The Master of Music in Conducting

Refine your skills with individual mentorship from faculty and podium time with our esteemed Orchestra, Wind or Choral ensembles.

How to Apply
Applicants must apply and be admitted to the College of Graduate Studies at MTSU. Complete the application process online at https://mtsu.edu/graduate

Visit the program website at https://www.mtsu.edu/music/graduate.php

Dr. Chris Combest, Director
Graduate Program in Music
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The MTSU School of Music Graduate Program

Description

The Master of Music in Conducting is an advanced course of study for musicians who hold the bachelor’s degree and seek advanced instruction in choral or orchestral and wind ensemble conducting. The program features studies in literature, arrangement and interpretation with ensemble experience designed to maximize podium time. Students study with a distinguished faculty of experienced artists who mentor students towards an individual artistic voice and its expression in the direction of an ensemble. Graduate teaching assistantship opportunities are available to qualified students.

Program Structure

A common set of core courses provides students with comprehensive insights into the basic expectations, problems and methods of research in music. These courses introduce topics in Music History, Music Theory and Analysis. Courses for the specialization include private instruction as well as focused study on Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation. Addition coursework includes literature studies and free electives.

Core Studies (9 Credits)
- Bibliography and Research
- Music History & Analytical Techniques

Electives (3 Credits)
- Guided Elective in related field

Specialization Courses (15 Credits)
- Private Instruction
- Graduate Recital
- Conducting Problems and Score Interpretation
- Principles and Practices of Electronic Music
- Literature (Choral or Orch. and Wind Ensemble)
- Instrumental Rehearsal Problems/Choral Arranging
- Two Ensembles

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Large Ensembles

Bands: MTSU is the host to five band ensembles including the 350 person Band of Blue and the Wind Ensemble, the premiere, auditioned performing ensemble for wind, brass and percussion students at the university. More Band info at: https://www.mtsu.edu/bands/index.php

Orchestras: MTSU hosts three Orchestra ensembles, the Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra and the Concert Orchestra. The Chamber Orchestra is composed of the leading members of the Symphony Orchestra, and the Concert Orchestra offers the opportunity for all MTSU students, faculty and staff to enjoy participation in an orchestral ensemble. For More information on ensembles at MTSU see: https://www.mtsu.edu/music/pdf/ensemblebrochure.pdf

Conducting Faculty

Professor Raphael Bundage is the Director of Choral activities at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the former Chorus Master of the Nashville Opera Association and Nashville Symphony Chorus. He holds bachelor degrees from Texas Christian University and graduate degrees from the Eastman Conservatory of Music. Professor Carol Nies is director of the MTSU Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. She has served as conducting assistant for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and as associate conductor of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, guest conductor of the Rome Festival Orchestra and Opera. Professor Reed Thomas is the Director of Bands and Professor of Music and Conducting at Middle Tennessee State University. His responsibilities include conducting the Wind Ensemble and University Chamber Winds, teaching undergraduate courses in conducting and instrumental methods, graduate courses in conducting and wind and orchestral repertoire, and he guides all aspects of the MTSU band program.

Facilities

In addition to the excellent facilities at MTSU, including the School of Music and the James E. Walker Library (a four story, 250,000-square-foot building with over 1 million volumes and more than 33,000 periodicals).