

## MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC

### **Purpose**

The Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) degree program is jointly sponsored by Perkins School of Theology and the Division of Music of Meadows School of the Arts for the preparation of professional music leadership in the church and, if one chooses, ordination as deacon. Recognizing the existence of several models of professional church music leadership, this program provides a wide range of graduate-level training in performance, professional and academic skills.

High priority is placed upon the preparation of the church musician as enabler of congregational singing and conductor of various ensembles in both the church and the community. The Church Music Colloquium, Supervised Practicum, conducting projects and other work offered in the School of Theology and the Division of Music provide opportunities to learn a wide range of literature, performance practices and skills and to apply this learning in both academic and churchly settings.

The program is regularly enriched by the Cabe Distinguished Lectureship, through which lecturers of international reputation are resident for periods ranging from several days to full terms. Past lecturers have included Carlton Young, Nicholas Temperley, Robert Donnington, John Bell, John Rutter, David Willcocks, Margaret Hillis, William Mathias, Barry Rose, Max Von Egmond, Alice Parker, Patrick Matstikenyiri, Brian Wren, Thomas Troeger and Stephen Cleobury.

### **Outcome Objectives for the Program**

#### **Musical, Theological and Liturgical Discernment**

The objective of the program is to develop the abilities necessary to make sound judgments on the musical quality of works performed, on the theological validity and quality of the texts sung and on the liturgical appropriateness of music used in worship.

#### **Musical Skills**

Professional-level accomplishment in either organ or choral studies with a competence in the other area is required. These skills will be informed by a solid foundation that includes the history and bibliography of music, aural and analytical skills and a knowledge and application of current technologies.

#### **Educational Process**

The program will develop an understanding of pedagogical processes needed for teaching choirs of all ages and developing musical participation by the congregation.

#### **Understanding of the Prophetic Nature of Sacred Music**

The program also will develop an understanding the liturgical role music plays in attuning the emotions to the spirit of worship and in proclaiming the Gospel message.

### **Requirements for Admission**

Applicants for the M.S.M. program must hold a Bachelor of Music or Bachelor of Music Education degree, or its equivalent, from a regionally accredited institution. Their undergraduate preparation must include credited work in choral conducting

and at least 30 term hours of courses in the liberal arts.

A cumulative G.P.A. of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) is required for admission to the Division of Music. Admission to the School of Theology further requires that a minimum G.P.A. of 2.75 be achieved in the student's liberal arts work. Acceptance by both the Division of Music and the School of Theology is necessary for admission to the M.S.M. program.

The applicant is expected to bring to the program performance capabilities, in organ or choral performance, that clearly indicate he or she is ready for study at the graduate level. The applicant's performance capabilities must be demonstrated by a personal audition (for organists) or an audition tape (for choral conductors).

Applicants who already hold graduate degrees in music or who have completed some coursework at the graduate level may, upon the approval of the director of the program, apply up to nine term hours (or the equivalent) of nonperformance graduate musical or theological study toward the M.S.M. degree. However, this work must also meet the approval of the Committee on Graduate Studies of the Division of Music (if the work is in music) or of the registrar of the School of Theology (if the work is in theology).

With the approval of the appropriate admissions committees, a student may pursue concurrently the M.S.M. and Master of Music degrees, the M.S.M. and M.Div. degrees or the M.S.M. and C.M.M. degrees. Applicants interested in such options should consult with the director of the M.S.M. program.

### **Requirements for Graduation Planning a Program of Study**

The course of study includes some work taken in common by all M.S.M. students and some work that is designed to serve the individual student's particular needs and interests. Each student elects one of two options for concentration in performance study: organ or choral studies.

All entering students must take Graduate Placement Examinations administered by the Division of Music during the week of registration. These examinations aid in determining the student's strengths and weaknesses in the areas of music history, literature, theory, aural perception and, for choral conductors, a keyboard proficiency exam. The results are used by the student and his or her adviser in planning a proposed course of study for the degree.

After successfully completing 12 term hours of approved coursework, each student, in consultation with his or her adviser, will prepare and submit a Proposed Course of Study to the director of the M.S.M. Program. Any subsequent alterations to this proposal must be submitted in writing for approval.

