Overview of entrance exams for the department of keyboard instruments at RCA

1. Test in General Music Theory (GMT) and Aural Skills

- ONLY FOR BACHELOR 1 CANDIDATES!
- Instructions can be found on the department's page: https://www.ap-arts.be/opleiding/muziek/inschrijven (Check Step 2: Take the entrance exam).

2. Motivation Video Recording

- MANDATORY FOR ALL CANDIDATES!
- Create a video in Dutch or English based on the questionnaire found on the department's page: https://www.ap-arts.be/opleiding/muziek/inschrijven (Check Step 2: Take the entrance exam).

3. Preliminary test in Practical Harmony

- ONLY FOR BACHELOR PIANO CANDIDATES!
- The test evaluates harmonic understanding based on the performed repertoire.
- An additional test for Practical Harmony will also be conducted.
- Instructions for this test can be found on the department's page: https://www.ap-arts.be/opleiding/muziek/inschrijven (Check Step 2: Take the entrance exam).

4. Preliminary test in Keyboard Practice

- ONLY FOR MASTER PIANO CANDIDATES!
- This test determines if the candidate possesses the necessary basic skills for the Keyboard Practice course.
- The test includes a prepared section and on-the-spot assessments.
- Instructions for the prepared section can be found on the department's page: https://www.ap-arts.be/opleiding/muziek/inschrijven (Check Step 2: Take the entrance exam).
- The unprepared section assesses ear training, harmonic understanding, and sight-reading.

5. Practical Entrance Exam for the main discipline

- MANDATORY FOR ALL CANDIDATES!
- The jury may choose to have the candidate perform only part of the proposed program.
- The required repertoire per instrument and study year can be found on the following pages in this document.

SECTION KEY INSTRUMENTS 2026-2027

BACHELOR

Piano

- Bachelor 1 (at least half of the proposed program must be played by memory):
  - Prelude and Fugue from "Das wohltemperierte Klavier" by J.S. Bach or polyphonic work at a similar level.
  - One movement from a classical sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, etc.
  - An etude by Czerny (Op. 636 or 699), Chopin, Moszkowski, Scriabin, Rachmaninov, Liszt, Cramer, etc.
  - A performance piece from a different style period (not an etude).

The jury will make a selection out of the proposed repertoire during the entrance exam.

- Bachelor 2 & 3: Minimum 30 minutes, fully played by memory, consisting of:
  - A polyphonic work (Bach or a more recent composer).
  - A relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin, etc.).
  - A classical sonata in its entirety (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert).
  - A romantic work of choice (not an etude!).

The jury will make a selection out of the proposed repertoire during the entrance exam.

Accordion

- the student must have an instrument with 3 manuals (i.e. free bass)

- Bachelor 1:
  - Knowledge of scales.
  - A piece combining/alternating seconds and thirds.
  - A polyphonic work.
  - A cyclic work.
  - A performance piece of choice (memorized).

- Bachelor 2:
  - Scales up to 7# / 7b (both M2 and M3): Contrary motion, Thirds, Sixths, Bellow Shakes.
  - Prelude and Fugue from "Das wohltemperierte Klavier" by J.S. Bach.
  - A sonata by A. Scarlatti.
  - A composition by W.A. Solotariev (free choice).
  - A composition by V. Semionov (free choice).

- Bachelor 3:
  - Scales up to 7# / 7b (both M2 and M3): Contrary motion, Thirds, Sixths, Bellow Shakes.
  - Prelude and Fugue from "Das wohltemperierte Klavier" by J.S. Bach.
  - A sonata by A. Scarlatti.
  - Composition by W.A. Solotariev: choice from Ispaniada, Sonata 2, or Children's Suite No. 6.
  - Composition by V. Semionov: choice from Estonian Rhapsody, Don Rhapsody, and Caprice No. 1.

Harpsichord

- Bachelor 1:
  - 20-minute program
  - demonstrating musical and technical qualities with three representative works from three different style periods.

- Bachelor 2 & 3: Mixed recital of at least 35 minutes, including:
  - A major work by J.S. Bach: English suite, partita, French Overture, or Italian Concerto (no prelude & fugue).
  - A French suite after L. Couperin.
  - A gallant sonata or a Sturm-und-Drang sonata.

SECTION KEY INSTRUMENTS 2026-2027

Organ

- Available organs:
- Collon organ in the conservatoire
  (mechanical, II/ped, Go and POS in French classical style, pedal 16 8 4 + tr 8 cl 4, 1978)
- Pels organ of St Laurentius' church
  (electropneumatic, III/ped, 45 reg, 2 VC, reg cresc, 1934, 8 sec reverb)
- You can request photos of the organs from the secretariat at conservatorium@ap.be .

- Bachelor 1:
- minimum 30 minutes
- balanced between both available instruments, pedaliter.
- Mandatory inclusion in the programme:
  => a work by J.S. Bach (excluded: Kleine Prelude & Fugue from BWV 553-560)

The jury will make a selection from the proposed repertoire where necessary.

- Bachelor 2 &3:
- minimum 30 minutes
- balanced between both available instruments, pedaliter.
- Mandatory inclusion in the programme:
  => a work by J.S. Bach (from the major Praeludias/Toccatas/Fantasias & Fugues, Triosonatas, Clavierübung III, Schübler Choräle, Leipziger Choräle, ...)

The jury will make a selection from the proposed repertoire where necessary.

SECTION KEY INSTRUMENTS 2026-2027

MASTER

Piano - Solo Option

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Minimum 30 minutes, fully memorized, consisting of:
  - A polyphonic work (Bach or a more recent composer).
  - A relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin, etc.).
  - A classical sonata in its entirety (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert).
  - A romantic work of choice.

