

MASTER OF MUSIC
CONCENTRATION IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

Revised 2009

PURPOSE

The purpose of this concentration is to train conductors in choral rehearsal techniques and conducting skills at an advanced level. Church musicians and public school choral conductors may find this program relevant to their needs.

ADMISSION

Application for admission is made through the Office of Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. Online forms and instructions are found at www.gsu.edu/casgrad. Additional information regarding application, admission, and program requirements may be obtained from the Graduate Catalog, which is available online at www.gsu.edu. Click on "GoSolar," then "Course Catalogs," then "Graduate Catalog." Applicants must submit any additional materials as specified below. Auditions and portfolios are part of the application process and should be completed prior to the application deadline.

The applicant must also submit the following materials:

- A videotape of a rehearsal and an audiotape of one or more recent performances by an ensemble which the candidate recently conducted.
- A personal interview and audition with the GSU Director of Choral Activities and a university choral ensemble. The literature to be conducted will be assigned by the director of Choral Activities.
- A current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Two letters of recommendation from a person familiar with the candidate's conducting.

Videotape and resume should be submitted at the time of application to:

Georgia State University
School of Music
Admissions and Enrollment Coordinator
75 Poplar St. Suite 522
Atlanta, GA. 30303

DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS TO THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. Be sure to identify all materials with your name, address, and desired semester of entry.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Successful completion of at least 36 hours of graduate course work
2. MUS 8690 Choral Conducting Project/Recital
3. Comprehensive examination

Coursework normally requires four semesters of full-time study for completion. Not every course is offered every year. Time necessary for completion of any remedial work and proficiency requirements should be included in the student's plans. At least 18 hours of course credit must come from courses for graduate students only. The student will be assigned an advisor who will aid in planning course selections.

PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

A practical examination assessing vocal, keyboard, conducting, and rehearsal skills will be administered by the Director of Choral Activities during the first semester of residency. Vocally the student should display proper vocal techniques and a basic knowledge of English, German, and Latin diction. In the area of keyboard skills, the student should be able to play exercises designed to accompany choral warm-ups, sight-read a four-part hymn or Bach chorale, and play several lines from an orchestral-choral score. The student will also be asked to demonstrate appropriate choral rehearsal techniques.

MUS 8690: CHORAL CONDUCTING PROJECT

The Concert: The student will conduct a choral organization (e.g. school chorus, church choir, community chorus, volunteer choir) in a performance of choral music selected from three or more historical periods. The student will design a program of at least 55 minutes of music. The program must include one major composition of at least 15 minutes in length for chorus, soloists and instrumentalists. Additional compositions on the program may be for men's, women's, or children's voices, for large or small choral ensembles. The program must be approved by the candidate's committee one semester before the date of the concert. This concert will demonstrate the student's ability to create a varied program and perform the music with effective conducting techniques and an understanding of the musical style appropriate to different historical periods.

The Paper: A comprehensive paper analyzing the musical structure and style of the major composition must be presented to the candidate's committee at least 10 days before the concert date. The analysis should include a discussion of the performance forces required, text, form, rhythm, texture, melody, tonality/harmony, dynamics, scheme, phrasing, stylistic and historical background. The paper should also include a brief biographical sketch of the composer and a critique of all available recordings and editions of the composition.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

For general information about the comprehensive exam, see section 5.3 of this Handbook.

The Choral Conducting area follows a portfolio format, with a combined written and oral exam. Please see Dr. Jeff Wall for more detailed information about the exam.

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(36 total credit hours required)

1. Choral Conducting (21 credits)

MUS 6480	Choral Conducting (2)
MUS 6640	Choral Literature and Conducting: Ren-Bar (3)
MUS 6641	Choral Literature and Conducting: Class-Rom (3)
MUS 6642	Choral Literature and Conducting: 20th-21st Cent. (3)
MUS 7080	Ensemble (1) [four semesters]
MUS 7430	Choral Methods and Materials (3)
MUS 8690	Choral Conducting Project (3)

2. Required Related Courses (9 credits)

A. Voice (4 credits)

APVC 6000	Applied Voice (2)
MUS 7890	Vocal Pedagogy (2)

B. Research (2 credits)

MUS 8000	Introduction to Graduate Studies (2)
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C. Music History/Literature (3 credits)

MUS 8830	Renaissance Music (3)
OR	
MUS 8840	Baroque Music (3)

3. Musical Studies (6 credits)

A. Music History/Literature (3 credits)

(Music History Review (MUS 6150) is a prerequisite if required by placement tests)

MUS 6660	Dramatic Music (3)
MUS 8830	Renaissance Music (3)
MUS 8840	Baroque Music (3)
MUS 8850	Pre-Classical and Classical Music (3)
MUS 8860	Romantic Music (3)
MUS 8870	Twentieth-Century Music (3)

B. Music Theory (3 credits)

(Theory review courses required by placement are prerequisite)

MUS 6450	Advanced Tonal Analysis (3)
MUS 6460	Analysis of Post-Tonal Music (3)