

Conrad Grebel University College
University of Waterloo
Department of Music
MUSIC 222: **Conducting 1** (Fall 2021)
Class time: Tuesday/Thursday, 11.30-12:50
Location: Conrad Grebel University College 1302

Instructor: Dr. Mark Vuorinen

Office: CGUC 1103A

Office Phone: 519.885.0220 x 24220

Virtual Office Hours: by appointment; office hours will be held virtually via Zoom

Email: mvuorinen@uwaterloo.ca (note: email is the fastest way to contact me)

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.

6. Required Materials (at every class):

- White Mollard Baton (or other well-balanced baton); available at area music stores (Long and McQuade or online; please ensure you have one by September 21)
- Phone, tablet or computer with camera capable of recording audio and video (for at-home recording)
- SD Card, 4GB minimum
- Repertoire package (provided)
- Readings as assigned from *Basic Techniques of Conducting*, by **Kenneth Phillips** (Readings will be provided on LEARN- you do not need to purchase this), and other sources
- Internet connection to access class materials and class materials
 - Tonesavvy.com- ear training and musical skills tool
 - Youtube.com- viewing of videos and rehearsals
 - Zoom- video conference platform (for individual meetings; or if the class moves online during the course of the term)

Student Responsibilities:

- **Practice everyday** (This is important for your development and improvement).
- Prepare for each class, by learning to sing or play assigned music, or gestural technique, and by preparing readings when assigned.
- Video yourself regularly, and 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.
- Complete and submit assignments on time.
- It is strongly advised that students enrolled in Music 222, participate as a chorister in one of the department's three (only 2 during Fall 2021) 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; prepared participation in conducting lab, Videos submissions submitted, etc.
Musical Skills: Error detection, Hindemith, and Tonesavvy exercises (15% for assigned skills; 5% for Tonesavvy assignments)	20%	October 5, November 2, November 16, in class
Midterm conducting exam (emphasis on non-verbal communication)	10%	Tuesday Oct 26, in class
Final conducting exam	15%	Tuesday Dec 7, last class

Written Assignments	Weighting	Date
Conducting Reflection (see below for description)	5%	September 24, Oct 29, Nov 19 (Fridays)
CD Reviews (3 total)	5%	Friday September 17, Oct 1, October 22 (Fridays)
Rehearsal Review:	10%	Thursday November 12
Score Analysis and 5-rehearsal Plan:	15%	November 26

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. Use these reflections as a means to communicate what is going well in your conducting practice and what you might be struggling with. Three (3) entries are to be made in the course of the semester (250-350 words each), and submitted to the instructor on LEARN on or before the assigned due dates.

CD Reviews: See separate assignment sheet for more details. To be submitted on LEARN, using the EXACT format provided. Maximum length 100 words, each.

Rehearsal Observation: Students will watch a rehearsal of a choral or instrumental ensemble in-person or online as is possible. Write a review of the rehearsal experience with rehearsal pedagogy and techniques in mind. Maximum length: 3 pages, double-spaced. Some questions to keep in mind: What techniques were most useful? How would the techniques used change depending on the group or ensemble? How was the rehearsal structured? If more than one

piece of music was rehearsed, was the order important? Your written comments should address the effectiveness of teaching strategies used by the conductor(s), rather than merely listing techniques. *In other words, in addition to commenting on what happened, focus on WHY they happened.*

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 five, 20-minute rehearsals.

Music Skills, Error Detection/Playing or singing of repertoire: In submitted videos or by another online method (such as tonesavvy.com), students will be asked to complete a musical skills assignment.

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. In Fall, 2020 these sessions will take place online.

Mid-term and Final Exams:

The mid-term test and final exam activities will each take place in 2 parts and will be pre-recorded by the student. Details for both evaluations will be confirmed several weeks before the due date.

UW Information on COVID-19

Coronavirus Information: Information regarding the university's policies and guidelines for learning during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/>

Continuity of Education Plan: Should the public health situation change during the course of the fall term, and if in-person classes are suspended, MUSIC 222 will move online with a regular meeting time on Zoom. <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/university-waterloo-continuity-education-plan>

Vaccination and Campus Check-In: Students on campus are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, per [University policy](#), and complete the online Campus Check-In daily. <https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/return/campus-check>

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. For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#).

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.