The jury will make a selection out of the proposed repertoire during the entrance exam.

Piano - Chamber Music & Accompaniment Option

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Minimum 30 minutes, fully memorized, consisting of:
  - A polyphonic work (Bach or a more recent composer).
  - A relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin, etc.).
  - A classical sonata in its entirety (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert).
  - A romantic work of choice.

The jury will make a selection out of the proposed repertoire during the entrance exam.

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Sight-reading test

Piano - Opera Repetent option

- FOR ALL LEVELS: minimum 30 minutes, played entirely from memory, consisting of:
  - a polyphonic work (Bach or more recent composer)
  - a relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin etc)
  - a classical sonata in extenso (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert)
  - a romantic work of your choice

The jury will make a selection from the proposed repertoire during the test.

- FOR ALL LEVELS: sight-reading test

Piano - Educational Master Option

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Minimum 30 minutes, fully memorized, consisting of:
  - A polyphonic work (Bach or a more recent composer).
  - A relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin, etc.).
  - A classical sonata in its entirety (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert).
  - A romantic work of choice.

The jury will make a selection out of the proposed repertoire during the entrance exam.

Accordion

- Master 1:
  - Scales up to 7# / 7b (both M2 and M3): Contrary motion, Thirds, Sixths, Bellow Shakes.
  - An organ composition by J.S. Bach.
  - Prelude and Fugue from "Das wohltemperierte Klavier" by J.S. Bach.
  - A sonata by A. Scarlatti.
  - A composition by A. Kusyakov (free choice).
  - A composition by Ole Schmidt (free choice).
  - A composition by Franck Angelis (free choice).

- Master 2:
  - Scales up to 7# / 7b (both MII as MII): Contrary motion, Thirds, Sixths, Bellow Shakes.

- An organ composition by J.S. Bach: Chorale.
- An organ composition by J.S. Bach: Toccata & Fugue.
- A baroque composition (free choice).
- A composition by W. Subitzky: free choice between Carpathian Suite and Partita Concertante.
- A composition by Franck Angelis (free choice).

Harpsichord

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Mixed recital of a minimum of 35 minutes, including:
  - A major work by J.S. Bach: English suite, partita, French Overture, or Italian Concerto (no prelude & fugue).
  - A French suite after L. Couperin.
  - A gallant sonata or a Sturm-und-Drang sonata.

Organ

- Available organs:
  - Collon organ in the conservatoire
    (mechanical, II/ped, Go en POS in French classical style, pedll 16 8 4 + tr 8 cl 4, 1978)
  - Pels organ of the Church Sint-Laurentius
    (electro-pneumatic, III/ped, 45 reg, 2 VC, reg cresc, 1934, 8 sec echo)
  - You can ask for pictures of the organs at the secretary via conservatorium@ap.be.

- FOR ALL LEVELS: Minimum 30 minutes on one of the available organs:
- Minimum 40 minutes
- Balanced between both available instruments, pedaliter.
- The jury will make a selection from the proposed repertoire where necessary
- Collon organ in the conservatoire
- A larger chorale arrangement by J.S. Bach
- A Praeludium from the North German Baroque OR a Praeludium/Toccata/Fantasia & Fugue by J.S. Bach
- A work in French classical style OR a Toccata by G. Frescobaldi
- Pels organ of St Laurentius church
- Student's choice of repertoire

POSTGRADUATE CONCERT SOLOIST INSTRUMENT/VOICE

PG Piano

- Minimum 30 minutes, including:
  - A polyphonic work (Bach or a more recent composer).
  - A relevant etude (Chopin/Liszt/Skrjabin, etc.).
  - A classical sonata (Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert).
  - A romantic work of choice.
- Fully by heart.

PG Harpsichord

- A mixed recital of 35 minutes, including:
  - A major work by J.S. Bach: English suite, partita, French Overture, or Italian Concerto (no prelude & fugue).
  - A French suite after L. Couperin.
  - A gallant sonata or a Sturm-und-Drang sonata.

PG Organ

- Available organs:
  - Collon organ in the conservatoire
    (mechanical, II/ped, Go en POS in French classical style, pedll 16 8 4 + tr 8 cl 4, 1978)
  - Pels organ of the Church Sint-Laurentius
    (electro-pneumatic, III/ped, 45 reg, 2 VC, reg cresc, 1934, 8 sec echo)
  - You can ask for pictures of the organs at the secretary via conservatorium@ap.be.
- FOR ALL LEVELS: Minimum 30 minutes on one of the available organs:
  - Collon organ in the conservatory.
    - Two works by Bach (choose from J.S. Bach: Free Style; J.S. Bach: Chorale Style; J.S. Bach: Trio Play).
    - A selection of works from:
      - French classical style 1650-1770.
      - North German style 1650-1750.
    - Student's choice repertoire.
  - Pels organ of the St. Laurentius church.
    - A selection from:
      - French symphonic music.
      - Germany 19th century.
      - Olivier Messiaen.
      - Max Reger.
    - Student's choice repertoire.
- Note: The style names should be interpreted in spirit rather than strictly.

POSTGRADUATE CHAMBER MUSIC

- A program of 30 minutes
- with representative works from at least 2 different style periods, including:
  - At least one solo work (to be played by heart).
  - At least one chamber music piece.

ADMISSION TESTS FOR SECONDARY INSTRUMENTS

At the beginning of the academic year, the candidate contacts the relevant teacher for an intake interview to decide if the candidate can take the course. After this, Jens Vermeiren, the chair of the Keyboard Department, is informed via jens.vermeiren@ap.be.
The available places for secondary instruments are limited.