

THE CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC
ELEMENTS OF CONDUCTING
CLASS SYLLABUS - FALL 2005
Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30-10:00 am, Studio I1J
Virginia Allen, Instructor
215-575-0495; virginiaallen@verizon.net

Course Outline. The Elements of Conducting is a one-semester course focusing on developing basic skills in all the important aspects of the conducting profession, including technique, score reading and analysis, principles of interpretation, rehearsal techniques, and orchestration from a conductor's point of view. The course will create conducting opportunities in an informal classroom setting.

Attendance Policy. You are required to attend all classes on time. Absences could affect your overall grade, and three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade, no exceptions. Please submit release requests in a timely manner. If you have a morning coaching which conflicts with class, it is your responsibility to let me know in advance.

Assignments. You will be prepared to conduct and discuss assigned repertoire and to complete any written assignments. *It will not be possible to make up conducting assignments that you miss.*

Instrumental Ensembles. For most of the classes, you will be your own ensemble. Thus, you will be prepared to perform assigned repertoire on your major or secondary instrument in class. Your classmates will depend on you to bring your instruments and to be on time. You will occasionally have the opportunity to conduct small ensembles of players from outside our class.

Evaluation. You will be evaluated at the conclusion of each conducting project. You will also be evaluated on any written assignments, as well as your participation and preparation throughout the semester.

Exams. The midterm exam on October 26 and final exam on December 14 are conducting exams with small ensembles.

Repertoire for Study in Class (excerpts).

- J.S. Bach Chorale (Boyd/Riemenschneider ed.)
- Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
- Beethoven Sextet, Op. 71
- Bartok Divertimento
- Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488
- Haydn Symphony No. 104
- Various musical examples and exercises (handouts)

Other Required Course Materials.

- ◆ Baton (14" recommended)
- ◆ Video tape
- ◆ Instrument

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FALL 2005 – WEEKLY SCHEDULE
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

9/7	Weds	Course description and objectives, intro to conducting
9/12	Mon	Basic legato beat patterns (2, 3, 4); prep beats, releases, fermatas
9/14	Weds	Conduct Bach Chorale
9/19	Mon	Patterns 1, 5, 6; active and passive gestures; transpositions
9/21	Weds	Tempos, phrasing, dynamics, cuing, left hand independence, strings
9/26	Mon	Score analysis: Mozart <i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>
9/28	Weds	Conduct Mozart <i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>
10/3	Mon	Conduct Mozart <i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>
10/6	Weds	Conduct Mozart <i>Eine Kleine Nachtmusik</i>
10/10	Mon	Winds and percussion; subdivision
10/12	Weds	Score analysis: Beethoven <i>Sextet</i>
10/17	Mon	Conduct Beethoven <i>Sextet</i>
10/19	Weds	Conduct Beethoven <i>Sextet</i>
10/24	Mon	Conduct Beethoven <i>Sextet</i>
10/26	Weds	MIDTERM EXAM - Beethoven <i>Sextet</i>
10/31	Mon	Multimeters
11/2	Weds	Score reading and analysis: Bartok <i>Divertimento</i>
11/7	Mon	Conduct Bartok <i>Divertimento</i>
11/9	Weds	Conduct Bartok <i>Divertimento</i>
11/14	Mon	Conduct Bartok <i>Divertimento</i>
11/16	Weds	Accompanying and score analysis: Mozart <i>Piano Concerto</i>
11/21	Mon	Conduct Mozart <i>Piano Concerto</i>
11/23	Weds	Conduct Mozart <i>Piano Concerto</i>
11/28	Mon	Score analysis: Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>
11/30	Weds	Conduct Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>
12/5	Mon	Conduct Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>
12/7	Weds	Conduct Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>
12/12	Mon	Conduct Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>
12/14	Weds	FINAL EXAM - Haydn <i>Symphony 104</i>