

# Choral Conducting

## Course Information

**Term:** Fall 2025

**Course Number:** MUAG 3820

**Course Credit Hours:** 2

**Meeting Location:** Music Building Room 230

**Meeting Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:00–8:50 am

**Prerequisites:** MUAG 3800, MUTH 2500 & 2510

## Instructor Information

**Name:** [Dr. Marques L. A. Garrett](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

**Email:** [marques.garrett@unt.edu](mailto:marques.garrett@unt.edu)

**Office Location:** MUSI 216

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

**Teaching Assistant:** [Mr. Matt Carlson](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

**Email:** [MattCarlson@my.unt.edu](mailto:MattCarlson@my.unt.edu)

## Course Description

Focuses on refining physical skills, the introduction of group choral training, choral rehearsal techniques and aural development skills.

## Course Objectives

1. To develop each student's ability to move with clear, influential, expressive intention for the purpose of sustaining non-verbal musical dialogue with an ensemble.
2. To develop each student's musical analytical skills as they relate to full and vocal scores.
3. To provide a laboratory environment in which students can devise, attempt, and refine rehearsal techniques and strategies with the help of peer coaching and instructor feedback.
4. To develop each student's aural skills by linking score study to audiation, experimenting with non-verbal vocalization as a primary means of communicating with an ensemble, and refining diagnostic skills through direct engagement of a broad spectrum of musical styles and textures with a live ensemble (whenever possible).
5. To apply concepts from non-musical and musical experiences to a broader understanding of conducting.

## Required Materials

## Textbook

Haithcock, Michael, Brian K. Doyle, Kevin M. Gerald, & Jerald Schwiebert. *The Elements of Expressive Conducting*. Tecumseh, MI: Conway Publications, 2020.

## Scores

The numbers reference their location in the Choral Library. An asterisk refers to a PDF on Canvas. All other scores are to be purchased from Penders.

- America the Beautiful – R. Nathaniel Dett\*
- Arise and Greet the Day – Victor C. Johnson
- Awake the Harp – Josef Haydn\*
- By an' By – arr. Harry T. Burleigh & Marques L. A. Garrett\*
- Cantate Hodie! (Sing Joyfully!) – Mary Lynn Lightfoot
- Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord – Felix Mendelssohn\*
- Come Travel with Me – Scott Farthing
- Dies Irae – Christi Jones
- Domine, tu mihi lavas pedes, CPM 198 – José Mauricio Nunes Garcia\*
- Even When He Is Silent – Kim Andre Arnesen – 200517
- Go Down, Moses – arr. Harry T. Burleigh & Marques L. A. Garrett\*
- Hold Fast to Dreams – Susan LaBarr
- I Thank You God – Gwyneth Walker – 200409
- Immutemur Habitu – José Maurício Nunes Garcia\*
- Keep Your Lamps – arr. André J. Thomas
- Listen to the Rhythm – Carol Lynn Mizell
- Music of Life – B.E. Boykin
- My Country, 'Tis of Thee – Samuel Francis Smith\*
- O Magnum Mysterium – Evan Ramos
- Peace I Leave with You – Amy Beach\*
- Per la gloria d'adorarvi – Giovanni Bononcini, arr. Marques L. A. Garrett\*
- Rounds (Friends, Come Around – John Hetlend; The Cat I Found – Barbara Rosen)\*
- The Seeds of Love – arr. S. Baring Gould, Cecil B. Sharp, & Marques L. A. Garrett
- Sicut cervus – Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina\*
- Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs – George F. Handel\*
- Veni, Sancte Spiritus – Zanaida Robles – 101938
- We Are the Music Makers – Reginal Wright
- We Shall Walk – arr. Undine Smith Moore – 101476

## Miscellaneous

- baton
- colored pencils (physical or digital)

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Although cell phones may be used to video record your time on the podium and to complete daily in-class transfer assignments, they may not be used to display music (i.e., you may not read your part off your phone). The minimum screen size that is acceptable for music reading in class is a 9.7" iPad (or similar). Students without access to a sufficiently large screen should download and print all PDF music.

