

Conrad Grebel University College
University of Waterloo
Department of Music
MUSIC 222: **Conducting 1** (Fall 2018)
Tuesday and Thursday, 11.30am-12.50pm, CGUC 1302

Instructor: Dr. Mark Vuorinen

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Office Hours: by appointment

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Course Description: A study of conducting techniques appropriate for song leading, choral/instrumental rehearsal and public performance. The course will include score analysis and rehearsal procedures for music from a wide variety of historical styles.

Basic Course Objectives:

1. Development of a gestural language relating to the conducting of choral music, including: technical facility in conducting simple and compound metres, ability to show clear cues and cut-offs, left-hand independence for interpretive gestures, and subdivisions.
2. Development of a systematic approach to preparing scores through analysis, 'hearing' the score, and using a clear and consistent method of score marking.
3. Development of a repertoire of rehearsal techniques (rehearsal pedagogy) and approaches for 'teaching' the score.
4. Develop an understanding of rehearsal planning.
5. Develop aural skills related to rehearsing.

Required Materials (at every class):

- White Mollard Baton (or other well-balanced baton); available at area music stores (Long and McQuade)
- San Disk Memory Card for videotaping- 4GB minimum
- Repertoire package (provided), and assigned scores from the Choral Public Domain Library (www.cpdl.org)
- Readings as assigned from *Basic Techniques of Conducting*, by **Kenneth Phillips** (on RESERVE- you do not need to purchase this), and other sources (Provided or online)

Student Responsibilities:

- Attendance is essential for successful completion of this course (Students are granted 2 absences without penalty. Each absence beyond 2 will carry a 2% penalty from your final grade (exceptions will require written documentation).
- **Practice everyday** (This is important for your development and improvement).
- Prepare for each class, by learning to sing or play assigned music. You will be part of the ensemble while other students are conducting.
- Regularly review your video. This is a great way to see first hand what your ensemble is seeing.
- Be supportive of other students to create a positive learning environment. Provide feedback in a constructive and positive way.
- Learn from your classmates. Some of the most important things you will learn as a conductor, will be by observing your classmates.
- Participate fully in all class activities.
- It is strongly advised that students enrolled in Music 222, participate as a chorister in one of the department's three choral ensembles or as a player in orchestra@uwaterloo. Ensemble participation is an excellent observation opportunity.

Assignments and Evaluation:

| Practical Evaluations | Weighting | Date |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Student evaluation is, in part, based on active participation in course activities: Weekly and ongoing preparation of course repertoire, preparatory exercises, score analysis, rehearsal plans and conducting sessions with self, peer and faculty assessments | 20% | ONGOING |
| Musical Skills: Error detection/singing and/or playing any part of assigned scores; Hindemith exercises | 15% | October 4, October 18, November 8 |
| Midterm conducting exam (emphasis on non-verbal teaching) | 10% | Tuesday Oct 30 & Thursday Nov 1 |
| Final conducting exam | 20% | Tuesday Nov 27 and Thursday Nov 29 (last classes) |

| Written Assignments | Weighting | Date |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conducting Reflection (see below for description) | 10% | September 21, Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 23, Nov 30 (Fridays) |
| CD Reviews (3 total) | 5% | September 14, Sept 28, October 19 (Friday) |
| Rehearsal Review: | 10% | Thursday November 1 (in class; hard copy) |
| Score Analysis: | 10% | Thursday November 22 (in-class; hard copy) |

Conducting Reflection: Students will write personal journal entries with reflections of their own work and development. Topics can include but are not limited to: self-analysis of video-taped conducting sessions, peer reviews, deconstruction of rehearsals, conducting strategies and challenges, analysis of rehearsals led by faculty, students and self, and discussion of assigned readings. On occasion a topic may be assigned to students. Use these reflections as a means to communicate what is going well in your conducting practice and what you might be struggling with. Six (6) entries are to be made in the course of the semester (200-300 words each), and submitted to the instructor by email before the assigned due dates.

CD Reviews: See separate assignment sheet for more details. To be submitted by email, using the EXACT format provided. Maximum length 100 words, each. These reviews will become part of a choral CD Review project that will be compiled and distributed to all students at the end of term.

Rehearsal Review: Students will attend a rehearsal of a choral ensemble within or outside of the Department of Music, (it must be an ensemble in which the student does not normally participate as a chorister or conductor). Write a review of the rehearsal experience with rehearsal pedagogy and techniques in mind. Maximum length: 2-3 pages, double-spaced.

Score analysis and score preparation and rehearsal plan: Students will choose a work from a list of repertoire provided. Maximum length, 1000 words

1. Prepare a marked score and written analysis using methods taught in class.
2. Write an analysis of the piece with conducting challenges and pedagogy in mind.
3. Develop a rehearsal plan for the work to be implemented over several 20- minute rehearsals.

Error Detection/Playing or singing of repertoire: In individual five-minute conferences, students will be asked to:

1. Identify errors in a playing of prepared repertoire
2. Hindemith exercises: sing, conduct & tap assigned exercise.

Conducting Practicum and Participation: Students will be videotaped each time they conduct in class. In the first half of the semester, comments without a grade will be given to the student following each conducting session. In the second half of the course, a practicum grade and comments will be given for each conducting session with respect to score preparation, non-verbal teaching, rehearsal technique and active listening.

Mid-term and Final Exams:

The mid-term test (Tuesday Oct 30 and Thurs Nov 1) will take place in 2 sessions. The first will be done individually with the instructor, conducting an assigned work with an emphasis on technique (cues, cut-offs, fermatas, etc). The second half of the mid-term will take place in class, conducting the class ensemble in an assigned piece.

For the final exam, each student will have a 10-minute conducting session in which to rehearse an excerpt from the assigned repertoire. Evaluation will be, in part, based on use of appropriate rehearsal techniques, non-verbal communication and the student's ability to respond to the ensemble. Marked scores will be handed in at the end of the exam session to form part of the total evaluation.

UW Policies on Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Refer to Academic Integrity website (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for details.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline. (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>)

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - [Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals). <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>

Note for students with learning differences: AccessAbility Services (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/>), located in Needles Hall Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the office at the beginning of each academic term.

Counselling Services: Counselling Services provides free confidential counselling, in both individual and group sessions, with qualified professionals to help registered students, faculty and staff with personal concerns, educational career decisions, and strategies to studies and exams: www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocs, ext. 33528, NH Room 2080.

Accommodation for Illness: A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. More information can be obtained from Health Services and the form is available in pdf: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>

The Writing Centre: Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. Make an appointment or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre.

Mental Health Support:

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#). Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#). Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

Territorial Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. ^[1]_[SEP]For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#). ^[1]_[SEP]

Some Expectations: MUTUAL RESPECT

Electronic devices: Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during class: they distract your peers.

Listening and speaking: Speak and listen to each other with courtesy and respect.

Late arrivals: Arrive on time and be ready to begin by 11:30am (or let the instructor know if you must be late).

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes and to have completed all reading and listening assignments (as indicated on the class schedule) before class. It is the student’s responsibility to catch up on any missed lectures.