

Master of Sacred Music Audition Requirements for Applied Concentrations

Choral Conducting

Choral conducting applicants will submit a 20-minute long video demonstrating their conducting skills through the Perkins School of Theology application. No editing or splicing is permitted in the video submission. Though a public performance may be included, choral technique demonstrated in a rehearsal setting is required.

The video recording (15 - 20 minutes) should demonstrate the following basic conducting skills:

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 that includes helpful and appropriate verbal instructions
6. A basic understanding of vocal production and at least one year of previous choral participation

In choosing the repertoire for the video, the applicant should adhere as closely as possible to the following guidelines:

1. A program sheet listing the 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.

Composition and Arranging Concentration

Composition and Arranging applicants must provide a portfolio through the Perkins School of Theology application. Submissions should include at least three selected compositions of standard anthem length (4-5 minutes) or one larger work (PDF format is preferred). Voicing and instrumentation is at the discretion of the applicant, but one work should include voices with keyboard and/or other instruments.

Keyboards Concentration

Keyboard applicants must either register for a live on campus audition or submit a recorded audition.

Recorded auditions may be up to 45 minutes in length, including solo repertoire both of traditional classic literature and in an improvisatory style (gospel, contemporary popular or jazz). Prepare a congregational song accompaniment in a style of your choice including introduction. A repertoire list should be included.

Organ Concentration

Organ applicants must either register for a live on campus audition or submit a recorded audition. Live on campus auditions are preferred.

For live on campus audition:

1. A program of works to be performed (up to 45 minutes)
2. An indication of when you began studying each work.

For recorded auditions:

1. A program sheet listing the 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.

Recorded 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.
5. Two stanzas of a hymn of your choice, played as if you were accompanying a congregation, including introduction.