

Commercial Strings Requirements

Live Audition

Building from a foundation of both traditional and popular music styles, the Commercial Strings program at Visible Music College places special emphasis on technique and performance practice, providing a unique environment for musical study, development, exploration, and performance. The program focuses on both solo and intensive ensemble work, encompassing both traditional and contemporary styles including rock, blues, country, jazz and gospel. All Commercial Strings majors take applied lessons with some of the most experienced and accomplished musicians in the area. They are provided with opportunities to perform in curricular ensembles, Madison Line Records (our on-campus record label), touring/traveling bands and various performance opportunities within the community.

AUDITION INFORMATION

As an incoming Commercial Strings major at Visible Music College, the following criteria serve as an integral part of the audition process. Please be prepared to:

- **Play one (1) prepared piece** that displays your strengths as a musician. It should be approximately 3-5 minutes in length and in any style that demonstrates your instrumental proficiency and your overall musicianship. Select a piece that puts your "best foot forward" and highlights what represents your best playing. Your prepared piece may include improvisation, but it is not required. The prepared piece can be:
 - o *One slow piece or etude demonstrating tone quality and vibrato*
 - o *One fast piece or etude demonstrating technical ability, proficiency with higher positions and standard bowing techniques (spiccato, martelé, etc.)*
 - o *Sight-reading of an orchestral excerpt*
- **Improvise over standard blues changes:** You should be prepared to play/improvise over a standard I-IV-V blues progression.
- **Play scales, arpeggios and/or technical exercises**

If you require accompaniment for your prepared piece you may bring an accompanist, play-a-long CD or MP3 player. Visible Music College can provide an accompanist for you with advance notice. If you are playing to a track, it is preferred that you use standard play-a-long/music-minus-one or karaoke tracks so that you are not playing your part along with the part on the recording.