### **Course of Study**

The requirements for the M.S.M. total 48 term hours and may be completed in two years (usually including summers) depending on the results of the Graduate Placement Examinations. Those pursuing an additional graduate music degree in Meadows School of the Arts or fulfilling the requirements for deacon's ordination in the United Methodist Church will require up to an extra year of study. The 48 hours for the M.S.M. are distributed as follows:

**1. Twelve term hours in Theological Studies<sup>1</sup>**

- a. Six term hours of Bible.  
OT-6301 Interpretation of the Old Testament I  
NT-6301 Interpretation of the New Testament I
- b. Three term hours of WO-6313, Word & Worship<sup>2</sup>
- c. Three term hours of ST-6300, Introduction to Theology,  
or three term hours of HX-6305, The Christian Heritage I.
- d. Participation in a Spiritual Formation Group for two terms during the first year

**2. Ten term hours of Church Music Study.**

- a. Three term hours of CM-8330. Church Music Colloquium I.  
[Church music for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany; includes hymnody, anthem literature for all age groups, and master works, along with conducting experience]
- b. Three term hours of CM-8331. Church Music Colloquium II.  
[Church music for Lent and Easter; includes hymnody, anthem literature for all age groups, and master works, along with conducting experience]
- c. Three term hours of CM-8332. Church Music Colloquium III.  
[Church music during Pentecost and common liturgical time; includes hymnody, anthem literature for all age groups, and master works, along with conducting experience]
- d. One term hour of CM-8120, Supervised Practicum<sup>3</sup>

**3. Six term hours of study in professional skills and methods<sup>4</sup>**

- a. Three term hours of MUTH 6330, Analytical Techniques, MUTH 6300, Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, or MUTH 6360, Analysis of Tonal Music, MUTH 6326 Seminar in Music Theory
- b. Three term hours of MUHI 6335, Introduction to Graduate Studies
- c. Participation for two consecutive terms within the same academic year in a Meadows Choral Ensemble, as determined by placement audition
- d. Four terms of enrollment in MUAS 6010, Recital Attendance

**4. Elective Hours in Meadows or Perkins**

Six hours for Organ Concentration; five term hours in Choral Concentration.  
These hours will be determined in consultation with the student's advisor on the

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<sup>1</sup> For United Methodist students pursuing Deacon's Orders, these twelve hours may count toward the 24 hour requirement. It may be possible to use elective hours (#4 below) to satisfy more of the 24-hour requirement.

<sup>2</sup> The prerequisite course, XS-6310, The Church in Its Social Context, is not required for the MSM degree.

<sup>3</sup> The Supervised Practicum includes musical/liturgical leadership in a local congregation and a relationship with a church music mentor.

<sup>4</sup> Placement exams in music history and theory will be administered during the week before classes begin in Meadows School of the Arts.

basis of the outcome objectives of the MSM program and the student's competency to meet these objectives.<sup>5</sup>

**5. Hours in Performance Concentration and Proficiency**

<b>Organ Concentration (14 hours)</b>	<b>Choral Concentration (15 hrs.)<sup>6</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Eight term hours of private organ study (four two-hour terms)</li> <li>b. Two term hours of PERB 6212, Improvisation and Service Playing</li> <li>c. Three term hours of MUHI 6320, Organ History and Literature</li> <li>d. One term hour of CM-8108, Cantoring in Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Three term hours of MUCO 6307, Conducting I<sup>7</sup></li> <li>b. Three term hours of MUCO 5309, Advanced Instrumental Conducting</li> <li>c. Two term hours of an elective course in choral conducting</li> <li>d. Two term hours of MUCO 6252, Vocal/Choral Techniques</li> <li>e. Three term hours of MUHI 6348, Survey of Choral Literature or an appropriate music history course as determined in consultation with the student's advisor</li> <li>f. One term hour of CM-8108, Cantoring in Worship<sup>8</sup></li> <li>g. One term hour of PERB-6112, Introduction to the Organ</li> </ul>

During the final semester of study, each student will be given a set of comprehensive written examinations covering the major areas of study and related fields. Satisfactory performance on these examinations and a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.00 or B on all M.S.M. work are required for graduation.

Students seeking ordained deacon status in the United Methodist Church will need 12 additional hours beyond the required coursework for the M.S.M. degree. For specific information, contact the director of the M.S.M. program.

