

ACDA National Conference 2017
Undergraduate Conducting Masterclass
Application Guidelines

The ACDA Undergraduate Conducting Masterclass is a new event for the 2017 National Conference and is offered in the spirit of featuring outstanding undergraduate conductors through an experience to strengthen and foster their artistic development.

The objectives of the ACDA Undergraduate Conducting Masterclass are three-fold:

- (1) To acknowledge and nurture outstanding undergraduate student conductors;
- (2) To encourage score preparation and advancement both conducting and rehearsal skills;
- and (3) To promote student activity at the ACDA National Convention.

Eight undergraduate conductors will be selected through 'blind' auditions to participate in the conducting masterclass during the open masterclass at the National Conference. Each will receive complimentary registration to attend the 2017 National Conference in Minnesota.

Selection Process

I. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A. Hold valid ACDA student membership. Membership application materials are available at www.acda.org.
- B. Be a full-time undergraduate student at a college or university in the United States at the time of application.
- C. Submit a complete application portfolio including the following materials:
 1. Application form (submitted electronically)
 2. Verification of video validity (See II-I below)
 3. Verification by a University official of the student's class standing and fulltime status (such as a letter from Registrar's office, an unofficial transcript, etc.)
 4. Audition video recording, uploaded to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>)
*URL for youtube video that DOES NOT include identifying information
(please do not include your name or the name of your institution in the URL)
 5. \$30 entry fee

II. Audition Preparation Guidelines

Applicants will prepare and upload to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) a video recording of an audition that meets the following criteria:

A. Ensemble Preparation

1. The applicant may select the choir.
2. The choir is to be fully familiar with the music to be presented on the video audition. The choir should **not be sightreading** during the audition session.
3. The choir is to be prepared by a conductor **other than the applicant**. Applicant is **not** to prepare the choir in advance of the taping, nor will the applicant have first-hand knowledge of the choir's work in rehearsal or performance on the audition literature.

B. Musical Parameters

1. Applicants will conduct two compositions for the ensemble in the video audition.
2. The compositions should be of contrasting tempi and style.
3. Selections may be unaccompanied or accompanied.
4. Excerpts of longer works may be selected.
5. Keyboard reductions may be used for orchestral accompaniments.

D. Video of Conducting and Rehearsal

1. The applicant should rehearse the choir in such a way as to focus on gestural communication, rehearsal technique, and the development of the musical product (in the same manner as a guest conductor in a festival setting).
2. The selection panel will place primary value on gestural communication, musicianship/listening, and rehearsal technique.

E. Camera Angle

1. The camera angle will show a full frontal view of the applicant and all conducting movements.
2. The choral sound and comments of the applicant must be clearly audible on the video recording.
3. The applicant will begin each selection by announcing the title and composer of the work to be presented.

F. Personal Identification

1. The applicant will **not** identify him/herself, nor the institution of higher learning in the recorded audition.

G. Audition Format and Duration

1. The video recorded selections will be presented consecutively without stopping the recording device between selections.
2. The video recording will not be edited in any manner.
3. The video recording will show the applicant conducting and rehearsing the choir for a minimum of **minimum of ten minutes and a maximum of twelve minutes.**
4. The time should be divided equally between the two selections.

H. Audition Submission

1. It is the responsibility of the applicant to upload the video audition to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>).
2. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the selection committee with the correct URL for accessing the video. (It is strongly suggested that the applicant cut and paste the URL directly from the browser into the application. The applicant should check the link personally for accuracy prior to submission of the application.) The link or channel should **not** include any information that would identify the applicant.
3. Applicants whose video auditions are not accessible to the committee will be disqualified.

I. Verification

1. The video recording will be monitored by two ACTIVE ACDA members (non-students) who will certify on the application form that:
 - a. the applicant has not previously rehearsed the music with the choir nor heard the choir rehearse or perform the music presented in the uploaded audition video, AND
 - b. the applicant meets all of the criteria specified in these guidelines.
2. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that she/he complies with the rules and regulations of the competition specified in these guidelines.

The completed application materials, verifications, all supporting documentation, and video upload to YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) must be completed no later than midnight on October 31, 2016. All application materials become the property of the American Choral Directors Association.

NOTE: An incomplete or inaccurate application will disqualify the applicant. Applicants are encouraged to upload their videos and complete the application process well before the deadline on October 31 since assistance may not be available after 5:00 PM. Issues encountered by the applicant during the submission process will not result in an extension of the stated deadline.

III. Audition Review Process

- A. The National Undergraduate Student Masterclass Committee, hereafter referred to as the "NUSM Committee," will appoint a review panel who will review all submissions with the goal of selecting a maximum of eight undergraduate students to participate in the masterclass.
- B. The review panel will place primary emphasis on gestural language, musicianship/listening, and rehearsal technique.
- C. Applicants for the ACDA Undergraduate Student Masterclass will be notified by email on or before December 30, 2016 of the student conductors selected to participate in the masterclass.

Convention Session

Each masterclass participant will be provided an equal amount of time to conduct and/or receive feedback from the clinician during the masterclass.

Disclaimer

No member of the NUSM committee, nor any judge, teller, or person connected with the selection of masterclass participants will be involved with any decision involving that person's student (over the past three years) who has applied or been selected as a participant in the ACDA Undergraduate Student Masterclass. The NUSM Committee is under no obligation to select participants for the masterclass if satisfactory candidates cannot be identified. All decisions made by the committee are final.