

### **Notice Update – 18 May 2020**

In view of Covid-19, the audition process has been updated. Please refer to the following pages:

- 1) Important dates to note
- 2) What shortlisted applicants will experience during the TA
- 3) What Shortlisted applicants must prepare and do for the portfolio submission

### **Notice Update – 11 May 2020**

In view of Covid-19, the following has been updated:

- 1) Application Period extended to 23 May, 5:00 pm (SGT)
- 2) Release of the Shortlisting Outcome changed to 8 June 2020, 6:00 pm
- 3) TA Auditions from 23 June to 18 July 2020
- 4) All TA activities will be conducted online

### **Notice Update – 6 May 2020**

#### Video Submission

In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist.

#### Audition for Shortlisted Applicants

In view of the current COVID-19 situation, we are currently reviewing the selection process and criteria for this year's TA. Updates will be posted on the website.

### **Notice Update – 27 March 2020**

The Talent Academy is currently scheduled for 23-26 June 2020. However, in view of the current COVID-19 situation, these dates may change. More information will be provided as soon as possible. Applicants are advised not to make travel plans in June. Shortlisted applicants must attend and complete all scheduled TA activities. Incomplete attendance will result in disqualification.

**Talent Academy 2020**  
**Preparation Notes and Checklist for Year 5 Music Applicants**  
**International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP)**  
**DSA-JC and Non-DSA**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Items</b>
1.	All Applicants – Important Dates to Note
2.	All Applicants – Checklist of Submission of Supporting Documents via the TA Portal
3.	All Applicants – Preparation Notes for Portfolio Submission in Music via the TA Portal
4.	Shortlisted Non-DSA (IBCP) Applicants – Guide to the Entrance Tests
5.	All Shortlisted Applicants – What You Will Experience During the TA
6.	Annex A – List of Instruments allowed for Music Application
7.	Annex B - Guide to uploading and compressing videos and/or documents for submission via the TA Portal

**TALENT ACADEMY 2020**  
**Important Dates to Note**  
**DSA-JC and Non-DSA IBCP Applicants**

<b>Date</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>What to Do</b>
3 April to 23 May 2020 5:00 pm (SGT)	All Applicants	<p><b>Apply Online</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Register</b> for an account and <b>submit</b> the application online via the <b>TA Portal</b></li> <li>• <b>Application closes</b> on 23 May 2020, 5:00 pm (SGT)</li> <li>• It takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete the entire application for <b>ONE</b> (1) art form, provided that the supporting documents and portfolio submission have been prepared in advance</li> <li>• Submit your application early, as the TA Portal may experience slower connectivity due to high traffic during the application period</li> <li>• Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Appeals for late submissions will <b>not</b> be considered</li> </ul> <p><b>13 May</b> - In view of the COVID-19 situation, all International Students who are not residing in Singapore are not eligible to take part in this year's DSA-Sec Exercise, and will not be able to apply for the Talent Academy. Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/nmsdsa-sec-application">https://go.gov.sg/nmsdsa-sec-application</a> for more details. As such, the same will apply for Year 5 admission via Non-DSA.</p>
8 June 2020 6:00 pm (SGT)	All Applicants	<p><b>Log in</b> to the TA Portal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the status of your Shortlisting Outcome</li> </ul>
8 June to 14 June 2020 12:00 noon (GST)	Shortlisted <b>Non-DSA</b> Applicants Only	<p><b>Log in</b> to the TA Portal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>upload</b> your most recent academic results</li> <li>• <b>skip</b> this process if you do not have any latest results to upload</li> </ul>
16 June 2020 6:00 pm (SGT)	All Shortlisted Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Log in</b> to the TA Portal and <b>download</b> your TA schedule</li> <li>• <b>Check</b> your TA schedule to find out your allocated audition days/dates</li> <li>• <b>Check</b> the 'announcement' tab for more information about your TA</li> </ul>
23 June to 18 July 2020	Shortlisted <b>Non-DSA</b> Applicants only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete</b> the English and Mathematics entrance tests online</li> <li>• <b>Make payment</b> of S\$30.00 for the entrance tests fee</li> </ul> <p><b>Modes</b> of payment to be advised</p>
23 June to 18 July 2020	All Shortlisted Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complete</b> all scheduled TA activities online comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individual auditions or portfolio presentations</li> <li>○ Panel Interviews</li> <li>○ Online Questionnaires</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>More information will be shared with shortlisted applicants about how the activities will be conducted.</p> <p><b>11 May 2020:</b> The Talent Academy will start from 23 June. Shortlisted applicants must complete all scheduled TA activities within the stipulated time. Incomplete attendance will result in disqualification.</p>
7 August 2020 6:00 pm (SGT)	Shortlisted Applicants	<p><b>Log in</b> to the TA Portal and <b>check</b> the status of your final TA Outcome (Confirmed Offer or Unsuccessful)</p>
August 2020 (tbc)	Confirmed Offer Applicants	<p><b>Submit</b> Acceptance Form to SOTA</p>
November 2020 (tbc)	Confirmed Offer Applicants	<p><b>Complete</b> your registration at SOTA</p>

