



Department of Music

Faculty Information

Instructor: Dr. Calvin Hofer
Department of Music
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Office Hours: MTWRF @ 10:00 a.m. or by appointment

Communication Policy: The best method of communication with me is email. Students MUST use their CMU email account for this course. Response time to students via email is 24 hours.

Course Information

Course Title:	Advanced Conducting	MUSA 350B
Semester:	Fall 2019	Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.
Credit Hours	2 credits	Moss Room 005

Course Description

The study of advanced meters, advanced score study, expressive conducting using non-verbal gestures and ensemble rehearsal techniques. Required of all music education majors. Part of becoming a successful musician/educator is developing the skills necessary to communicate non-verbally to performers. Excellent conducting technique combined with clear and concise gestural vocabulary is necessary to lead an ensemble in both rehearsals and performances. The purpose of this course is to refine beginning conducting skills, learn advanced conducting skills, interpretive gestures, score study skills and rehearsal techniques. Additional topics such as transposition, articulation and ensemble sound will also be addressed.

Prerequisite: Beginning Conducting (MUSA 250)

Required Text and Supplies

Textbooks

- Green, Elizabeth A.H. The Modern Conductor. 7th edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1997

Materials

- 12" – 14" Good Baton
- Your primary instrument, or secondary as assigned by the instructor

Scores

- To be determined. Possible cost of between \$15.00 to \$25.00.

Recommended Reading (not required)

- Harris, Frederick, Jr. *Conducting with Feeling*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2001. (Hal Leonard has taken over publication of this book.)
- Maiello, Anthony. *Conducting Nuances: Little Things Mean A Lot*. GIA Publications, 2007.
- Colson, John F. *Conducting and Rehearsing the Instrumental Music Ensemble*. Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2012
- Colson, John F. *Rehearsing: Critical Connections for the Instrumental Music Conductor*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015

Instructional Methods/Materials to be used

Time spent in each class will be divided between two activities: a.) conducting as a group to solidify technique and gestures. b.) conducting the class ensemble in a master class setting or being assessed. Reading and conducting assignments will be given for each class, and students are expected to prepare these assignments. Students will also be videoed throughout the semester for self, peer and teacher assessment.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate advanced time beating skills in a variety of meters including subdivided beats, tempo changes, accelerando, ritardando, etc.
- demonstrate advanced expressive gestures
- show marked improvement in developing left handed gestures
- illustrate a command on how to handle fermatas
- demonstrate appropriate facial expression in relation to music being performed
- show advanced score study knowledge including clefs, transpositions, bowings, instrumentation, terminology, phrasal and formal analysis
- demonstrate effective rehearsal technique
- illustrate mastery of conducting skills through in-class performance

Attendance Policy

Prompt attendance at every class meeting is expected. Two tardies equal one absence. Three absences will lower your grade one letter. Each absence after that will lower your grade an additional letter. It is common and professional courtesy to inform the instructor of an absence. This demonstrates you are serious about what you do. The student is responsible for work missed due to an absence. Contact your colleagues for assignments.

Time Expectations

Each week, an undergraduate student should expect to spend on this course a minimum of two hours per credit (4 hours per week). Some students may need to spend more.

Methods of Evaluation/Grading Policies

Students will be assessed in the following manner via video recordings and live performances:

- Conducting skills tests demonstrating the student learning outcomes
- Self-evaluation, peer evaluation and instructor evaluation of rehearsals and performance
- Quizzes over reading assignments
- Transposition test
- Terms test
- Psychological conducting assignment
- Final Exam conducting assignment
- Weekly conducting assignments
- Score Study Project

The final grade is the average of:

Assignments (conducting & written) - 50%; Tests & Quizzes - 20%; Rehearsal Observation Reports - 15%;
Score Study Project - 15%

Grading Scale: 90 - 100 = A; 80 - 89 = B; 70 – 79 = C; 60 – 69 = D; 59 or below = F

Rubrics

Rubrics are used to assess conducting skills, and will be handed out during class.

Projects and Assignments

Rehearsal Observation Submit both reports via the course D2L Drop Box

Each student will attend two rehearsals of an instrumental ensemble in which they are not a member. After attending each rehearsal, submit a written (typed) observation report based on the two in-class discussions *The Rehearsal Scenario* and *The Rehearsal Process*. Before attending each rehearsal, study the power point handouts and use these as a guide to write your report based on what you observed. Your first Rehearsal Observation Report is due no later than November 12th. Your second observation (of Best of the West Conductors) is due no later than Thursday, December 14th.

Conducting Assignments:

Each student will be given a number of opportunities to conduct in class. You are expected to be prepared for these opportunities. You will also need to bring your instrument to class the days that students are conducting.

Written Assignments

Assignments will be given throughout the semester related to class topics. Students are expected to complete these as assigned.

Tests

Two tests will be given during the semester: one covering terms, clefs and transpositions and the other covering general musical terms. Terms from Appendix E (pg. 271) as well as other sources will be used.

In coordination with Educational Access Services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please meet with the instructor the first week of class to make arrangements. Nancy Conklin, the Coordinator of Educational Access Services, can be contacted at 248-1826, or in person in Houston Hall, Room 101.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given over reading assignments at the discretion of the teacher

Late Work Policy

Assignments are due as stated in the syllabus or during class. Late work is not acceptable.

MUSICIANS SAFETY AND HEALTH

The CMU Music Department is committed to informing students of health and safety issues inherent to performing and listening to music. This includes but is not limited to students taking responsibility for safely maintaining hearing, vocal and musculoskeletal health as well as injury prevention. While these topics will be addressed during applied lessons and master classes, ultimately it is the responsibility of each student to take action. Students should consult the Student Resources page on the Music Department website for links to useful and important information.

COURSE OUTLINE and SCHEDULE (flexible)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Reading/Conducting Assignment</u>
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Review and Refinement of Conducting Techniques

	Class Orientation and Review Posture, Baton, Grip, Plane, Space, Prep Beat, Patterns	
	Review of Basic Fundamentals	Green: Chapters 1 – 4
	The Fermata (be prepared to conduct all fermata types)	Green: Chapter 8
	Advanced Meters & Time –Beating (practice patterns from this chpt)	Green: Chapter 9
	Gestural Vocabulary/Expressive Gestures	Green: Chapter 5
	Conducting Assignment	Example 30, Pages 58 – 60
	Phrasing, Tempo Changes	Green: Chapter 6
	Conducting Assignment	Example 37, Pages 71 - 74
	Example 37, additional work	
	Developing the Left Hand (prepare all Exercises on page 82)	Green: Chapter 7
	Melding and the Virtuoso Technique	Green: Chapter 10
	Conducting Assignment	Example 76, pages 131 – 133
		Example 77, pages 134 – 138
	Psychological Conducting	Green: Appendix F
	Conducting Assignment	Choose 2 exercises from pages 240-241
	Clefs and Transpositions	Green: Chapter 11
	Clefs and Transposition Review & Test	
	Orchestra and Band Scores	Green Chapter 12

Preparation for Teaching, Conducting and Rehearsing

	The Rehearsal Scenario	Power Point
	The Rehearsal Process	Power Point
	Score Study Project Overview and Assignment	Handouts

Application of Skills and Musicianship

	Score Study questions/Conducting Assignments TBD
	Conducting Assignments TBD
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Thurs. Dec. 5	No Class – time given for rehearsal observations - BOTW conductors
Final Exam	Thursday, December 12 10:00 a.m. Final Conducting Assignment