

MUSIC 350: Choral Conducting

Summer A Term

MTWTh, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Music 114

Jason A. Anderson, *instructor*

Office: Music 30, *no ADA-compliant access*

Hours: *By appointment only*

musikus@u.washington.edu

(206) 543-8412

Course Objectives

In a supportive, encouraging, and challenging learning environment where artistic expression, creativity, and musical development are nurtured, hopefully, to their full potential.

Required Text & Materials

1. Phillips, Kenneth H. *Basic Techniques of Conducting*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
2. 1 ½” 3-ring binder
3. Blank mini-DVD+RW (Available at most electronics stores)
4. Metronome, battery operated; digital preferred, analog is acceptable
5. Baton (Do not purchase this until you receive additional instructions)
6. Supplemental readings will be placed on reserve in the Music Library.

Recommended Texts & Materials

7. Conable, Barbara and James Jordan. *The Structures and Movements of Breathing*. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2000.
8. Phillips, Kenneth H. *Directing the Choral Music Program*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Evaluation

250 points *Videotaping and evaluations*

There are five total videotaping sessions, each worth 40 points; in addition, after each videotaping session, you must complete a self-evaluation, each worth 10 points.

IMPORTANT: If you are absent for any of these sessions, you cannot make them up and will forfeit 50 points per session missed.

250 points *Assignments and quizzes*

A majority of the assignments for this class are not written; however, for written assignments and quizzes, you must hand them in on the date indicated. All assignments should be typed. Three quizzes, each worth 50 points, will be completed and collected in class.

400 points *Exams and evaluations*

The midterm and final examinations constitute the bulk of the final grade. The course will assist you in preparation for these exams. You

100 points *Notebook*

You are expected to keep an organized notebook. It should utilize dividers of some kind and include the course syllabus, notes on readings, in-class notes, repertoire conducted,

Point Conversion and the UW Grading Scale

3.9-4.0	970-1000 points
3.5-3.8	900-969
3.4-3.2	867-899
3.1-2.9	834-866
2.8-2.5	800-833
2.4-2.2	767-799
2.1-1.9	734-766
1.8-1.5	700-733
1.4-1.2	667-699
1.1-0.9	634-666
0.8-0.7	600-633

General Courtesies & Classroom Policies

- Turn off all mobile phones and audible pagers before entering the classroom.
- Do not bring food or drink into the classroom; water in reusable bottles is acceptable.
- Complete and hand in assignments by the date specified in this syllabus.
- Notify the instructor by e-mail of any absences within 24 hours, before or after. Telephone calls regarding absences are acceptable.
- Be in class on time! Tardiness to class reflects poorly on you and often frustrates fellow classmates, especially when conducting.
- Assignments should demonstrate command of the English language and utilize proper spelling and grammar.
- Whenever possible, assignments should be typed and 1.5- or double-spaced.

Course Schedule: Subject to Revision

June 19 **LESSON 1: *The study of conducting, class requirements***

Listen: Grainger, Vaughan Williams, Brahms

Read: *Basic Techniques* Preface (p. xi-xiii), Lessons 1-2 (p. 1-23)

Prepare: Lesson 2, assignments 2-5 (p. 23) on your own

June 20 **LESSON 2: *Posture, position, preparatory gesture, using the metronome***

Listen: Palestrina, Sweelinck

Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lessons 3-4 (p. 24-43)

Read: *The Structures and Movement of Breathing*, p. 7-15

Prepare: Lesson 3, assignments 1-4 (p. 37); lesson 4, assignments 1-4 (p. 43)

