

BOOKER T.

WASHINGTON

MUSIC

AUDITION INFORMATION

Booker T Washington HSPVA is the DallasISD magnet school for the performing and visual arts, and is one of the top high schools in the nation for the study of music. The BTW Music Conservatory offers a wide range of interests for the music student. These interests include classical and RJAM (Root, Jazz, and American Music) studies with extensive courses in vocal music, instrumental music, music composition, and music theory. Students pursue a core course of study with additional electives.

BTWHSPVA has been named a Grammy Signature School Winner five times. Our current students have earned more than 200 Downbeat Awards, and our alumni have earned more than 30 Grammy Awards. Our classical ensembles have performed regularly at Carnegie Hall and the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, and our jazz ensembles have earned multiple Grand Champion Awards Monterey Jazz Festival. Our students have earned regular TMEA All State honors in choral, jazz, orchestra, and wind studies, and they have been named National Scholars of the Arts and YoungArts finalists in various categories.

What Makes Us Revolutionary?

BTW's Music Faculty are constantly adjusting to music's ever-evolving presence in our society, and we are always looking for new ways to help our students to develop their collective and individual artistic voices. Our courses are structured to build on the basic technical instruction students receive at the primary level, while providing many traditional and nontraditional ensemble experiences for our students as they continue to grow. The courses we offer are designed to align with our students' interests and skills, our faculty's expertise, and postsecondary university and conservatory curricula. BTW teachers challenge BTW students not only to perform music at a high level, but also to understand the complex themes and feelings that led to the creation of such art. The arts are a living thing, and we encourage our students to engage with the arts in a personal and dynamic fashion.

Because of our location in the Dallas Arts District and our close ties to our community, we have many unique resources at our disposal, and we serve as a resource to our arts partners and community members throughout the greater Dallas area.

Conservatory Contact Info

Dr. Michael Jacko, *Director*
972.925.1234
mjacko@dallasisd.org

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4-Year-Course Sequence

Sample Sequence

	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
1st	!PAP English 1	!PAP English 2	<i>English 3</i>	<i>English 4</i>
2nd	‡Algebra 1	<i>Geometry</i>	<i>Algebra 2</i>	<i>Pre-Cal</i>
3rd	!PAP Biology	!PAP Chemistry	<i>Physics</i>	<i>Science Elective</i>
4th	!PAP-World History -or- AP Human Geo	<i>US History</i>	^Integration of Abilities & Portfolio	*Government & Economics
5th	+LOTE 1	+LOTE 2	Physical Education	Music Elective -or- Ensemble
6th	Primary Ensemble 1	Primary Ensemble 2	Primary Ensemble 3	Primary Ensemble 4
7th	Techniques Class 1	Techniques Class 2	Music Elective -or- Ensemble -or- Cross Conservatory	Music Elective -or- Ensemble -or- Cross Conservatory
8th	Music Theory 1	Pre-AP Music Theory/Music Elective/Ensemble	Music Elective -or- Ensemble	AP Music Theory

!All students take an honors level of English, Social Studies and Science Freshmen & Year; English and Science Sophomore Year.

‡Algebra 1 is commonly taken in middle school. If so, slide math requirements to left. Fill senior year course with arts or academic elective.

*Government & Economics is taken by many students over the summer. If so, an arts or academic elective can be substituted.

+Only 2 levels of LOTE are required, though many selective universities recommend a 3rd course.

^Integration of Abilities & Portfolio is BTWHSPVA's Signature Course required of all students Junior Year.

Italicized courses are those that different options exist to fulfil this Academic Credit.

Auditioned Ensembles

Contemporary Ensemble
 Jazz Combo
 Jazz Singers
 Gospel
 Meistersingers (chamber vocal ensemble)
 Midi Ensemble
 Singer/Songwriter
 Opera Workshop
 Symphony Orchestra

Open Ensembles

Big Band
 Jazz Piano
 Mariachi Pegaso
 Latin American Ensemble

Music Electives

Music Production 1
 Music Production 2 (PreReq: Music Production 1)
 Music Business
 Conducting
 Jazz Piano
 Music Composition (PreReq: AP Music Theory)
 Piano for non-majors, Music History, World Music

Students choose one or more areas in which to audition

Woodwind, Brass, and Concert Percussion

- Woodwind/Brass: Perform a UIL Class I or Class II Solo or a TMEA All Region Etude or any Jazz standard melody at a tempo of about quarter note = 120.
- Woodwind/Brass: Perform from memory the concert Bb, Eb, Ab, and F scales the full range of the instrument as well as the full range chromatic scale.
- Concert Percussion: Perform either a UIL Class I or Class II Solo or Region Etude on TWO of the following instruments: Timpani, Marimba, and Snare Drum.
- All: Be prepared to sight read.
- Woodwind/brass audition preparation materials (scales): [link](#)

