

Music 130C: Elementary Choral Conducting

Sano, Winter 2005

W 2:15-4:05 p.m. plus three individual coaching/tutorial sessions DHR
3 units

Course Syllabus

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES: To develop skills in the fundamentals of choral conducting. Topics to be addressed will include baton/gesture technique, literature, repertoire, diction, methods, and rehearsal procedures.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Continued development of the various physical components of the body involved in conducting.
2. Developing fluency in various beat patterns and meters.
3. Gaining control in conducting various dynamics and tempi.
4. Achieving ease and grace in cueing.
5. Gaining control and proper use of the left hand in conducting.
6. Developing effective body and facial language.
7. Combining all the above elements into dynamic conducting.
8. Learning traditional forms in choral music and conducting select representative repertoire.
9. Developing programming skills.
10. Developing aural analysis and error identification skills.
11. Developing skills in lyric diction and vocal pedagogy in the choral setting.

TEXT: Assigned readings. All reading materials are on reserve in the Music Library.

GRADING: Weekly conducting assignments (20%), midterm: annotated outline (15%) and practicum (15%), final: score genre ID (15%) and practicum (15%) and take home programming project (10%), and weekly attendance and contribution to classes (10%).

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Conductor's baton, blank VHS video tape.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS: Metronome.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Class attendance and participation, in-class quizzes, midterm and final examinations. All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

(Readings to be completed *for* the date under which they are listed)

DATE	TOPIC
01/05/05	Introduction, explanation of course requirements, main objectives, history and purpose of conducting, core choral forms, sign up for individual coaching/skills diagnostic to take place between 1/5 and 1/12.
01/05-01/12	Individual coaching/diagnostic sessions.
01/12/05	Choral Forms: The Madrigal. Student conducting: Bennet: <i>Weep, O Mine Eyes</i> . The warm-up. Reading: Thomas, M.T. "On Conducting" in <i>Viva Voce</i> . Faber and Faber, 1994. pp. 3-31. Reading: Lebrecht, N. "The Making of a Myth" in <i>The Maestro Myth: Great Conductors in Pursuit of Power</i> . Birch Lane Press, 1991. pp. 1-11.
01/19/05	Class begins at 2:30 p.m. today Choral Forms: The Motet. Student presentations: the warm-up. Student conducting: Palestrina: <i>Sicut cervus</i> . Reading: Neuen, D. "Conducting" in <i>Up Front! Becoming the Complete Choral Conductor</i> . ECS Publishing, 1993. pp. 121-145 Reading: Pfautsch, L. "The Choral Conductor and the Rehearsal" in <i>Choral Conducting Symposium</i> . Prentice Hall, 1988. pp. 69-111.
01/26/05	Choral forms: The Cantata. Student conducting: Britten: <i>A Wedding Anthem</i> (mm. 1-72). Schedule individual coaching to prepare for midterm. Reading: Collins, W.S. "The Choral Conductor and the Musicologist" in <i>Choral Conducting Symposium</i> . Prentice Hall, 1988. pp. 112-151.
02/02/05	No Class: American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Los Angeles.
02/09/05	Choral Forms: The Part Song. Student conducting: Finzi: <i>My Spirit Sang All Day</i> . Reading: Marvin, J. "Mastery of Choral Ensemble" in <i>Up Front! Becoming the Complete Choral Conductor</i> . ECS Publishing, 1993. pp. 95-121.
02/09-16/05	Individual coaching sessions to review for midterm
02/16/05	Midterm: written (short answer/essay) and practicum (conduct either Britten or Finzi). Assign final programming projects.
02/23/05	Choral Forms: The Recitative. Student conducting with continuo section and soloist: Handel: <i>Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd</i> and <i>Thus saith the Lord (Messiah)</i> . Working with the orchestra: bowing fundamentals for the choral conductor. Reading: Barnett, K.M. "A Choral Conductor's Preparation for Choral/Orchestral Concerts" in <i>Choral Essays: A Tribute to Roger Wagner</i> . Thomas House Publications, 1993. pp. 31-50

- 02/23/05 Stanford University Singers Winter Concert. Byrd: *Mass for Four Voices*, Stanford: *Three Motets*, works by Purcell and Weelkes (8:00 p.m. in MemChu).
- 02/25/05 Stanford Chamber Chorale Winter Concert: World Premiere of Paul Crabtree's *Per gladium crux: A Stanford Te Deum*, also, Robinson's *The Stolen Child* for string trio and chamber choir, Brahms' *Schaffe in mir Gott* and other pieces. (8:00 p.m. in MemChu).
- 03/02/05 Choral Forms: Large Scale Works. Student conducting: Stravinsky: *Symphony of Psalms* (Mvt. 1). Score reading.
- View video: Robert Shaw, preparing a masterpiece: a choral workshop on A German requiem by Johannes Brahms. Archive Rec Sound Video: AVC 44. On reserve at the circulation desk in the music library.
- Review and preparation for final. Schedule individual coaching sessions to prepare for final.
- 03/02-03/09 Individual coaching sessions to review for final.
- 03/04/05 Stanford Symphonic Chorus/Stanford Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert: Verdi: *Requiem* (8:00 p.m. in MemChu).
- 03/05/05 Stanford Early Music Singers Winter Concert: *Laudi Spirituali: Devotional Songs of the Italian Renaissance*. Works from Serafino Razzi's *Libro Primo delle laudi spirituali*, the Manuscript Panciatichi 27, and motets by Francesco Layolle. (8:00 p.m. in MemChu).
- 03/06/05 Stanford Symphonic Chorus/Stanford Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert: Verdi: *Requiem* (1:30 p.m. in MemChu).
- 03/09/05 Programming project due, in-class student presentations of projects. Final: written (score genre ID) and practicum (changing meter beat pattern exercise, Stravinsky: *Symphony of Psalms excerpt*).