**TALENT ACADEMY 2020****Checklist for Submission of Supporting Documents to be Uploaded via the TA Portal  
DSA-JC and Non-DSA IBCP Applicants**

Apply Online via the TA Portal between 3 April to 23 May 2020, 5:00 pm (SGT)

<b>FOR DSA-JC and Non-DSA Year 5 APPLICANTS</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Document Title (to be uploaded directly to the TA Portal)</b>	<b>Maximum File Size</b>	<b>Acceptable File Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1	<p><b>Applicant's Identification Document</b></p> <p>Singaporeans Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate</p> <p>Singapore Permanent Residents Passport and Re-Entry Permit</p> <p>Foreigners Studying in Singapore: Passport and Dependant or Student Pass Studying overseas: Passport</p>	1 MB	PDF	
2	<p>1 recent passport-sized colour photograph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be taken against plain white background</li> <li>Do not upload a full-length photograph</li> </ul>	2 MB	JPEG, JPG	
3	<p><b>Academic Results</b></p> <p>3 April to 23 May (All Applicants)</p> <p><b>DSA-JC:</b> Sec 3E/4NA mid-year and end-of-year results. <a href="#">The general office is open during the circuit breaker period and the term break. Please email the school to request for a softcopy and specify that you are applying for DSA to SOTA and the application period ends on 23 May, 5:00 pm.</a></p> <p><b>Non-DSA:</b> 2019 academic results. All original transcripts not in English should be accompanied with a translated document.</p> <p><u>8 June to 14 June (Shortlisted Applicants Only)</u></p> <p><b>DSA-JC:</b> No actions required.</p> <p><b>Non-DSA:</b> Log in to the TA Portal and upload your most recent 2020 academic results. All original transcripts not in English should be accompanied with a translated document. You may skip this step if you do not have any latest results to upload.</p>	2 MB	PDF	
4	<p>DSA-JC applicants (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mother Tongue Language In-Lieu Letter</li> <li>Mother Tongue Language Exemption Letter</li> </ul>	1 MB	PDF	

**Note:**

- It takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete the entire application for **ONE** (1) art form, provided that the supporting documents and portfolio submission have been prepared in advance
- Applicants are advised to submit their applications early, as the TA Portal may experience slower connectivity due to high traffic during the application period
- Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Appeals for late submissions will not be considered

The TA Portal opens from 3 April to 23 May, 5:00 pm (SGT). There will be no extension of deadline for submission of application. Do ensure you have ample time to complete and submit your application.

## TALENT ACADEMY 2020

### Preparation Notes for Portfolio Submission in Music (for all applicants) International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) DSA-JC and Non-DSA Year 5 Applicants

Students specialising in Music will experience the spectrum of music, from voice and instrumental study, to music theory and analysis, and composition. They will discover music from around the world and examine the development of music across traditions and history. They will also develop craft, perspective and dispositions of a musician, which will enrich their journey in any field beyond SOTA.

SOTA offers the IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) in Year 5 and 6. IBCP students will engage with a challenging programme of study and will acquire transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement as they prepare for professional pathways in the arts.

