

The Modern Conductor: An Introduction to Wind and Chamber Conducting

Music 52.04: Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Brian Messier

Office Location: Hopkins Center for the Arts; room 53

Class Meetings: 3A*; Hartman Rehearsal Hall, Hopkins Center for the Arts

Course Description

This is a practical, movement based course. The conducting curriculum will focus on score study and physical movement, tested through conducting labs, practicums, and exams with live musicians. Students will have the opportunity to conduct the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble, the Hanover High School Band, and various chamber ensembles in rehearsal and/or performance.

Course Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- Develop and/or apply a baseline understanding of music theory that will allow them to access and study musical scores for a variety of instrumentations.
- Develop the physical coordination to effortlessly conduct various beat patterns at a variety of tempos and styles, allowing for specific and interpretive gestures reflecting musical intent.
- Rehearse and conduct a variety of ensembles in a variety of styles, including chamber and large ensembles.

Teaching Methods & Philosophy

While there will be periods of lecture for the presentation of information, whenever possible, the course will be hands-on and student driven. Students should be prepared to take notes at every class period. With notice, students will also be asked to present material, lead class discussions, and provide feedback to one another. Collective, but segmented and separately gradable projects, will be a large component of the course. There will be multiple opportunities for students to conduct and gain immediate feedback from live musicians.

Expectations & Norms

You will be expected to participate actively in group discussions, move (conducting) as a part of a group and individually, and be critiqued and adjusted by Dr. Messier (physical adjustment only with

permission of the student) in front of a class of your peers. Each class period will contain one or more of the following:

- Physical movement
- Musical study and discussion
- Special topic discussion

Class Climate & Inclusivity

This class is intended to have an attentive, respectful, yet casual atmosphere inclusive of all people and perspectives. Special topics may broach challenging subject matters such as sexism and racism, and while various viewpoints are valued, comments that are hurtful or derogatory towards others will not be tolerated. All members of the Dartmouth community are welcome.

Texts & Materials

Required Materials: (Provided online, but you are encouraged to purchase your own)

- Hunsberger, Donald., Roy. Ernst, and Allan. Schindler. *The Art of Conducting*. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1992. Print.
- Mozart, Wolfgang A, Daniel N. Leeson, Neal Zaslaw, and Wolfgang A. Mozart. *Serenade in Es* =: *Serenade in E-Flat Major, A6 Et A8, Kv 375*. , 2017. Musical score.
- Any means of audio/video-recording yourself (smartphones are fine)

Guided acquisition:

- Conducting Baton; do not purchase in advance.

Additional items:

- Additional texts may be posted electronically or put on reserve in the Library.

Assessment & Grading

- 30% Class Participation: Attendance, preparation, participation, homework and quizzes.
- 30% Conducting Practicums: Two practicums at 15% each
- 20% Midterm Exam: 10% written, 10% conducting
- 20% Final Exam: Conducting only

Dartmouth Policies

Student Accessibility and Accommodations

Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services for this course are encouraged to see me privately as early in the term as possible. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services

office in Carson Hall 125 or by phone: 646-9900 or email:
Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu.

Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to me. As a first step, if you have questions about whether you qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, you should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Religious Observances

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Course Schedule and Topics

Key Topics

- Conducting Practicum #1: DCWE Warm-Ups
- Conducting Practicum #2: Juventino Rosas, *Vals Carmen* OR von Josef Rudolf Sawerthal *Novara - Marsch*; Hanover High School Band Rehearsal
- Midterm Exam: Conducting - Mozart Serenade in E-Flat; Written - clefs, transposition, and terminology.
- Final Exam: Carlos Chavez *Xochipilli*; live performance and participation

*Meeting Time

This course takes place during the 3A class period. The x-hour will be used one or two times by appointment for completion of Practicum 1 and possible completion of your Final Exam. On Mondays, class will end by 5:00pm to facilitate the instructor's transition to DCWE rehearsal. However, there are three requirements of the course that take place outside of the scheduled class time:

- **Practicum 2: Hanover High School Band**
 - Students are required to lead one 10 minute practicum with the Hanover High School Band at Hanover High School during their Monday morning rehearsal period: 8:00 - 9:25am.
 - Students will have flexibility in scheduling this Practicum between weeks 5 and 9, however two students should not sign up to rehearse the same work on the same day. .
 - Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ba8ae2da3f85-practicum>
- **Final Exam: May 26th Performance**

- Students will conduct and rehearse Carlos Chavez's *Xochipilli* in class, participating as percussion performers when not conducting.
- Students will perform *Xochipilli* as members of the percussion section on Thursday, May 26 in Faulkner Auditorium as fulfillment of their practicum and as part of the opening concert for the Music Mexico Symposium.

