

TALENT ACADEMY 2023
Preparation Notes and Checklist for Year 5 Music Applicants
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)
DSA-JC and Non-DSA

No.	Items	Page
1.	Checklist of Submission of Supporting Documents via the TA Portal	2
2.	Preparation Notes for Portfolio Submission via the TA Portal	3 – 4
3.	Entrance Tests – Information for Non-DSA applicants	5 – 6
4.	Audition Details for Shortlisted Applicants only	7 – 10
5.	Annex A – List of Instruments allowed for Music applicants	11
6.	Annex B – Guide to uploading and compressing videos and/or documents for submission via the TA Portal	12

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"> <tr> <td>Singaporeans</td> <td>Birth Certificate or Citizenship Certificate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Singapore Permanent Residents</td> <td>Passport and Re-Entry Permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreigners residing in Singapore</td> <td>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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TALENT ACADEMY 2023

(B) Preparation Notes for Portfolio Submission in Music IBDP (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’s IB Diploma qualification is recognised by top universities worldwide. Armed with their IB Diploma and extensive arts portfolio, SOTA pupils can look forward to the arts as a career or leverage their arts-enriched educational experience to embark on diverse career options such as engineering, business, journalism, law, architecture and more.

To apply, you will need to have a range of musical experiences. You need to be highly motivated and committed to embracing all aspects of music study including the creative, technical, historical, and theoretical facets. 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 pre-requisite. A keen interest in all aspects of the arts is clearly essential.

In addition to being strong performers on your instruments, you need 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 be able to demonstrate an ability to create music yourself. You are also expected to have some awareness of non-western music cultures.

(B.1) What to Submit for the Music Portfolio

3 Items to Submit	Description								
<p>(1) Video Recordings on your principal instrument</p>	<p>(1) Video Recordings on Your Principal Instrument</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="400 987 1465 1823"> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 987 592 1155">All Applicants Except Voice</td> <td data-bbox="592 987 1465 1155"> Video recordings of a contrasting programme that demonstrate your best performance qualities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: between 10 – 15 minutes in total • Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1155 592 1406">Voice Applicants only</td> <td data-bbox="592 1155 1465 1406"> Video recordings of performances which demonstrate your performance qualities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: between 8 – 10 minutes in total. • If you are applying as a Western Classical singer, the presented songs/arias 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. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1406 592 1603">All Applicants (including Voice)</td> <td data-bbox="592 1406 1465 1603"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require 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. </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="400 1603 592 1823">Jazz Instrumental Studies</td> <td data-bbox="592 1603 1465 1823"> You may apply for Jazz Instrumental Studies through the following instruments only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bass • Guitar • Piano • Saxophone • Voice </td> </tr> </table>	All Applicants Except Voice	Video recordings of a contrasting programme that demonstrate your best performance qualities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: between 10 – 15 minutes in total • Select the pieces with great care. Present the pieces of contrasting nature, which display your musicianship and technical proficiency. 	Voice Applicants only	Video recordings of performances which demonstrate your performance qualities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: between 8 – 10 minutes in total. • If you are applying as a Western Classical singer, the presented songs/arias 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. 	All Applicants (including Voice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must present your programme with an accompanist if the pieces require 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. 	Jazz Instrumental Studies	You may apply for Jazz Instrumental Studies through the following instruments only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bass • Guitar • Piano • Saxophone • Voice
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<p>(2) Portfolio of 2 compositions</p>	<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. 								

(3) Music Scores	Submit music scores of the pieces submitted for items 1 and 2
How to Submit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Videos must be recorded in a single take (no editing) and cannot be professionally produced. 2. Save videos, audios, music scores into 1 folder. 3. Name the folder with your full name. 4. Upload the folder to Google Drive. 5. Privacy Setting: ensure that it is set to 'Anyone with the Link'. 6. Paste the shared link of the folder on the TA Portal in the 'Uploaded to External Site URL' fields.
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 not 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.

TALENT ACADEMY 2023

(C) 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.

Candidates will only be required to take one of the Science tests.