Students in the Music IBCP can choose to specialize in either Performance or Composition, and must take Music at a Higher Level (HL). The nature of exposure and opportunities will be dependent upon the area of specialization.

To apply, you need to have a strong passion for your chosen field and the intention to continue your studies at a music college or conservatory. If you're applying for the Performance track, you must be exceptionally strong technically and musically in your instrument(s). For the Composition track, you must have a wide range of musical experiences and show this in your portfolio and interview.

You are expected to have a good knowledge of Western analysis and music theory and need to be able to read bass, alto and treble clef. You also need to have some awareness of music of non-western cultures.

You will be expected to be imaginative, enthusiastic, expressive, co-operative, open-minded and flexible thinkers, and self-driven learners. A strong command of English, spoken and written, is a key prerequisite. A keen interest in all aspects of the arts is clearly essential.

#### What to Submit for the Composition Track Portfolio

Applicants applying to the Composition Track are required to submit the following for their Music portfolio submission via the TA Portal:

1. A portfolio of 2 compositions
2. Video recordings of a contrasting programme on a primary instrument

Item	Composition Track
Portfolio of 2 compositions	<p><b>Each</b> composition should consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Minimum three (3)</b> minutes long and <b>maximum of six (6)</b> minutes</li><li>• To include music scores and recordings</li><li>• Live recording is preferred but a midi version is acceptable</li></ul>
Recordings of performance	<p>Video recordings of <b>a contrasting programme (between 8-10 min)</b> that demonstrate your best performance qualities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You <u>must</u> present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require one</li><li>• Accompanists are <u>not</u> required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists</li><li>• <b>In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist</b></li><li>• Submission of music scores of the works you have recorded</li><li>• Record separate videos for each work</li></ul>

<p>Uploading and Sharing the video, audio and/or documents</p>	<p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Videos must be recorded in a single take (no editing); cannot be professionally produced</li> <li>● <b>Save</b> videos, audios, music scores into 1 folder</li> <li>● <b>Name</b> the folder with your full name</li> <li>● <b>Upload</b> the folder to Google Drive</li> <li>● Privacy Setting: 'Public' or 'Anyone with the Link'</li> <li>● <b>Paste</b> the shared link of the folder on the TA Portal in the 'Uploaded to External Site URL' fields</li> </ul>
<p>Note(s)</p>	<p>Supporting documents, portfolios, and photographs submitted for shortlisting will be retained for the school's records.</p> <p>Certificates, achievement records, testimonials, recommendation letters are not required.</p>

### What to Submit for the Performance Track Portfolio

Applicants applying to the Performance Track are required to submit the following for their Music portfolio submission via the TA Portal:

1. Video recordings of a contrasting programme (All applicants)
2. Recording of 2 compositions (All applicants)

Item	Performance Track
Video recordings	<p><u>For all applicants (except voice):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Video recordings of a programme (between 10-15 min) that demonstrate your best performance qualities.</li> <li>● Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency</li> <li>● You are required to memorize their programme</li> </ul> <p><u>Voice applicants only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Video recordings of <b>a contrasting programme (between 8-10 min)</b> that demonstrate your best performance qualities.</li> <li>● If you are applying as a Western Classical singer, the works must be in at least two (2) different Western languages</li> <li>● A choir piece will not be accepted</li> <li>● Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency</li> <li>● You are required to memorize their programme</li> </ul> <p><u>Jazz Instrumental Studies:</u> You may apply for Jazz Instrumental Studies through the following instruments only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bass</li> <li>● Guitar</li> <li>● Piano</li> <li>● Saxophone</li> <li>● Voice</li> </ul> <p><u>For all applicants (including voice):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You <b>must</b> present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require one</li> <li>● <b>In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist</b></li> <li>● Accompanists are <b>not</b> required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists</li> <li>● Submission of music scores of the works they have recorded</li> <li>● Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency.</li> </ul>
Portfolio of 2 compositions	<p><b>Each composition should consist of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Minimum three (3)</b> minutes long and <b>maximum of six (6)</b> minutes</li> <li>● To include music scores and recordings</li> <li>● Live recording is preferred but a midi version is acceptable</li> </ul>