Class Schedule

● Week 1:

○ **Monday, 3/28: 3:30pm - 4:45pm**

■ In Class

- Syllabus Overview
- Conducting Seminar: Hunsberger Chapter 1
- Baton Ordering: <http://www.glcustombatons.com/>
- DCWE Warm-Up Observation (optional)

■ Assignment

- Conducting: Hunsberger Chapter 1 (all exercises)
- Order Baton (needed by week 3)

○ **Wednesday, 3/30: 3:30pm - 5:20pm**

■ In Class

- Conducting Lab: Hunsberger Chapter 1
- Music Theory: Hunsberger Chapter 5 (clefs and transpositions)
- Introduction to Practicum 1: DCWE Warm-Ups
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084ba8ae2da3f85-practicum1>

■ Assignment

- Music Theory Worksheet: Clefs and Transpositions
- Reading: Battisti Introduction and Step 1
- Practicum 1.1 Preparation

● Week 2:

○ **Monday 4/4: 3:30pm - 5:00pm**

■ In Class

- Conducting Seminar:
 - Hunsberger Chapter 2
 - Reading Discussion: Battisti Introduction and Step 1

■ Assignment

- Conducting: Hunsberger Chapter 2 (all exercises)

○ **Wednesday 4/6: 3:30pm - 5:20pm**

■ In Class

- Conducting Lab: Hunsberger Chapter 2
 - Conducting Seminar:
 - How to mark a score
 - Practicum 2 Introduction: Hanover High School
 - Assignment
 - Practicum 2: Score study and marking
 - Reading: Walter: Pg. 80 - 94
- **Week 3:**
- **Monday 4/11: 3:30 - 5:00pm**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Seminar:
 - Hunsberger Chapter 3 (w/ batons)
 - Practicum 2: Score marking comparison and discussion
 - Assignment
 - Conducting: Hunsberger Chapter 3 (all exercises)
 - Practicum 2: Practice
 - **Wednesday 4/13: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab:
 - Hunsberger Chapter 3
 - Practicum 2 Score: Take 2 (Hanover High School)
 - Midterm Presentation: Mozart Eb Serenade
 - Music Theory Quiz: Clefs and Transpositions
 - Assignment:
 - Practicum #2: Score Study and marking
 - Midterm: Score study and marking
- **Week 4:**
- **Monday, 4/18: 3:30 - 5:20pm**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Seminar:
 - Hunsberger Chapter 4
 - Practicum #2 Score
 - Conduct through in class
 - Midterm: Mozart Eb Serenade
 - Assignment
 - Hunsberger Chapter 4 (all exercises)
 - Midterm: Mozart Eb Serenade

- **Wednesday 4/20: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab:
 - Practicum #2 w/ Piano
 - Midterm: Mozart Eb Serenade w/ Piano
 - Foreign Terms: Hunsberger Glossary
 - Assignment
 - Theory and Terminology: Hunsberger Chapter 5/Glossary
 - Clefs, Transpositions, and Terminology
 - Midterm Conducting: Mozart Eb Serenade
- **Week 5:**
 - **Monday, 4/25: 3:30 - 5:20pm**
 - In Class
 - Midterm: Written Exam
 - Clefs, Transpositions, and Terminology
 - Assignment
 - Midterm Conducting Practice
 - **Wednesday 4/27 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Midterm: Mozart Eb Serenade with wind musicians
- **Week 6:**
 - **Monday, 5/2: 3:30 - 4:45**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Seminar:
 - Hunsberger Chapter 6
 - Final Project: Chavez *Xochipilli*
 - Syllabus Overview - remainder of term
 - Assignment
 - Final: Score study and marking
 - Hunsberger Chapter 6 exercises
 - **Wednesday 5/4: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab:
 - Conducting Subdivisions (Hunsberger Ch. 6)
 - Conducting *Xochopilli*: Percussion only
 - Score discussion and comparisons, assignment of parts

- Assignment
 - Final Exam: Score study and marking
- **Week 7:**
 - **Monday, 5/9: 3:30 - 4:45**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab:
 - *Xochipilli* w/ piano and percussion
 - Assignment
 - *Xochipilli* prep
 - **Wednesday 5/11: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class:
 - Final: Chavez *Xochipilli* with wind musicians and percussion
- **Week 8**
 - **Monday, 5/16: 3:30 - 4:45**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Seminar:
 - Hunsberger Chapters 7 and 8
 - *Xochipilli*: Final Percussion only rehearsal (as time allows)
 - Assignment
 - Conducting
 - Hunsberger Chapter 7 (all exercises)
 - *Xochipilli*: Rehearsal Plans
 - **Wednesday 5/18: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab:
 - *Xochipilli*: w/ wind musicians and rehearsal plans
 - Assignment
 - *Xochipilli*
 - Hunsberger Chapter 7
- **Week 9**
 - **Monday, 5/23: 3:30 - 4:45**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab
 - Hunsberger Chapter 7 and 8 w/ piano
 - Assignment:
 - Conducting:

- Hunsberger Chapter 8 (all exercises)
 - *Xochipilli*
- **Wednesday 5/25: 3:30 - 5:20**
 - In Class
 - Conducting Lab
 - Dress Rehearsal: *Xochipilli* with wind musicians
- **Final Performance: Thursday, May 26**
 - 8:00pm Faulkner Recital Hall, *Xochipilli*
- **Week 10:**
 - **Monday, 5/30 (no class, Memorial Day)**
 - **Wednesday, 6/1: Final Gathering**
- **Final Exam:**
 - We will not meet during the final exam period designated for this course, however the following must be completed and turned in by the designated final exam period of Sunday, June 5, 11:30am.
 - Practicum 1 Video and Written Review
 - Practicum 2 Video and Written Review
 - Final Exam: Successful completion and participation in performance