

LEADING A REHEARSAL
COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ASSIGNMENTS
February 2009

This class will address elements of rehearsal, such as warm-ups, teaching new material, polishing, musicianship building, troubleshooting and modeling good technique. Candidates will learn about effective rehearsal structure, i.e. pacing, order, breaks, sectionals, announcements, etc.

Conducting skills, including clarity of beat, appropriateness of gesture and consistency of tempo, will be covered. Discussions will cover topics such as clear communications, creating a positive atmosphere, working with different levels of ability and score preparation.

PRECLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Write a very brief description of the ensemble(s) which you lead. Include whether vocal, instrumental, ages involved, style(s) of music, etc. This can be done as an outline or in paragraph form. Due by end of March, 2008.

Are there any specific questions/concerns which you would like addressed in this class? Due by end of March, 2008.

Each student should come to conference class prepared to lead some part of a rehearsal, i.e. warm-ups, teaching a new piece, polishing a piece, teaching good vocal techniques, music reading skills, etc. Please send me an e-mail (music@bruu.org) by June 1, with your first and second choices. I will let you know by mid July

which segment you will lead. There will be an accompanist; however, you may direct from the piano if that's what you do at your church. You will need to bring scores if applicable.

List one or two books or other sources in which you have found helpful information about rehearsal techniques. Please explain in no more than a paragraph why you like this resource. Due by the end of June, 2008.

All pre-class assignments should be sent to Annease Hastings at music@bruu.org. Please contact me if you have any questions.

POST-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. Video tape 2 different rehearsals (minimum 45 minutes) from the viewpoint of the choir. The first one is due by the end of October, and the second is due by **February 1, 2009 for class of 2006, end of February for all others**. Mailing addresses can be found below.
2. Write brief program notes (1-2 paragraphs each or outline form) for 3 pieces which your ensemble is doing this year, exemplifying different styles and genres. Notes should include information such as: historical and/or cultural context, biographical information on composer, stylistic or musical considerations, etc. Due by the end of November.
3. Observe 2 other conductors in a rehearsal setting (may include conductors at UUMN conference) and write a brief (2-3 paragraph) summary of your observations. Include what you thought worked or didn't and what you learned from this particular conductor, etc. Due by **January 15, 2009 for class of 2006, end of January for all others**.
4. Sponsor or someone from the candidate's church will distribute a questionnaire to ensemble members. The instructor will provide a copy of the questionnaire, both in paper and electronic form, to the person designated to distribute and collect this assessment. Completed forms are due by **March 1, 2009 for class of 2006, March 15 for all others**. We will discuss this one in our wrap-up session.

Any assignment may be submitted prior to the due date. Please include your name on all assignments.

For Annease Hastings's group, send all materials to:
Annease Hastings
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Manassas, VA 20110
music@bruu.org

For Beth Norton's group, send all materials to:
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