

**Talent Academy 2023
Preparation Notes and Checklist for Year 5 Music Applicants
International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP)
DSA-JC and Non-DSA**

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TALENT ACADEMY 2023

(A) Checklist

(A.1) for Submission of Supporting Documents to be uploaded via the TA Portal

- It takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour to complete the entire application for **ONE** (1) artform, provided that the portfolio submission and all supporting documents have been prepared in advance.
- Submit your applications early, as the TA Portal may experience slower connectivity due to high traffic towards the close of the application period.
- There will be no extension of deadline for submission of application. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Appeals for late submissions will not be considered.

S/N	Category	Document Title						
1.	DSA-JC	<p>(1) Applicant’s Identification Document</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="536 613 1442 725"> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 613 943 649">Singaporeans</td> <td data-bbox="943 613 1442 649">Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 649 943 685">Singapore Permanent Residents</td> <td data-bbox="943 649 1442 685">Passport and Re-Entry Permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 685 943 721">Foreigners residing in Singapore</td> <td data-bbox="943 685 1442 721">Passport and Dependant or Student Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>(2) 1 Recent Passport-Sized Colour Photograph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be taken against plain white background. • Do not upload a full-length photograph. <p>(3) Academic Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sec 3E or 4NA EOY result slips. <p>(4) Mother Tongue Language In-Lieu Letter issued by MOE (if applicable)</p> <p>(5) Mother Tongue Language Exemption Letter issued by MOE (if applicable)</p> <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload items (1) and (2) directly in the online application form via the TA Portal. • Save documents for Items (3), (4) if applicable and (5) if applicable into 1 folder. • Upload folder to Google Drive. Ensure that the privacy setting is set to ‘Anyone with the link’. Paste the shared link on the TA Portal in the ‘Uploaded to External Site URL’ field. 	Singaporeans	Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate	Singapore Permanent Residents	Passport and Re-Entry Permit	Foreigners residing in Singapore	Passport and Dependant or Student Pass
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Foreigners residing in Singapore	Passport and Dependant or Student Pass							
2.	Non-DSA	<p>(1) Applicant’s Identification Document</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="536 1341 1442 1453"> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 1341 943 1377">Singaporeans</td> <td data-bbox="943 1341 1442 1377">Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 1377 943 1413">Singapore Permanent Residents</td> <td data-bbox="943 1377 1442 1413">Passport and Re-Entry Permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="536 1413 943 1449">Foreigners residing in Singapore</td> <td data-bbox="943 1413 1442 1449">Passport and Dependant or Student Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>(2) 1 Recent Passport-Sized Colour Photograph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be taken against plain white background. • Do not upload a full-length photograph. <p>(3) Academic Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9 End-of-Year results. • Any Latest Results, if any. • All original transcripts not in English must be accompanied with a translated document. <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload items (1) and (2) directly in the online application form via the TA Portal. • Upload Item (3) to Google Drive. Ensure that the privacy setting is set to ‘Anyone with the link’. Paste the shared link on the TA Portal in the ‘Uploaded to External Site URL’ field. 	Singaporeans	Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate	Singapore Permanent Residents	Passport and Re-Entry Permit	Foreigners residing in Singapore	Passport and Dependant or Student Pass
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(B) Preparation Notes for Portfolio Submission in Music IBCP (for all 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 in a programme of study and will equip them with transferable and lifelong skills in applied knowledge, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural engagement as they prepare for professional pathways and vocations in the arts. SOTA’s IBCP qualification is recognized by arts colleges and conservatories worldwide. For a list of recognized institutions, visit <https://www.sota.edu.sg/why-sota/ib>.

Students in the Music IBCP can choose to specialize in either Performance or Composition and must take Music at the 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.

