

Audition Requirements for Master of Sacred Music Applications

All M.S.M applicants will be expected to audition in the area of choral conducting or organ as a part of their entrance requirements. Choral conducting applicants should audition by sending a videocassette or DVD. When possible applicants for the organ concentration are encouraged to audition in person. However, cassette tapes and CDs will be accepted in the case of organ auditions. Auditions may be scheduled by contacting Dr. C. Michael Hawn, Director of the Sacred Music Program, at mhawn@smu.edu or 214/7687-2348, or Ms. Teresa Rosado, Administrative Assistant, at teresar@smu.edu or 214/768-2502. Please suggest possible dates and a time will be confirmed.

Requirements for M.S.M. Organ Concentration Auditions:

For personal auditions

1. A program of works to be performed (20-30 minutes)
2. An indication of when you began studying each work.

For taped auditions

1. A program of works performed
2. The date when you began studying each work
3. Indicate whether the recorded performance was in a private studio or was a public performance
4. Indicate whether the performance was from memory or using the score
5. Identify the organ on which the recording was made, where it is located, and list its specifications.

Audition Repertoire Requirements

1. A Bach work: either a prelude and fugue, two contrasting movements of a trio sonata, or a major work based on a chorale.
2. A work from another Baroque composer.
3. A piece in Romantic style
4. A contemporary work
(One of these works should show technical dexterity).
5. Two stanzas of a hymn, played as if you were accompanying a congregation.

Please use cassette tapes or CDs. No editing or splicing is permitted; pieces should be performed just as they would be in a public performance. Label the cassette or CD with the applicant's name. Candidates are asked to listen to the recording to make sure that it is clear and, in the case of cassettes, properly wound. All audition tapes should be made with great care, not in haste, and should represent as well as possible the performing abilities of the candidate. Adequate equipment should be used. Please do not send an original or only copy of your undergraduate recital in case of loss en route or an equipment malfunction that destroys it.

Requirements for M.S.M. Choral Conducting Concentration Auditions:

For personal auditions

Demonstration of the following competencies:

1. A clear, steady beat with the right hand in duple, triple, and mixed meters
2. Various styles and articulations with the right hand (i.e. legato, marcato, martellato, and staccato.)
3. Clear, one-beat preparations starting on any beat
4. Independence of the left hand
5. A basic rehearsal technique which includes helpful and appropriate verbal instructions
6. A basic understanding of vocal production and at least one year of previous choral participation
7. When possible, time may be provided to conduct a Meadows ensemble briefly. In this case the literature will be chosen in consultation with the Director of Choral Activities in Meadows School of the Arts.

For taped auditions (a minimum of 20 minutes of footage)

1. A program of works from the standard choral repertoire
2. An indication of when you began preparing each work with the choir
3. In addition to the performance of the literature, it is preferable to demonstrate rehearsal techniques for at least one of the selections
4. Focus the camera on the conductor as much as possible
5. Demonstrate the skills outlined in the section above as much as possible
6. In cases where the ensemble is limited or the candidate has limited choral conducting experience, a supplemental recording in a performance in another area (voice, for example), may also be included in addition to a choral conducting demonstration. This recording should indicate a variety of musical styles and general musicianship of the candidate.

Please use videocassette tapes (standard North American VHS system) or DVDs. No editing or splicing is permitted; pieces should be performed just as they would be in a public performance. Label the videocassette or DVD with the applicant's name. Candidates are asked to listen to the recording to make sure that it is clear and, in the case of cassettes, properly wound. All audition tapes should be made with great care, not in haste, and should represent as well as possible the performing abilities of the candidate. Adequate equipment should be used. Please do not send an original or only copy of your undergraduate recital in case of loss en route or an equipment malfunction that destroys it.