- June 21 **LESSON 3: *The four pattern, elements of the pattern, releases***
 Listen: Bach, Handel, Billings
 Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 4 (p. XX-XX)
 Read: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, p. 1-18
 Prepare: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, p. 19 (Nos. 10-16)
- June 22 **LESSON 4: *The four pattern, varying articulation, tempo terminology***
 Listen: Beethoven, Schubert
 Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 5 (p. XX-46)
 Prepare: Assignments 1-4 (p. 43)
 Prepare: *Chester* (Ex. 3.3, p. 32) and *Austrian Hymn* (Ex. 3.4, p. 35); these must both be conducted from memory and you must be able to sing the notes and rhythms of the melody without error.
- June 26 **LESSON 5/VIDEOTAPING 1: Do not miss this class!**
 In class: *Chester* and *Austrian Hymn*
 In class: Quiz No. 1 on tempo terminology
 Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 6 (p. 49-61).
- June 27 **LESSON 6: *The three pattern, the two pattern, dynamics***
 Turn in: Evaluation Form I
 Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 7 (p. 64-66) and Lesson 8 (p. 67-72)
 Read: *The Structures and Movement of Breathing*, p. 16-
- June 28 **LESSONS 7/8: *Batons, dynamic changes; baton grip, character terminology***
 Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 9
 Read: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, p. 222-234
 Prepare: *My country, 'tis of thee* (Ex. 6.4, p. 55) and *Ode to joy* (Ex. 6.5, p. 57); these must be conducted from memory and you must be able to sing the notes, rhythms, and dynamics of the soprano and alto parts without error.
 Prepare: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, p. 234 (Nos. 2, 5, 9, and 12)
- June 29 **LESSON 9/VIDEOTAPING 2: Do not miss this class!**
 In class: *My country 'tis of thee* and *Ode to joy*
 In class: Quiz No. 2 on dynamic and character terminology
 Read: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, Chapter 10 (p. 164-175)
 Prepare: Chapter 10 study and discussion question nos. 10-15.
 Prepare: Evaluation Form II
- July 3 ***Independence Day: No class***
 July 4 ***Independence Day: No class***
- July 5 **PRACTICAL ELEMENTS I: *Preparing the Music***
 In class: Score preparation and analysis of two pieces

Turn in: Chapter 10 study and discussion answers
Turn in: Evaluation Form II
Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 10

- July 6 ***The one pattern, release on one; accent, articulation, and connecting terms***
- July 10 ***Release on two, entrance on a pickup note, midterm preparation***
Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lessons 12-13 (p. 105-110)
Prepare: Morley *Sing we and chant it* (Ex. 10.3, p. 81-82), Haydn “*Chorale St. Antonii*” (Ex. 10.4, p. 87-88), Brahms *Erlaube mir* (Ex. 11.3, p. 97), and Saint-Saëns “Praise ye the Lord of Hosts” from *Christmas Oratorio* (Ex. 11.4, p. 100-101); these do not need to be conducted from memory but you must be able to sing the notes, rhythms, and dynamics of the all choral parts without error. Observe any repeat signs.
- July 11 **LESSONS 12/13: VIDEOTAPING 3/4: Do not miss this class!**
In class: *Sing we and chant it*, “*Chorale St. Antonii*,” *Erlaube mir*, and “Praise ye the Lord of Hosts”
Prepare: Evaluation Forms III/IV
Read: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, Chapter 13 (p. 222-235)
- July 12 **PRACTICAL ELEMENTS II: *Vocal Development, Part 1***
Turn in: Evaluation Form III/IV
Read: *Directing the Choral Music Program*, Chapter 14 (p. 236-253)
- July 13 **PRACTICAL ELEMENTS III: *Vocal Development, Part 2***
Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lessons 16-17 (p. 119-146)
- July 17 **LESSONS 16/17: *Functions of the left hand, the circle drill***
Turn in: Midterm Evaluations I & II
Prepare:
Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 18 (p. 147-150)
- July 18 **LESSON 18: *Left hand strengthening techniques, repeat markings***
Prepare:
- July 19 **LESSON 19/VIDEOTAPING 5: Do not miss this class!**
Prepare: Sibelius Theme from *Finlandia* (Ex. 17.1, p. 139), Ward *O beautiful for spacious skies* (Ex. 17.2, p. 140), and J. S. Bach “Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light” (Ex. 17.3, p. 144); these do not need to be conducted from memory but you must be able to sing the notes and rhythms of all choral parts without error.
Read: *Basic Techniques*, Lesson 14-15 (p. 113-118)
Prepare: Morley *Sing we and chant it* (Ex. 10.3, p. 81-82), Haydn “*Chorale St. Antonii*” (Ex. 10.4, p. 87-88), Brahms *Erlaube mir* (Ex. 11.3,

p. 97) and Saint-Saëns “Praise ye the Lord of Hosts” from *Christmas Oratorio* (Ex. 11.4, p. 100-101); these must be conducted from memory and you must be able to sing the notes and rhythms of all choral parts without error.

July 20 *Extended class period from 5:30-6:40 p.m.*
LESSONS 14/15 • FINAL: Do not miss this class!
Hand in: Notebook

Note: Due to the extraordinarily short time between A and B terms, it may take up to one full week to return your notebooks to you. Please be patient!