(B.1) What to Submit for the Composition Track Portfolio

3 Items to Submit	Composition Track
(1) Portfolio of 2 compositions	<p>Each composition should consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum three (3) minutes long and maximum of six (6) minutes. ● To include music scores and recordings. ● Live recording is preferred but a midi version is acceptable. ● Recorded in a single take.
(2) Recordings of performance on your principal instrument	<p>Video recordings of a contrasting programme (between 8-10 min) that demonstrate your best performance qualities on your principal instrument.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You <u>must</u> present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require one. ● Accompanists are <u>not</u> required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists. ● A minus-one CD or backing track will not be permitted (except for drummers, electric guitarists and bassists). ● Submission of music scores of the works you have recorded. ● Record separate videos for each work. ● Recorded in a single take. No editing.
(3) Music Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit music scores for items 1 and 2. ● Combine all music scores into 1 pdf document.
How to Submit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Save all recordings and music scores into a folder. ● Name the folder with your full name. ● Upload the folder to Google Drive. ● Privacy Setting: ensure that it is set to 'Anyone with the Link'. ● Paste the shared link on the TA Portal in the 'Uploaded to External Site URL' field.
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supporting documents, portfolios, and photographs submitted for shortlisting will be retained for the school’s records. ● Certificates, achievement records, testimonials, recommendation letters are <u>not</u> required. ● 'Principal instrument' refers to the instrument on which you are most comfortable to perform and audition for SOTA. You will not be permitted to switch your principal instrument upon acceptance into SOTA.

(B.2) What to Submit for the Performance Track Portfolio

3 Items to Submit	Description	
(1) Video Recordings on your Principal instrument	All applicants (except Voice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video recordings of a programme (between 10-15 minutes) that demonstrate your best performance qualities. • Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency. • You are required to memorize your programme.
	Voice applicants only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video recordings of a contrasting programme (between 8 – 10 mins) that demonstrate your best performance qualities. • Western Classical singers – the works must be in at least two (2) different Western languages. • A choir piece will not be accepted. • Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency. • You are required to memorize your programme.
	Jazz Instrumental Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may apply for Jazz Instrument Studies through the following instruments only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bass ○ Guitar ○ Piano ○ Saxophone ○ Voice
	For all applicants (Including voice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must present your programme with an accompanist if the piece requires one. • A minus-one CD or backing track will not be permitted (except for drummers, electric guitarists, and bassists). • Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency.
(2) Portfolio of 2 Compositions	<p>Each composition should consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum three (3) minutes long and maximum of six (6) minutes • To include recordings of the compositions 	
(3) Music Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include music scores of the pieces for items 1 and 2. • Combine all music scores into 1 pdf document. 	
How to Submit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save all recordings and music scores into a folder. • Name the folder with your full name. • Upload the folder to Google Drive. • Privacy Setting: ensure that it is set to 'Anyone with the Link'. • Paste the shared link on the TA Portal in the 'Uploaded to External Site URL' field. 	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting documents, portfolios, and photographs submitted for shortlisting will be retained for the school's records. • Certificates, achievement records, testimonials, recommendation letters are <u>not</u> required. • 'Principal instrument' refers to the instrument on which you are most comfortable to perform and audition for SOTA. You will not be permitted to switch your principal instrument upon acceptance into SOTA. 	

(C) TALENT ACADEMY 2023

(C.1) Entrance Tests – Information for Non-DSA applicants

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

The entrance tests will be scheduled on 20 June. Only shortlisted Non-DSA applicants are required to take the tests.

More information will be shared with shortlisted candidates on how the tests will be conducted.

Test	Information
English Comprehension and Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour 15 minutes to complete the test.• Based on an expository text, candidates will answer a variety of questions testing close reading and comprehension skills, vocabulary in context and the use of language for impact• Based on an expository text, students will respond to an author's key arguments.
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour 30 minutes to complete the test.• No calculator or Graphic Display Calculator is allowed.• Formula Booklet will be provided.• Candidates must complete 10 problem-solving questions that carry a total of 80 marks.• The topics that will be covered are as follows:• Prior Knowledge of Year 1 to 4 Mathematics (Elementary Mathematics and some Additional Mathematics) is required.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Functions and Graphs○ Quadratic Functions and Graphs○ Nature of roots for Quadratic Functions○ Logarithms○ Trigonometry: Identities, Double Angle Formula and Trigonometric Graphs○ Differentiation of Polynomials, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions○ Applications of Differentiation: Increasing and Decreasing Functions and Equations of Tangents and Normals○ Integration of Polynomials○ Applications of Integration: Area

(D) Audition Details

(D.1) What You Will Experience During the Talent Academy

You will be required to participate in and complete the following compulsory activities in SOTA:

1. Entrance Tests (for Non-DSA candidates only)
2. Panel Interview and Online Questionnaires (no preparations required)
3. Music Auditions:
 - a. Listening Paper
 - b. Performance of programme, which includes a mini-lesson and interview by a panel of music teachers
 - c. Composition session

