

MASTER OF MUSIC, CHORAL CONDUCTING SPECIALIZATION

The Master of Music, Choral Conducting Specialization program is committed to musical excellence with a curriculum designed to develop the musicianship and skills that will be important for the student's future professional success. Graduate courses are organized in the areas of music literature and theory, the choral/vocal instrument, conducting, and teaching.

The program is committed to musical excellence with a curriculum designed to build a well-rounded choral conductor/teacher, using the musical and personal strengths of the graduate choral conducting student.

By the completion of the program, the student will have developed advanced conducting skills and techniques that are appropriate to a variety of musical needs. The student will learn effective rehearsal techniques and score preparation, and become a knowledgeable scholar of important choral scores representing repertoire of various music periods and secular and sacred styles.

The program accepts a limited number of students who pursue a variety of professional goals, including education and directors of choral/instrumental ensembles. Students who are full-time music educators at the middle/high school levels are considered if they have three years of prior teaching experience and are presently conducting an ensemble(s). Students who are not public school educators must show a minimum of three years of full-time music/conducting employment and be presently conducting a high school, religious, or community ensemble.

Learning Objectives

1. Develop the necessary analytical and theoretical skills to successfully analyze choral scores and prepare scores for effective rehearsals.
2. Develop historical skills to examine scores and documents to confirm historically informed decisions and apply the appropriate performance practice issues for different eras.
3. Develop the necessary linguistic skills to be proficient in English, German, Latin, and French and be competent in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) when necessary.
4. Develop technical skills to conduct community, professional, school, church, and university choirs on different levels domestically and internationally.
5. Develop the skills to achieve effective and efficient rehearsal techniques by utilizing the appropriate verbal instruction and proper visual conducting presentation.
6. Understand the origin and the history of choral music from the Renaissance to present by examining the canon of the choral repertoire and attaining knowledge of the background of main choral genres.
7. Develop a clear understanding of how the voices work, especially in choral settings, to achieve the necessary blend, balance, and sound, and provide vocal instruction to ensemble members.

8. Research and prepare to program appropriate repertoire for choral concerts on different levels.
9. Attain competent instrumental conducting technique to lead rehearsals and performances in major choral-orchestral repertoire such as oratorios, cantatas, requiems, and symphonic masses.
10. Understand the current trend of choral profession by studying the living composers, their compositions, and the entrepreneurial aspect of the choral music industry.

Admission

In addition to the admissions processes for the Graduate School and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, a personal audition (<https://music.colostate.edu/admissions/grad-apply/>) with CSU Music faculty is required for admission into the choral graduate conducting program. Please visit the music website (<https://music.colostate.edu/admissions/grad-apply/>) for details.

[Students interested in graduate work should refer to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin.](#)

Music Program Fee

A music program fee is assessed with undergraduate and graduate music and musical theatre majors and music minors, per semester. Does not apply to the following students: online degree students and summers-only master's degree students. [Please visit the](#) Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President (<https://provost.colostate.edu/student-resources/>) [for special course fees.](#)