**Entrance Exams and Proficiency Requirements**

All students will be required to take entrance exams in music history and music theory before beginning their first term of study. If exams are not passed, the following courses are required in the respective areas:

<sup>5</sup> For the organ concentration, a portion of these hours may be used for choral conducting depending on the placement evaluation. Not more than three elective hours of applied study in Meadows may be counted toward the degree requirements.

<sup>6</sup> Candidates in the M.S.M. Choral Concentration must take a keyboard proficiency exam before classes begin during their first year. Those who are unable to pass the proficiency exam must take PERB 5107/5108: Keyboard Skills for Choral Conductors. Information on the exam will be sent to all incoming students in this concentration.

<sup>7</sup> As determined by placement evaluation with the Director of Choral Activities.

<sup>8</sup> Private vocal instruction for MSM students will be offered only for those who have also been accepted into the MM in Voice major as a concurrent degree program or by audition with the voice faculty. Private vocal instruction for MSM students is subject to the availability of voice faculty.

Music History: **MUHI 5100** Music History Review  
Music Theory: **MUTH 6123, 6124, 6125** Graduate Theory Review

### **Spiritual Formation**

All students completing the M.S.M. are required to register for the program in spiritual formation. Students are required to attend a daylong orientation held in conjunction with the new student orientation program and are then enrolled in formation groups. These groups meet weekly throughout the fall and spring terms during the first year of the program.

Led by facilitators in groups of five to 10, students share in a formative experience designed to provide them with the framework of a common experience, emphasizing:

The opportunity to explore the vital connection between spiritual formation and ministry

Opportunities to explore the central genius of spiritual traditions

The development of a critical capacity that will allow the student to evaluate those traditions theologically

Broad-based exposure to a variety of spiritual disciplines

Experience in prayer and devotion

Students are evaluated and given credit by the group facilitators on the basis of attendance and engagement with the subject matter of the formation process.

Students should register in both the fall and spring of the first year. Exceptions to this rule must be requested in writing from the director of Spiritual Life and Formation.

### **The Supervised Practicum**

Students enroll in the course CM 8120 Supervised Practicum during the spring term of their first or second year. Students should have secured positions in a local church setting by no later than the second year of study. The Sacred Music office provides assistance in securing placement in view of each student's pedagogical and financial needs. A professor in the Sacred Music program will serve as a liaison between Perkins and the student's church so that the student has sufficient support to meet the requirements of the practicum.

In the second or third year, with the approval of the M.S.M. faculty, the student will present a service of worship in her/his church to complete CM 8120. This service becomes the graduate project for the M.S.M. degree and will be given a pass or fail grade by an evaluating M.S.M. faculty member.

### **Admission to Candidacy**

M.S.M. students will be reviewed for admission to formal candidacy for the degree in the spring term following the completion of 27 term hours of academic work. A student will be admitted to candidacy provided that he or she has achieved a grade average of 3.00, is not on academic probation and is not disqualified for having given insufficient evidence of fitness for ministry (See "Fitness for Ministry" below.)

Admission to formal candidacy signifies that the student is proceeding satisfactorily in his or her work and may be considered for the degree upon completion of all the requirements, but it does not oblige the seminary to grant the degree.

### **Fitness for Ministry**

Beyond the formal academic requirements, each student is expected to show evidence of personal fitness for ministry. This fitness may be defined positively as the presence of emotional, moral and spiritual qualities requisite for the profession of ministry. A lack of fitness for ministry may be demonstrated by patterns of personal behavior that inhibit effective ministry. Examples of such patterns include irresponsibility in social and/or professional relations and emotional instability. Formally, the presence of patterns of personal behavior tending to be seriously disabling to ministry may be grounds for the faculty to disqualify a student from graduation with the M.S.M. degree. If the prognosis justifies it, the committee may choose to defer awarding the degree until such time as the disabling pattern is overcome.

It should be emphasized that personal fitness for ministry is not defined narrowly in terms of a particular form of piety or style of personal behavior, nor does Perkins assume the role that belongs properly to those agencies of the church that evaluate candidates for ordination. When asked, it assists such agencies in their evaluations.

### **Time Limit**

All requirements for the M.S.M. degree must be completed within seven calendar years from the time of initial registration.

### **Financial Aid**

In addition to the financial aid described elsewhere in this catalog, a limited number of scholarships, fellowships, graduate assistantships and work grants are available specifically to M.S.M. students. Inquiries should be addressed to the director of admissions and financial aid.