvard University
Princeton University
Wesleyan University
Brandeis University

Abroad
Royal Academy of Music
Royal Conservatory of Music
Royal College of Music
Guildhall
Royal Northern College of Music
École Normale de Musique
Paris Conservatoire
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
Birmingham Conservatoire