(D.2) How to Prepare for Music Audition

Composition Track Only	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Critical Listening Paper (60 Minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be asked to listen to musical excerpts and write an analysis of the works.• No preparation is required.2. Composition session<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will discuss the works submitted to a panel of SOTA faculty members.• You will be given 30 minutes to do a composition exercise.3. Performance<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will perform the 8-10 min programme that you have submitted via the TA portal.• You must present your programme with an accompanist if the chosen pieces require one.• A minus-one CD or backing track will not be permitted (except for drummers, electric guitarists and bassists).• 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 panelists.4. Mini Lesson<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You may be asked to present your pieces a second or a third time.• You may be asked to perform the pieces again with a fresh emphasis, emotion or attitude in order to encourage you to display flexibility.5. Interview<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• You may wish to prepare a portfolio, which includes the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Music essays, projects or composition portfolio○ Hard copies of relevant credentials that you have submitted in the TA application via the TA Portal <p><u>For all applicants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be prepared and ready for the audition.• Practice the programme well.• You must present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require one.• Accompanists are not required for piano, traditional Chinese instrumentalists and traditional Indian instrumentalists.• You must make your own arrangements to bring your accompanist along on your audition date.• Be prepared to discuss the works submitted.• Avoid uncomfortably tight clothes and shoes with heels.
Performance Track Only	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Critical Listening Paper (60 Minutes)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be asked to listen to musical excerpts and write an analysis of the works.• No preparation is required.(2) 30-minute audition <p><u>For all applicants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform the pieces that you have submitted via the TA Portal.• You must present the programme with an accompanist if your music pieces require one.• A minus-one CD or backing track will not be permitted (except for drummers, electric guitarists and bassists)• 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.

- You are required to memorize your programme.
- Be prepared and ready for the audition.
- Practice the programme well.
- You must make your own arrangements to bring your accompanist along on your audition date.
- Avoid wearing uncomfortably tight clothes and shoes with heels.

For Jazz Instrumental Studies applicants only:

- You will also be required to do an improvisation on a 12-bar Blues Form, with multiple choruses.

(3) Mini Lesson

- You may be asked to present your pieces a second or a third time.
- You may be asked to perform the pieces again with a fresh emphasis, emotion or attitude in order to encourage you to display flexibility.

(4) Interview

- 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.
- You may wish to prepare a portfolio, which includes the following:
 - Music essays, projects or composition portfolio.
 - Hard copies of relevant credentials that you have submitted in the TA application via the TA Portal.

(5) Composition session

- You will discuss the works submitted to a panel of SOTA faculty members.
- You will be given 30 minutes to do a composition exercise.

The audition panel includes a teacher from SOTA's Faculty of Music and an external specialist. The panelists are looking for musicianship, talent, and an ability to learn. The panel may not always listen to the entire musical performance.