## **Professionalism**

Professionalism is the conduct, behavior and attitude of someone in a work or business environment. A person doesn't have to work in a specific profession to demonstrate the important qualities and characteristics of a professional. Professionalism leads to workplace success, a strong professional reputation, and a high level of work ethic and excellence.

In this course, the elements of professionalism that will be assessed and will have an impact on the course grade are as follows:

- Attendance & Punctuality are required and vital to the lab-based structure of the course. Attendance and punctuality will be assessed through daily transfer assignments submitted through Canvas. Upon arrival in class, each student should complete and submit the daily transfer. Transfers submitted within the first 15 minutes of class will earn full credit; transfers submitted after the first 15 minutes but before the end of the class period will earn half credit. Students who are absent will simply miss a day of class and not earn the attendance/transfer point associated with it.
  - Students are not to schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.
- Engagement & 'Presence' are qualities that distinguish the most outstanding and effective professionals from the merely adequate. These qualities are essential for conductors and educators alike and therefore are required in this course. Students who experience repeated difficulties in maintaining engagement and 'presence' may be counted absent regardless of their location or submission of a daily transfer assignment. The elements of engagement and 'presence' are:
  - Full attention to whomever is speaking or demonstrating, evident through the absence of multi-tasking (texting, gaming, answering emails, playing with pets, reading, watching videos, etc.)
  - Active and collegial participation in discussions, including clear evidence of 'presence' in the student's physical demeanor (eye contact, pro- and reactive facial expressions, upright and balanced posture)
- Responsibility & Reliability are attributes at the core of professionalism. These attributes will be assessed as follows:

- Deadlines: the due dates for all assignments are included in the following section and on the course calendar. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive constructive feedback but will not count toward the course grade.
- Communication: All communication for the course as well as submission of all assignments will take place through email. Any correspondence (phone, text, handwritten note, etc.) other than email will not be accounted for.

## **Additional Expectations**

- Students are to demonstrate the professionalism expected of practicing music educators. Basic elements of professionalism include (1) consistent and punctual attendance, (2) professional conduct, communication, and presence, and (3) proper and timely completion of assignments. Assessment of professionalism will rely on students providing indicators of their understanding and valuing these elements: (1) records for class meetings and practicum attendance will indicate students' appreciation of consistent and punctual attendance; (2) observations of in-class and out-of-class interactions with students and professors (e.g., email) will indicate students' development of professional conduct, communication, and presence; and (3) Canvas submission records will indicate students' timely completion of assignment.
- The professionalism expectations are designed to prepare students for a career as a music teacher. In that position, it is never acceptable to unexpectedly miss a day of work or to arrive late to the start of their teaching duties. When teachers must miss work, they always provide their employer advanced notice. Therefore, the expectation is that students attend all class sessions and arrive on time. When students must miss a class session, they must notify the instructor of an absence prior to the beginning of class.

## **Assessment & Grading**

Assessment will take several forms depending on the activity. The specific scheme will be posted with the instruction for each assignment on Canvas.

All assignments are required, and there will be no opportunities to earn 'extra credit' in this course. All assignments are due on the date and time shown in the Canvas assignment. Assignments submitted past the deadline may receive constructive feedback but will not factor into the course grade. For the guidelines surrounding the daily transfers, see "Attendance & Punctuality" in Professionalism above. Failure to complete 0-point assignments will result in points deducted from the professionalism grade (see "Responsibility & Reliability" in Professionalism above).

Within the confines of healthy work-life balance, all assignments will receive feedback in a timely manner.

## Assignment/Assessment Descriptions

*Note: Details are in each Canvas assignment including the related course objective(s).*

- Conductor Observations – To allow the students to evaluate rehearsals processes including gesture work. (6 points each)
- Conductor Prep – To prepare students for gesture and/or rehearsal lab and podium times including a marked score submission. (varying points each)
- Daily Transfers – To describe an instance of transfer experienced since the previous conducting class session (1 point each)
- Extra Evidence – To show creativity in making transfers from course content to anything else. (10 points)
- Folk Song Arrangement – The arrangement will be used in Lab #2 to explore extended and mixed meters in addition to dynamics and cues. (5 points)
- Homework (category) – Readings and/or guided gesture work either in preparation for or in response to topics discussed in class. (varying points each)
- Introductory Questionnaire – Individual information used to personalize instruction (0 points)
- Playback – Each student receives additional feedback based on their identified areas for growth. (10 points each)
- Podcast – This is a creativity project aimed to help each student explore a story related to repertoire. (5 points)
- Podium Time Rep Selections – Each student ranks their selections of repertoire for the lab and podium times. (0 points each)
- Podium Times – The graded conducting times where they must successfully use what has been learned in the previous week or two. (10 points each)
- Professionalism – See above (0 points)
- Social Cues Exercise – To observe people in various spaces and log the situation and their responses to nonverbal communication (0 points)
- Warmups – Each student will warmup the class at least once during the semester according to the schedule. (0 points)