<p>Uploading and Sharing the videos and documents</p>	<p><b>Instructions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Videos must be recorded in a single take (no editing); cannot be professionally produced</li> <li>● <b>Save</b> videos, audios, music scores into 1 folder</li> <li>● <b>Name</b> the folder with your full name</li> <li>● <b>Upload</b> the folder to Google Drive</li> <li>● Privacy Setting: 'Public' or 'Anyone with the Link'</li> <li>● <b>Paste</b> the shared link of the folder on the TA Portal in the 'Uploaded to External Site URL' fields</li> </ul>
<p>Note(s)</p>	<p>Supporting documents, portfolios, and photographs submitted for shortlisting will be retained for the school's Records.</p> <p>Certificates, achievement records, testimonials, recommendation letters are not required.</p>



## TALENT ACADEMY 2020

### Preparation Notes for Audition in Music (for shortlisted applicants)

#### Non-DSA Applicants - Guide to the Entrance Tests

You may refer to the local GCE 'O' level assessment books for the following subjects to familiarise yourself with the topics and exercises.

Due to Covid-19, more information will be provided to shortlisted candidates on how the tests will be conducted.

Test	Information
English Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour 15 minutes to complete the test</li><li>● Based on an expository text, answer a variety of questions testing close reading and comprehension skills, vocabulary in context and the use of language for impact</li><li>● Response Writing – responding to an author's key arguments</li></ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour 30 minutes to complete the test</li><li>● No calculator or Graphic Display Calculator is allowed</li><li>● Candidates must complete 11 problem-solving questions that carry a total of 90 marks</li><li>● The topics that will be covered are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Prior Knowledge of Year 1 to 4 Mathematics (Elementary Mathematics and some Additional Mathematics) is required</li><li>○ Functions and Graphs</li><li>○ Quadratic Functions and Graphs</li><li>○ Nature of roots for Quadratic Functions</li><li>○ Logarithms</li><li>○ Trigonometry: Identities, Double Angle Formula and Trigonometric Graphs</li><li>○ Differentiation of Polynomials, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions</li><li>○ Applications of Differentiation: Increasing and Decreasing Functions and Equations of Tangents and Normals</li><li>○ Integration of Polynomials</li><li>○ Applications of Integration: Area</li></ul></li></ul>

## TALENT ACADEMY 2020

### Preparation Notes for Audition in Music (for shortlisted applicants) International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) DSA-JC and Non-DSA Year 5 Applicants

#### What Shortlisted Applicants Will Experience During the Talent Academy

If shortlisted, you will be required to participate and complete the following activities online:

1. Online Questionnaires
2. Panel Interview
3. Music Auditions:
  - a. Online Critical Listening Paper
  - b. Performance of programme, which includes a mini-lesson and interview by a panel of music teachers
  - c. Composition session

Composition and Performance Tracks	<b>Online Critical Listening Paper (45 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will be asked to listen to musical excerpts and write an analysis of the works</li><li>• No preparation is required</li></ul>
Composition Track Only	<p><b>a. Composition session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will discuss the works submitted to a panel of SOTA faculty members</li><li>• You will be given 40 minutes to do a composition exercise.</li></ul> <p><b>b. Performance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will perform the 8-10 min programme that you have submitted via the TA portal</li><li>• You must present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces chosen require one</li><li>• Accompanists are <b>not</b> required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists</li><li>• In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist</li><li>• You must be able to speak about the pieces you have performed, how you have prepared for the audition and other interesting points that you would like to share with the panellists</li></ul> <p><b>c. Mini Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You may be asked to present your pieces a second or a third time</li><li>• You may be asked to perform the pieces again with a fresh emphasis, emotion or attitude in order to encourage you to display flexibility</li></ul> <p><b>d. Interview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You will be asked questions about all facets of music, and given an opportunity to share your portfolio, past learning experiences and interest in music</li></ul>

