

Conducting the Transfer Student Interview A Panel Discussion

Members of the Committee on Independent Teaching submitted interview forms and descriptions of their interview process in preparation for this panel discussion. The Moderator studied and compared the documents to offer a list of general observations, and create a “merged” interview form (over).

General Observations

Several committee members do a preliminary gathering/sharing of data (often by phone or email) before scheduling a face-to-face meeting. At the in-person audition, most fill out a questionnaire or jot down notes as they ask questions and listen to playing. At least one member gives a music theory test. Some use a separate enrollment form following the interview, either immediately, or after the passage of time.

The Interview Form

Certain questions appeared in more than half of the committee’s interviews (either pre-interview or face-to-face). These items are included on the Merged Form (over).

The following additional items were on several, but not most of the interview forms:

CONTACT:	Date of Birth (or adult)	
	Male or Female	
BACKGROUND:	Length of study	
	Current teacher	
	Current/most recent lesson length and frequency	
	Other instruments played (or vocal experience) and length of study	
	Composing/improvisation experience	
	Music history study	
	Technic study	
	Method books used/materials on hand	
FAMILY:	Musical background of parents:	piano/other instrument/vocal currently, or as a child?
	Siblings’ history in this studio	
ENVIRONMENT:	School attended	
	Favorite listening music	
	Type of practice instrument at home	
MOTIVES:	Parent/student stated goals	
	Future plans in music	
	Music literature/genre interests	
EVALUATION:	Ear	
	Rhythm	
	Tone	
	Use of body	
OTHER:	Parent rapport	
	Mutual expectations	
	Time for questions	

Merged Interview/Audition Form for Transfer Students

1. Information that could be gathered before meeting face-to-face (e.g. by phone or email):

CONTACT INFO

Date.....
 Student's name..... Age..... School Grade.....
 Parents, full name(s).....
 Address.....
 Phone (H)..... (W).....(C).....
 Email.....

BACKGROUND

Previous teacher(s).....
 Music Theory knowledge
 Piano practice habits.....
 Performances, adjudications, competitions (including levels and awards).....
 Current/Recent Repertoire.....

ENVIRONMENT

School classes and/or favorite subjects
 Hobbies and/or extracurricular activities
 Days and times available for lessons

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

2. Information to gather at the in-person audition/interview:

MOTIVES

Why do they want to study the piano?.....
 Why are they leaving previous teacher?
 Why do they want to study with me?

EVALUATION (of everything from a few phrases to two polished pieces, written or unwritten)

Make notes: • technic
 • musicality
 • sight-reading

OTHER

Share: studio policies/teaching philosophy
 concerns/needs fixing

Make notes: personality/trust/enthusiasm/responsiveness/interaction.
 learning/physical challenges &/or understanding/information processing