(D.3) What to Bring

Entrance Tests (Non-DSA/Grade 10 candidates only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of your TA Schedule. • Student Concession Card (studying in Singapore) or a copy of your Passport (residing overseas) • All writing materials will be provided for you. • Wear comfortable clothing. Bring a sweater/jacket as you will be in air-conditioned venues. No shorts/short skirts, singlets, sandals or slippers are allowed.
TA Schedule 1 (Page 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of your TA Schedule. • Student Concession Card (if you're studying in Singapore) or a copy of your Passport (residing overseas). • Avoid uncomfortably tight clothes and shoes with heels. • Performing Track: Bring your instrument for the audition except for piano, double bass, drum kit (and specified percussion instruments) and harp. • Performing Track: 2 hard copies of music scores of the works you have recorded. <p><u>Accompanist for Music Performing Track</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share a copy of your TA Schedule with your accompanist. Your solo performance warm-up and audition time will be indicated on the schedule. Your accompanist is required to report at the venue at least 10 minutes before your warm-up time. • Your accompanist must report to the Security Counter at level 2 (ground floor) and show a copy of your TA Schedule to gain access to the passenger lift and to your allocated audition venue. <p><u>For Percussion applicants only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should bring your own mallets and beaters • You should inform SOTA in advance to discuss instruments and specifications • SOTA will provide, within reasonable limits, the agreed instruments • Standard instruments include: • Chinese percussion instruments • Drum-kit (standard 5-piece kit) • Snare drum • Xylophone • 4.3 octave marimba (5-octave marimba available upon request) • Email SOTA at sa1@sota.edu.sg with the subject TA2023 – Percussion Specifications for <Applicant's Full Name & Applicant's TA Index Number¹> <p><small>¹Applicants would have received the TA Index Number upon successful submission of their TA application via the TA Portal</small></p>
TA Schedule 2 (Page 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of your TA Schedule. • Student Concession Card (if you're studying in Singapore) or a copy of your Passport (residing overseas). • Wear comfortable clothing. Bring a sweater/jacket as you will be in air-conditioned venues. No shorts/short skirts, singlets, sandals or slippers are allowed.
Note	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The canteen will be operating from 21 June – 23 June. • At least 1 halal stall and 1 drink stall will be operating (vegetarian stall not opened). • You may bring packed food and drink. <p>Movement & Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of SOTA students will be accompanying you throughout your day in SOTA. • You will also be with a group of other candidates. • Always remain with your group. • Always inform one of the SOTA students if you need to use the restroom or if you have left any items at the previous venue. Most importantly, have fun and make friends. <p>Release from SOTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All candidates who have completed all scheduled activities for the day will return to the assembly hall. • When you're ready to leave, present your TA schedule to the SOTA staff. • The SOTA staff attending to you will stamp and date your release time on your TA Schedule. • Make your way to the level 5 gantry to exit the school. You will be asked to show your TA schedule by the security officer at the gantry for proof of stamp and release time. • You are strictly not allowed to use your mobile phone for the entire duration of the TA.

(D.4) How to Read Your TA Schedule

Below is a sample of the downloaded TA Schedule.

Talent Academy 2023 Schedule

Name :

Index No :

TA Schedule 1		TA Schedule 2	
Date		Date	
Reporting Time		Reporting Time	
Release Time		Release Time	
Warm-Up Time (Music performance only)		Group	
Solo Performance Time (Music performance only)		Panel	
TA Schedule 3 (Not Applicable)		TA Schedule 4 (Not Applicable)	
Date		Date	
Reporting Time		Reporting Time	
Release Time		Release Time	
Warm-Up Time (Music performance only)		Group	
Solo Performance Time (Music performance only)		Panel	

A. How to Read Your Schedule

TA Schedule 1

- Dance: Group activities, performance and interview. Wear your dance attire.
- Film: Group activities, audition and interview. Bring your portfolio.
- Literary Arts: Group activities, portfolio presentation and interview. Bring your portfolio.
- Music (Creating): Group activities and interview.
- Music (Performance): Group activities, solo performance and interview. Bring your instrument.
- Theatre: Group activities, monologue presentation and interview.
- Visual Arts: Group activities. Materials provided. Online Questionnaires. No preparations required.

TA Schedule 2

- Dance, Film, Literary Arts, Music, Theatre: Panel interview and Online Questionnaires. No preparation required.
- Visual Arts: portfolio presentation and interview. Bring your portfolio. Panel interview. No preparation required.

B. What to Bring for verification of candidates

- Candidates studying in Singapore – Student Concession card (school issued ezlink card).
- Candidates studying overseas – a copy of your passport.

C. Things to Note

- Refer to the [TA Notes](#) for more information on what to prepare and bring.
- Check the 'Announcement' page via the TA Portal for more information about your TA.

D. Reporting Venue

- Level 2 (Ground Floor) in front of the escalator.

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. Liu Qin
19. Mridangam
20. Oboe
21. Percussion - Chinese
22. Percussion - Western
23. Piano
24. Piano – Jazz *
25. Pipa
26. Ruan
27. Saxophone
28. Saxophone – Jazz *
29. Sheng
30. Sitar
31. Suona
32. Tablas
33. Trombone
34. Trumpet
35. Tuba
36. Veena
37. Viola
38. Violin - Carnatic
39. Violin - Western Classical
40. Voice - Carnatic
41. Voice - Chinese Traditional
42. Voice - Classical Hindustani
43. Voice – Jazz *
44. Voice - Western Classical
45. 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

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.

Convert word document to pdf document

- a. www.freepdfconvert.com
- b. <https://smallpdf.com/word-to-pdf>

Compress / Resize pdf documents

- a. http://www.ilovepdf.com/compress_pdf

Merge individual pdf documents into 1 document

- b. http://www.ilovepdf.com/merge_pdf