<p>Performance Track Only</p>	<p><b>Performance:</b></p> <p><b>a. 30-minute audition</b></p> <p>For all applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perform the pieces that you have submitted via the TA Portal.</li> <li>● You <u>must</u> present the programme with an accompanist if your music pieces require one.</li> <li>● Accompanists are <u>not</u> required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists.</li> <li>● In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist.</li> <li>● You must be able to speak about the pieces that you have performed, how you have prepared for the audition and other interesting points that you would like to share with the panelists.</li> <li>● You are required to memorize your programme</li> </ul> <p>For Jazz Instrumental Studies applicants only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You will also be required to do an improvisation on a 12-bar Blues Form, with multiple choruses</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Mini Lesson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You may be asked to present your pieces a second or a third time</li> <li>● You may be asked to perform the pieces again with a fresh emphasis, emotion or attitude in order to encourage you to display flexibility</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Interview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You will be asked questions about all facets of music, and given an opportunity to share your portfolio, past learning experiences and interest in music</li> </ul> <p><b>d. Composition session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You will be given 40 minutes to do a composition exercise.</li> </ul>
<p>Note(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The panelists are looking for musicianship, talent, and an ability to learn.</li> <li>● The audition panel includes a teacher from SOTA's Faculty of Music and an external specialist.</li> <li>● The panel may not always listen to the entire musical performance.</li> </ul>

## What to prepare for Music Audition

Below are some pointers on preparing the audition

Performance Track	<p>For all applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be prepared and ready for the audition</li><li>• Practise the programme well</li><li>• You must present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require one</li><li>• Accompanists are not required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists</li><li>• In view of the current Covid-19 situation, applicants are allowed to perform with a recording of the accompanist as a backing track. This is applicable to all singers and instrumentalists who require an accompanist</li></ul>
Composition Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be prepared to discuss the works submitted</li></ul>

## Annex A

### List of Instruments available for Application

1. Bass – Double Bass
2. Bass - Double Bass – Jazz\*
3. Bass - Electric Bass
4. Bassoon
5. Cello
6. Clarinet
7. Dizi
8. Erhu
9. Euphonium
10. Flute
11. French Horn
12. Gambus
13. Guan
14. Guitar
15. Guitar – Jazz\*
16. Guzheng
17. Harp
18. Mridangam
19. Oboe
20. Percussion - Chinese
21. Percussion - Western
22. Piano
23. Piano – Jazz\*
24. Pipa
25. Ruan
26. Saxophone
27. Saxophone – Jazz\*
28. Sheng
29. Sitar
30. Suona
31. Tablas
32. Trombone
33. Trumpet
34. Tuba
35. Veena
36. Viola
37. Violin - Carnatic
38. Violin - Western Classical
39. Voice - Carnatic
40. Voice - Chinese Traditional
41. Voice - Classical Hindustani
42. Voice – Jazz\*
43. Voice - Western Classical
44. Yangqin

\*Applicable to Year 5 Applicants only.

## **Annex B**

Guide to uploading and compressing videos and/or documents for submission via the TA Portal

### **1 How do I upload videos and files to Google drive?**

You may refer to the [Google Support page](#) for assistance

#### **Direct Link:**

<https://support.google.com/drive/answer/2424368?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

#### **Google Search Engine**

In google search engine, type the following keywords: How to upload files or folders to google drive

### **2 How do I upload videos to YouTube?**

You may refer to the [YouTube Support page](#) for assistance

#### **Direct Link:**

[https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?hl=en&ref\\_topic=7505892](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?hl=en&ref_topic=7505892)

#### **Google Search Engine**

In google search engine, type the following keywords: How to upload video to YouTube

### **3 How do I convert, compress or merge documents to PDF?**

There are many free online websites you can use. Below are a few suggestions. Please note that SOTA is not affiliated to any of these sites. The links below will bring you to an external website not hosted by SOTA.

a. Convert word document to pdf document

1. [www.freepdfconvert.com](http://www.freepdfconvert.com)
2. <https://smallpdf.com/word-to-pdf>

b. Compress / Resize pdf documents

1. [http://www.ilovepdf.com/compress\\_pdf](http://www.ilovepdf.com/compress_pdf)

c. Merge individual pdf documents into 1 document

2. [http://www.ilovepdf.com/merge\\_pdf](http://www.ilovepdf.com/merge_pdf)