

Audition Requirements for Applied Concentrations for the Master of Sacred Music

M.S.M applicants in choral conducting, composition, keyboards, and organ will be expected to audition as a part of the entrance requirements to the program.

Choral Conducting applicants should audition by sending a DVD, YouTube, or Vimeo link (preferably the latter two). Applicants for the concentration in **Keyboards** may either send a CD or mp3 files, or YouTube/Vimeo link, or audition in person. When possible applicants for the **Organ** concentration are encouraged to audition in person. However, CDs, DVDs, YouTube/Vimeo links will be accepted in cases where this is not possible. Auditions may be scheduled by contacting the Director of the Sacred Music Program or through the appropriate applied professor in Meadows School of the Arts. Specific Audition Requirements for each applied concentration follow:

1) Choral Conducting Audition Requirements

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.

Please use a DVD or online links such as YouTube or Vimeo. No editing or splicing is permitted. Though a public performance may be included, choral technique demonstrated in a rehearsal setting is required. Label the DVD with the applicant's name and provide a list of repertoire covered including the editions used. Please do not send an original or only copy.

2) Composition and Arranging

In addition to the general application requirements for the M.S.M. degree, applicants for the concentration in composition and arranging must provide a portfolio of 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.

3) Keyboards

The applicant must provide an audition recording (CD, DVD, mp3, or online YouTube/Vimeo link) 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. Auditions may be made in person in consultation with the director of the sacred music program.

4) Organ Concentration Auditions:

For personal auditions

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.

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.

No editing or splicing is permitted; pieces should be performed just as they would be in a public performance. Label the CD or DVD with the applicant's name. All audition recordings 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.