

Music 322: Conducting II

Conrad Grebel University College/University of Waterloo

Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Mark Vuorinen

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Class Schedule and Location: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-12:50, Room CGUC 1302

Course Description: A continuation of MUS 222, Conducting I. MUS 322: Conducting II is designed for students interested in developing the necessary skills for leading choral rehearsals and performances.

Choral Workshops: There will be two special workshops this term:

- **Friday March 8, 7.30pm (The Power of Music to Create Inclusive Communities)**
- **Saturday March 9, 7pm (Building a Vocal Community: The Power of Song in Community)**
- Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell is a commissioned composer, arranger, author, actress and former member of the African American female a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey In The Rock. Your participation and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Basic Learning Objectives:

1. The refinement and development of an expressive gestural language and conducting technique.
2. Development and refinement of musicianship and listening skills in the context of conducting.
3. Development of the skills and techniques for score study.
4. Continued development of rehearsal strategies and techniques and approaches for 'teaching the score'.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Conduct 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 patterns and their subdivisions with ease and confidence.
2. Demonstrate control of: preparations and cut-offs, cueing, fermatas, dynamics, articulations, tempo changes, complex and irregular meters, phrasing, and expressive gestures.
3. Demonstrate score study skills, involving ear training, analysis, research, style interpretation, score reading, and score study by conducting and rehearsing effectively.
4. Demonstrate a gestural vocabulary that is clear and makes a musical connection with the ensemble.

- Conduct efficient and well-planned rehearsals, diagnosing musical problems and generating appropriate solutions.

Required Materials:

- White Mollard Baton (or other); available at area music stores
- San Disk Memory Card- 2GB minimum
- Repertoire package (provided)
- Readings as assigned (in library or online)

Assessments:

Practical Evaluations	Weighting	Date
Student evaluation is, in part, based on active participation in course activities: Weekly and ongoing preparation of course repertoire, preparatory; preparation for and participation in conducting labs exercises, score analysis, rehearsal plans and conducting sessions with self, peer and faculty assessments	20%	ONGOING
Hearing and Skills Assessments: error detection, McElheran, Hindemith, dictation exercises.	15%	Jan. 24, Feb. 7, March 7.
Midterm conducting exam	10%	Thursday Feb. 14
Final conducting exam	20%	Tuesday April 2

Written Assignments	Weighting	Date
Score Analysis: Complete a thorough harmonic and structural analysis of a score of your choice (approved by MV), and submit a detailed 5-rehearsal plan for the bringing the piece to performance with a university ensemble, including 2 vocal warmups warm-ups designed to facilitate learning of the score	10%	Thursday March 5th
Conducting Lab Reflections (see below for description)	15%	Jan 22 Feb 5, March 5, 19 April 2

Written Assignments	Weighting	Date
Rehearsal Observation:	10%	Thursday Feb 26

Attendance: In-class participation is essential for successful completion of this course. You are granted 2 class absences without penalty. Each absence beyond 2 will carry a 2% penalty from your final grade (exceptions will require written documentation).

Conducting Lab: Students will prepare, learn and conduct assigned repertoire. Each lab focusses on a particular conducting skill, gesture or genre (listening & responding, recitative, mixed/odd-metres, subdivisions, polyphony). The classes preceding the lab will be used to develop the skill. Lab dates are as follows: January 17, 31, Feb 28, March 14, 28.

Conducting Lab Reflection: Students will write personal journal entries with reflections of their own preparation, work and video analysis relating to the five conducting labs. Topics may include, but are not limited to: analysis of video-taped conducting sessions, peer reviews, conducting strategies and challenges. A minimum of five (5) entries, are to be made in the course of the semester (300 words each), with due dates as noted above.

Rehearsal Observation: Students will attend a rehearsal of a musical ensemble (vocal or instrumental) within or outside of the Department of Music (it must be an ensemble in which the student does not normally participate as a musician or conductor). It will be the student's responsibility to contact the conductor or ensemble to ask permission to observe. Write a review of the rehearsal experience with rehearsal pedagogy and techniques in mind. Maximum length: 3 pages, double-spaced.

Final project: Score analysis, score preparation and rehearsal plan:

Students will, in consultation with the instructor, choose a piece of choral music.

1. Prepare a marked score and written analysis using methods taught in class.
2. Develop a rehearsal plan for the work to be implemented over five 20-minute rehearsals.
3. Include in your rehearsal plan 2 vocal warm-ups/exercises designed to aid in the learning of the piece.
4. This piece will become the conducting assignment for the final exam.

Error Detection/Playing or singing of repertoire:

1. Conduct, tap and sing Hindemith exercise (Jan 24)
2. 2-part chorale dictation (Feb 7)
3. Error detection (March 7)

Mid-term and Final Exams: Each student will have a conducting session in which to rehearse/perform 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 react to the ensemble. Marked scores will be handed in at the end of the exam session to form part of the total evaluation.

University of Waterloo Policies

Academic Integrity: *To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.*

Discipline: *Students are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their 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 professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>*

Grievance: *Students who believe that a decision affecting their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for a grievance. Read Policy 70 - "Student Petitions and Grievances", Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>*

Appeals: *A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - "Student Petitions and Grievances" (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - "Student Discipline" if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - "Student Appeals", <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>*

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behavior>

Academic Integrity Office (University): <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>