

**Course:** CHORAL CONDUCTING (MUS 362 A) Spring 2023

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday and Thursday, 4:10-5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 4:25-6:00 p.m.

**Professor:** Dr. James F. Rodde 294-0395 (office)  
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**Content:** The acquiring of skills  
- clear and expressive conducting skills  
- improved listening skills  
- rehearsal techniques

The acquiring of knowledge  
- performance practices  
- score analysis  
- repertoire

**Attendance Policy:** Because of the additive nature of the course, attendance is assumed.

**Required Materials:** Choral packet (to be purchased from Popplers Music)  
Conducting baton (12-14 inches in length)  
Set of colored pencils  
GoReact (\$30)  
Concurrent participation in a large ISU choral ensemble is expected.

**Recommended Materials:** Portable metronome  
A-440 tuning fork

**Strongly Recommended:** Membership in the American Choral Directors Association.

**Recommended Texts:** Jeffers, Ron. *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire, Vol. I: Sacred Latin Texts*. Corvallis: Earthsongs, 1988.

Decker, Harold and Julius Herford, ed. *Choral Conducting Symposium*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1988.

Demaree, Robert and Don Moses. *The Complete Conductor*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1995.

Heffernan, Charles. *Choral Music: Technique and Artistry*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1982.

McElheran, Brock. *Conducting Technique*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1966.

Moses, Don, Robert Demaree and Allen Ohmes. *Face To Face With An Orchestra*. Princeton: Prestige Publications, 1987.

### Specific Required Assignments:

1. Conducting Sessions (7 @ 30 points each)*	210 points	54%
2. Choral Repertoire Studies (5 points each, maximum 6)	30 points	7%
3. Professional Development Assignments (8 @ 10 points)	80 points	20%
4. Small Conducting Assignments (4 @ 10 points each)	40 points	11%
5. Recitation of Gloria text	5 points	2%
6. Final Conducting Exam	20 points	6%
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TOTAL	385 points	

\*If time allows for an 8th or 9th conducting session, points will be altered.

### Grading Procedure:

A = 355-385 points.	Outstanding results. All assignments completed on time.
B = 325-354 points.	Commendable results. All assignments completed on time.
C = 275-324 points.	Average results. Most assignments completed on time.
D = 235-274 points.	Fair or inconsistent results. Most assignments completed.
F = 000-234 points.	Performance lacking the requirements outlined for a D grade.

Note: A minimum of 15 points must be earned in each major assignment area (numbers 2-4) to receive a passing grade in the course.

### Detail of Requirements:

**Conducting Sessions:** Each major conducting session will be videoed using the GoReact program. For full credit, the student will complete the assignment and submit a self-evaluation form at the next class session. Failure to submit a conducting session self-evaluation will result in a 10-point deduction. Late self-evaluations will be accepted only under extreme extenuating circumstances. Each student will be expected to play each part and sing each part of their assigned piece prior to conducting the lab choir. On designated days each student will be tested on being able to sing the music that he/she is preparing to conduct. The accompanist will play one vocal line while the singer sings another, lines to be assigned "on the spot." Students receiving the equivalent of a B on singing can only receive a maximum of 25 points on their conducting session. Students receiving the equivalent of a C on singing can only receive a maximum of 20 points on their conducting session. All of this to say, know your score before teaching it!

**Choral Repertoire Studies:** Each student will schedule sessions with the course instructor to display and discuss analysis of assigned scores.

Each musical score should show the overall form (noted on first page, e.g., ABA), all imitative themes bracketed (brown pencil), all breath marks (vertical lines through staves in lead pencil), all loud dynamic marks (red pencil), all soft dynamic marks (blue pencil), all major cues (green pencil), and all tempo changes (color of your choice).

**Professional Development Assignments:** Students may earn as many as 80 points for the following activities (10 points each):

Videos on reserve at Parks Library:

VIDE 003 525	Eph Ehly (with high school singers: "positive motivation")
VIDE 003 558	Henry Leck (children's voices) <b>DVD 007 278</b>
VIDE 003 526	Rod Eichenberger (What they see is what you get)
VIDE 003 619	Robert Shaw (rehearsing a masterwork)
VIDE 003 545	Helen Kemp (children's voices)
VIDE 003 543	Jeff Johnson (kinesthetic vocal techniques)

VIDE 003 541  
VIDE 003 540

Jerry Blackstone (working with men's voices)  
Charlotte Adams (vocal techniques, warm-ups)

*Six of the eight must be completed by Tuesday, March 7. Start on this project soon!*

### **Disabilities:**

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076 Student Services Building or online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu). Contact SAS by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu) or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The student will demonstrate the ability to conduct and rehearse a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including stylistic physical gesture, tone production, dynamics, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully develop a piece of music in a cooperative learning environment.

### **Free Expression**

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](#) and the principle of [academic freedom](#) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

### **Public Health**

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy.

You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. Thielen Student Health Center will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations free-of-charge to students. The university will continue to offer free masks and COVID-19 test kits during the spring 2023 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: <https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/>

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's [public health website](#). All public health questions should be directed to [publichealthteam@iastate.edu](mailto:publichealthteam@iastate.edu).

### **Note to Students:**

The successful student conductor seeks to become familiar with all styles of music, attends class regularly, studies assigned scores, and practices the physical movements required of a conductor -- daily. Intellectual and musical curiosities are of the highest priority in becoming a successful conductor.

The American Choral Directors Association is the lifeblood for choral conductors throughout the nation. In lieu of additional textbooks for conducting class, membership in the organization is strongly recommended. As a member of ACDA you will receive the *Choral Journal*, *Melisma*, and *Sounding Board* (the national, regional, and state publications). You also will receive various mailings and will be able to attend conventions.

Students are strongly encouraged to "stay ahead of the game," in particular with their Choral Repertoire Studies and Professional Development Assignments, beginning work as soon as possible.

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with the instructor soon. Please request that a Disability Resources staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.

**Self-Evaluation Form I** Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What percentage of time did you look at your score?

Was this an improvement?

2. How many times did you fail to breathe before your cues?

Was this an improvement?

3. How many times did you fail to make eye contact for major cues?

Was this an improvement?

4. How many times did you mirror your pattern?                      How many were unnecessary?

Was this an improvement?

5. What percentage of time did your body “rock” with the beat?

Was this an improvement?

6. How many times was your pattern not symmetrical or out-of-plane?

7. How many times did you lose the pattern?

Did you get back on the next downbeat?

8. How many times did you give more than one beat of prep to start?

Was this an improvement?

9. Did you use good attention position before you started?

10. Did your left hand assist with major cues or sustaining the tone?

Did you feel your left hand was used effectively?

11. Did you maintain a sense of pendulum in your beat pattern?

12. Regarding verbal communication, 1) Was there too much talking?

2) Were comments concise?

3) Did you use “community” language?

13. On the back, list four things you did well and one thing you need to improve.