This is a proposal for a choral conducting track in the M.M. in Performance degree. See attachments for additional detail.

As it is structured, the current M.M. in Performance—Conducting does not adequately serve the needs of choral conducting majors. See attached memorandum for further explanation.

No additional resources are needed.
May 6, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: James F. Harris  
    Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Victor Korenman  
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Add a Choral Conducting Track to the Master of Music Degree  
          (PCC Log No. 03042)

At its meeting on May 6, 2004, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved your proposal to add a Choral Conducting track to the Master of Music Degree. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The change is effective in the Fall semester, 2004. The College should ensure that the new track is fully described in the next edition of the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

VK: sfm
Enclosure
Cc: Dr. Sylvester J. Gates, Chair, Senate PCC
    Dr. Mary Giles, University Senate
    Ms. Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Ms. Trudy Lindsay, Graduate Studies
    Dr. Charles Rutherford, College of Arts and Humanities
    Ms. Anne Turkos, Archives
    Dr. Linda Yokoi, Records & Registrations
Proposal for a Choral Conducting Track in the M.M. in Performance Degree.

Summary of Changes:

Under “Major studies in Music,” one semester of individual lessons in orchestral conducting replaces one semester of individual instruction in choral conducting.

Under “Studies in Areas Supportive of the Major,” two semesters of MUSC 659 Seminar in Choral Repertoire and Pedagogy (a course that integrates pedagogy and literature) replace one semester of MUSC 689 Advanced Conducting. MUSC 645 Seminar in Vocal is added to this portion of the curriculum. The number of music electives is reduced from 9 to 5-6 credits.

Requirements for academic courses under “Other Studies in Music” remain the same. Proficiencies in keyboard, voice and foreign language diction are added to the degree. Students will be required to participate in choral ensembles throughout the program (4 semesters). The total number hours required for the degree changes from 31 to 31-32.

Rationale:

Masters choral conducting majors have specific needs not addressed in the generic M.M. in Performance—Conducting track. Choral conductors must study orchestral conducting techniques to be able to direct the choral repertoire accompanied by orchestra. Proficiency in voice and studies in vocal pedagogy are essential for understanding the proper production of choral sound. In so far as conducting is a form of teaching, pedagogy and literature are best taught in an integrated seminar where students learn the specific conducting techniques for the music of each historical period. Choral conductors must demonstrate diction proficiency in European languages, since the majority of Western choral literature is sung in German, Italian, French, Spanish and English. A high level of musicianship, skill in reading musical scores, and the ability to harmonize extemporaneously at the keyboard are all essential tools for the choral conductor.

The proposed changes bring the M.M. degree in choral conducting into line with the recently revised D.M.A. in choral conducting.
Proposed requirements for the M.M. Degree in Performance — Choral Conducting

M.M. in Performance – Choral Conducting

Required program of study:

MAJOR STUDIES IN MUSIC (10 credits minimum)

_____ MUSP619U (Lessons—Choral Conducting) 2 cr.
_____ MUSP619U (Lessons—Choral Conducting) 2 cr.
_____ MUSP619U (Lessons—Orchestral Conducting) 2 cr.
_____ MUSP620U (Final Project) 4 cr.

STUDIES IN AREAS SUPPORTIVE OF THE MAJOR (12-13 credits minimum)

_____ MUSC659 (Seminar in Choral Repertoire and Pedagogy) 2 cr.
_____ MUSC659 (Seminar in Choral Repertoire and Pedagogy) 2 cr.
_____ MUSC645 (Seminar in Vocal Pedagogy) 3 cr.
_____ MUED/MUET/MUSC 4xx/6xx (Selected in Consultation w/Advisor) 3 cr.
_____ MUED/MUET/MUSC/MUSP 4xx/6xx (Selected in Consultation w/Advisor) 2-3 cr.

OTHER STUDIES IN MUSIC (9 credits minimum)

_____ MUSC 648 (Seminar in Music Research) 3 cr.
_____ MUSC 4xx/6xx (Theory/Analysis) 3 cr.
_____ MUSC 4xx/6xx/ (History/Lit.) 3 cr.

• Diction proficiencies—German, Italian, and one other of French or another language
• Keyboard proficiency—score reading and keyboard harmonization
• Voice proficiency—may be satisfied by examination or successful completion of two semesters of vocal study
• Participation in choral ensembles for 4 semesters

[Changes are noted in bold.]
Current requirements for the M.M. Degree in Performance — Conducting

M.M. in Performance — Conducting

Required program of study:

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