Orchestral Strings and Harp

- Perform scales as follows, 2 octaves or 3 octaves if possible:
 - Violin: A major, C major, and G melodic minor, up to 3 octaves
 - Viola, Cello: D major, G major, and C melodic minor, up to 3 octaves
 - Bass: G major, C major, and E melodic minor, 2 octaves
- Perform a solo from the UIL prescribed music list (one movement only), or another solo as approved by Head of Orchestral Studies. Applicants are strongly encouraged to bring three copies of their chosen solo.
- Be prepared to sight read.
- Orchestra audition preparation materials (scales): [link](#)

Vocal

- Perform one selection **from memory** from one of the following choices:
 - *Pathways of Song* (any volume)
 - *Folksongs for Young Singers* (any volume)
 - Any other age-appropriate classical song
- Students **MUST** bring a copy of the sheet music for their song.
- Students will have the option to perform a non-classical song, either in addition to or instead of a classical song.
- Perform a series of vocalizes to determine range, vocal quality, and general vocal health.
- Matching of pitches played on a piano.
- Be prepared to sight read.
- Vocal audition preparation materials (sample sight reading): [link](#)

Piano

- One Classical Solo piece or one movement from a multi-movement work, from any of the four major periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary. **Memorization required.** Consult the UIL prescribed music list when choosing repertoire. You must bring a score for the audition panel.
- A second piece in a contrasting style is highly encouraged, but not required. **Memorization encouraged.** You must bring a score for the audition panel.
- All major and minor (natural, harmonic, and melodic) scales (two octave minimum, preferably four octaves) hands together, M.M. quarter note = 80, played in 16ths. **Memorization required.**
- All major and minor arpeggios, same format, M.M. quarter note = 80, played in triplet 8ths. **Memorization required.**
- Demonstrate the ability to sight-read, hands together with accuracy, fluency, and expression. Students may choose the level from the sample packets below. See samples below.
- Show existence of ability to playback/replicate keyboard patterns as played by one of the members of the audition panel.
- Demonstrate ability to harmonize a melody (with given chord symbols above the melody) using diatonic chords above in the left hand. Feel free to prepare an example from the sample below. You may embellish the accompaniment as you see fit.
- Piano audition preparation materials (sample sight reading): [Sample packet 1](#), [Sample packet 2](#); (sample harmonization): [Sample harmonization packet](#), [Sample improvisation exercise](#)

Guitar

- Perform a classical guitar piece, level I or II from the UIL PML repertoire list. <http://wwwdev.uiltexas.org/pml/> (choose category 405 - Acoustical Guitar Solo).
- Play 2 octave major scales in any of the 12 keys chosen by audition panel.
- Sight read a single line melody in the first position on guitar.
- Read through Major, minor and 7th chord symbols in 12 keys.
- Improvise a melody over a 12 bar blues.
- Demonstrate fundamental musicianship skills by singing back melodies played on piano and by clapping rhythms with the audition panelist.
- Guitar audition preparation materials: [link](#)

Students wishing to be considered for **Root, Jazz, and American Music (RJAM)** must demonstrate their instrumental abilities in non-classical styles:

- **String/Woodwind/Brass** players may play blues scales and/or improvise over a chorus of a standard tune.
- **Piano/Guitar** players may demonstrate knowledge of “comping” (chord accompaniment) for one chorus on a standard tune at quarter note = 120, or swing-style at a medium tempo playing 4 bars of time and 4 bars of solo for a total of at least 32 bars.
- **Electric Bass** players may demonstrate their knowledge of Swing, Latin, and Funk styles.
 - For swing, play at a medium tempo: 4 bars of time and 4 bars of solo for a total of at least 32 bars.
- **Percussion/Drum Set** players may demonstrate their knowledge of Swing, Latin, and Funk styles.
 - For swing, play at a medium tempo: 4 bars of time and 4 bars of solo (alternating) for a total of at least 32 bars.
- **Composers/Songwriters** may share any of their original work, through performance and/or by providing written/notated examples.

Scoring Breakdown

45 Points	<p>Prepared Piece Students will prepare a solo or excerpt according to their audition area’s specifications.</p>
25 Points	<p>Scales/Technique Students are assessed on their ability to play or sing scales as well as tone quality and instrument-specific technique.</p>
15 Points	<p>Musicianship Students graded on rhythmic accuracy, dynamics, phrasing, improvisation.</p>
5 Points	<p>Sight-Reading Students are asked to demonstrate ability to sight read an exercise as a method of assessing music literacy.</p>
10 Point	<p>Interview Students are asked interview questions from a separate panel</p>
<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> 100 Points	<p>Total</p>