



Conservatory of Music and Dance

4949 Cherry ♦ Kansas City, MO ♦ 64110-2229 ♦ conservatory.umkc.edu ♦ 816-235-2900

Orchestral Conducting

APPLICATION/AUDITION PROCEDURES

APPLICATION

Before scheduling your audition, please [apply to the Conservatory](#). Details about audition and application procedures can be found [on our website here](#).

Applicants must upload the following to the Decision Desk application:

- A video of approximately 20 minutes of your conducting in performance or rehearsal. This video should be of your front and not shot from behind. It is permissible to include excerpts of different pieces or rehearsals to convey a wider range of styles but not required. Also on your recording, please include a small introduction of yourself and describe your goals in pursuing a conducting degree.

AUDITION

Orchestral conducting auditions are scheduled on an individual basis. To arrange an audition, please contact Conductor of Orchestras Dr. Robert Olson at olsonrh@umkc.edu or 816-235-5208.

The audition process for admission into the orchestral conducting program consists of four stages:

1) interview, 2) conducting, 3) aural skills test, and 4) general music history/terminology exam. The order of the stages is not pre-determined and can be flexible.

INTERVIEW

Candidates will be asked questions about the scores on their repertoire list, background, career goals, etc. "Teach-ability" will be assessed during this time as well.

CONDUCTING

The conducting audition will either be with a pianist or with orchestra, dependent upon your background.

Repertoire for the conducting audition is:

Beethoven:	Egmont Overture
Brahms:	Symphony #1, exposition of mvmts. I & IV

The audition will be approximately 20 minutes in length. Be prepared to demonstrate as effectively as possible:

- knowledge of score, including hearing and correcting "big" mistakes (e.g., don't change bowings, or if a musician makes an obvious mistake he/she most likely would not make again, skip it. If people are in the wrong place and don't know it, fix it).
- ability to communicate your desires to orchestra; successful interaction with orchestra
- musicianship
- technical facility

AURAL SKILLS

Exam will cover intervals, chord identification, harmonic progressions, and 4-part chorale dictation.

REPERTOIRE LIST

All candidates must present a repertoire list at the time of audition, if not before, including works performed and works studied. Candidates should be prepared to answer questions about a listed work during the audition. Substitutions may be made. The list is to serve as an approximate guideline as to the level of your repertoire background prior to admission:

Master of Music

Normally, the majority of the repertoire list would be works studied, and should include the equivalent of the following list:

1. 1 symphony of Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky
2. 2 Beethoven symphonies
3. 1 symphony of Schumann, Mendelssohn, or Schubert
4. 3 Classical/Romantic overtures or similar pieces
5. Minimum of 2 major orchestral works from the 20th century
6. 1 major concerto for the piano and 1 for violin, maximum 1 from Classical period or earlier

Doctor of Musical Arts

The list should include a much higher percentage of works performed:

1. 2 symphonies of Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky
2. 3 Beethoven symphonies
3. 1 symphony of Schubert or Mahler; and Schumann or Mendelssohn
4. 1 major work of Stravinsky, and Shostakovich or Prokofiev
5. 1 major work from Bartok or Strauss
6. 1 major work from French repertoire; 2 from Baroque period
7. 2 opera arias; one from Mozart with *accompagno recitativo*, the other from Puccini's *La Boheme* (or equivalent)
8. 4-6 other works, preferably from the 20th century, overtures, program works, tone poems, etc.
9. 3 concerti, maximum 1 from Classical period

Candidates will be notified of their status by April 1.