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 testBased 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 impactBased 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 testNo calculator or Graphic Display Calculator is allowedFormula Booklet will be providedCandidates must complete 10 problem-solving questions that carry a total of 80 marksThe topics that will be covered are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prior Knowledge of Year 1 to 4 Mathematics (Elementary Mathematics and some Additional Mathematics) is requiredFunctions and GraphsQuadratic Functions and GraphsNature of roots for Quadratic FunctionsLogarithmsTrigonometry: Identities, Double Angle Formula and Trigonometric GraphsDifferentiation of Polynomials, Exponential and Logarithmic FunctionsApplications of Differentiation: Increasing and Decreasing Functions and Equations of Tangents and NormalsIntegration of PolynomialsApplications of Integration: Area
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour to complete the paper.The paper consists of 2 sections. Section A contains multiple-choice questions. Section B contains short-answer and extended-response questions. The paper carries a total of 40 marks.The topics include cells, movement of substances, nutrients, enzymes, nutrition in humans, transport in plants, heredity, molecular genetics, photosynthesis, cell respiration, gas exchange, circulatory system, homeostasis and nervous system.A calculator is required for Section B of this paper.
Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour to complete the paper.The paper consists of 2 sections. Section A contains multiple-choice questions. Section B contains short-answer and extended-response questions. The paper carries a total of 40 marks.The topics include kinetic particle theory, measurement and experimental techniques, elements, compounds and mixtures, the periodic table, atomic structure, chemical bonding and structure, stoichiometric relationships, acids, bases and salts, energetics, chemical kinetics, equilibrium, redox processes, the atmosphere and environment and organic chemistry.A calculator is required for Section B of this paper.The periodic table and names of elements will be provided.

Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions carefully, and 1 hour to complete the paper.• The paper consists of 2 sections. Section A contains multiple-choice questions. Section B contains short-answer and extended-response questions. The paper carries a total of 40 marks.• The topics include physical quantities and measurements, temperature and transfer of thermal energy, kinetic theory and thermal properties of matter, vectors and kinematics, dynamics, energy, work and power, other effects of forces, waves and electromagnetic spectrum, light, electric field and current of electricity, electric circuits, electric power, magnetism, electromagnetic induction and atomic structure and radioactivity.• A calculator is required for Section B of this paper.• A list of constants, multipliers, circuit symbols and formulas will be provided.
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(D) Audition Details

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

You will be required to participate and complete the following 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 a programme, which includes a mini-lesson and interview by a panel of music teachers.
 - c. Composition Session.

(D.3) How to Prepare for Music Audition

Listening Paper (60 minutes)	You will be asked to listen to musical excerpts and write an analysis of the works. No preparation is required.	
Performance (30 minutes)	All Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the pieces that you have submitted via the TA Portal. • Bring 2 hard copies of music scores of the pieces you are performing. • You must present the programme with an accompanist if your music pieces require one. • You must make your own arrangements to bring your accompanist along on your audition day. • 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. • Avoid uncomfortably tight clothes and shoes with heels. • Be prepared and ready for the audition. • Practise the programme well. • 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>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.</p>
	Jazz Instrumental Studies applicants only	<p>You will also be required to do an improvisation on a 12-bar Blues Form, with multiple choruses.</p> <p>Mini Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be asked to present your pieces a second or 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. <p>Interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be asked questions about all facets of music, and given the opportunity to share your portfolio, past learning experiences and interest in music. <p>Composition Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants will be given 15 minutes to discuss the works submitted to a panel of SOTA faculty members. • Applicants will be given 30 minutes to do a composition exercise.

(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.
TA Schedule 1 (Page 10)	<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.• Performing Track candidates:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bring your instrument for the audition except for piano, double bass, drum kit (and specified percussion instruments) and harp○ 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:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Chinese percussion instrumentsb. Drum-kit (standard 5-piece kit)c. Snare drumd. Xylophonee. 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>¹Applicants would have received the TA Index Number upon successful submission of their TA application via the TA Portal</p>
TA Schedule 2 (Page 10)	<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 Dance 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 will be 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