## Grading Criteria

- Daily Transfers = 39 points
- Homework = 5 points
- Podium Times = 50 points
- Conductor Prep = 85 points
- Playbacks = 30 points
- Conductor Observations = 12 points
- Miscellaneous Assignments = 20 points
- **Total = 241 points**

A = 90% and above  
B = 80–89%  
C = 70–79%  
D = 60–69%  
F = 59% and lower

## **Course Schedule**

\*All homework, assignments, and [repertoire](#) are on Canvas.\*

August 18 – Introduction

August 20 – Warmups, communication, basic patterns

August 22 – Score preparation, basic patterns

August 25 – Dynamics, cues

August 27 – Lab #1 (part 1)

August 29 – Lab #1 (part 2)

September 3 – Baton use, articulations

September 5 – Podium Time #1 (Basic Gestures)

September 8 – Diction, tempo changes

September 10 – Aural image

September 12 – Playback #1 (part 1)

September 15 – Fermatas, active/passive gestures

September 17 – Extended meters, advanced gestures

September 19 – Playback #1 (part 2)

September 22 – Lab #2 (part 1)

September 24 – Lab #2 (part 2)

September 26 – Optional Playback

September 29 – Polyphony, tempo

October 1 – Podium Time #2 (Advanced Gestures)

October 3 – Playback #2 (part 1)

October 6 – Seating, rehearsal strategy

October 8 – Feedback

October 10 – Playback #2 (part 2)

October 13 – Rules of Expressive Singing

October 15 – Rhythmic integrity, facial affect

October 17 – Playback #3 (part 1)

October 20 – Lab #3 (part 1)

October 22 – Lab #3 (part 2)

October 24 – Playback #3 (part 2)

October 27 – Make-up Day  
October 29 – Creativity  
October 31 – Podium Time #3 (Rehearsal) (part 1)  
  
November 3 – Podium Time #3 (Rehearsal) (part 2)  
November 5 – Cancelled  
November 7 – Cancelled  
  
November 10 – Make-up Day  
November 12 – Lab #4 (part 1)  
November 14 – Lab #4 (part 2)  
  
November 17 – Podium Time #4 (Story) (part 1)  
November 19 – Podium Time #4 (Story) (part 2)  
November 19 – Cancelled  
  
December 1 – Lab #5 (part 1)  
December 3 – Lab #5 (part 2)  
  
December 8 – Podium Time #5 & Extra Evidence (8am)

## **Important Links for Student Success**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)Links to an external site.

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>Links to an external site.

### **Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of ConductLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conductLinks to an external site.>

## **Access to Information – Eagle Connect**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.eduLinks to an external site.](#). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle ConnectLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/Links to an external site.](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/Links to an external site.)

## **ODA Statement**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODALinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.eduLinks to an external site.](http://disability.unt.eduLinks to an external site.) (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellnessLinks to an external site.>

## **Registration Information for Students**



See: [Registration Information](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>[Links to an external site.](#)

## **Academic Calendar, Fall 2025**

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>[Links to an external site.](#)

## **Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025**

See above

## **Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

### Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>[Links to an external site.](#)

### Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot

exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial AidLinks to an external site.](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>Links to an external site.

## **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPALinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>Links to an external site.

## **Counseling and Testing**

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and TestingLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>Links to an external site..

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health ResourcesLinks to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>Links to an external site.

## Add/Drop Policy

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>[Links to an external site.](#)

## Student Resources

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>[Links to an external site.](#)

## Care Team

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)[Links to an external site.](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>[Links to an external site.](#)