

Choir Conducting– Bachelor of Music

Foreign applicants are expected to have a **good command of the German language**, minimum B2 level.

The audition takes place in **several parts and two steps** in front of separate commissions. If one part is not passed, the audition is terminated.

It is possible to study Choir Conducting either with **main emphasis piano** or **main emphasis voice/singing** – therefore, there are different audition programmes with different requirements for each.

Candidates with main emphasis piano

1st step: attendance tests

Major subject choir conducting

Conducting of at least two choral movements (four-part or polyphonic) of different stylistic periods in different time signatures, including if possible a 20th century work, as well as conducting of a more dramatic excerpt from a choral symphonic work. (Duration approx. 15-20 minutes).

The first round of conducting examinations usually takes place with piano(s). Sufficient sheet music of all works must be brought (copies of scores and/or piano reductions). The program must be submitted in writing.

Coaching / piano reduction performance

1. performance of two scenes from choral- symphonic works or one opera scene and one scene from a choral- symphonic work with vocal presentation (marking) of the vocal parts (duration approx. 10-15 minutes). The programme should not only contain arias or monophonic passages, but also ensemble sections or choral passages. The level of difficulty of the selected works should be based on previous knowledge. It is recommended to perform two stylistically different works, for example excerpts from choral- symphonic work by Bach, Haydn, Mendelssohn- Bartholdy oder Brahms or excerpts from operas by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Lortzing, Weber oder Wagner. The programme must be submitted in writing.
2. sight-reading test: unprepared sight-reading of some excerpts from piano scores of choral symphonic works or musical theater works selected by the examination committee. The candidates should show that they are able to quickly grasp essential musical content of the music presented to them and to present it in a musically meaningful way on the piano.

Main emphasis piano

The preparation of four representative works of the piano literature is expected:

- One polyphonic work of the Baroque period (e.g. J. S. Bach: Well-Tempered Clavier, English or French Suites, Partitas).
- A classical sonata (complete)
- A work of Romanticism or Impressionism
- One work of the 20th or 21st century

The examination committee selects single parts from the prepared programme. The performance does not have to be by heart. The programme must be submitted in writing. In addition, a list of the works studied in piano lessons during the last two years must be submitted. A copy of the 20th or 21st century piece must be brought along for the examination committee.

Singing / Speaking

Performance of a self-chosen song. This is followed by a comprehensive test of the singing and speaking voice and a sight-singing test.

Piano accompanists are available for the song at the qualifying examination. The sheet music for the piano accompaniment must be sent in four weeks before the attendance test.

2nd step: attendance test (only after passing 1st step)

Major subject choir conducting

Rehearsal with an vocal ensemble (duration approx. 10–20 minutes).

The work to be rehearsed will be communicated approx. three weeks before the examination.

Candidates with main emphasis voice/ singing

1st step: attendance tests

Major subject choir conducting

Conducting of at least two choral movements (four-part or polyphonic) of different stylistic periods in different time signatures, including if possible a 20th century work, as well as conducting of a more dramatic excerpt from a choral symphonic work. (Duration approx. 15-20 minutes).

The first round of conducting examinations usually takes place with piano(s). Sufficient sheet music of all works must be brought (copies of scores and/or piano reductions). The program must be submitted in writing.

Coaching / piano reduction performance

1. Performance of an excerpt from a choral symphonic work or from a musical theater work with vocal presentation (marking) of the vocal parts (duration approx. 10 minutes). This excerpt should contain mainly ensemble or choral passages. The level of difficulty of the selected work should be based on previous knowledge. Recommended are, for example, excerpts from choral symphonic works by Bach, Haydn, Mendelssohn Bartholdy or Brahms or excerpts from operas by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Lortzing, Weber or Wagner. The programme must be submitted in writing.
2. sight-reading test: unprepared sight-reading of some excerpts from piano scores of choral symphonic works or musical theater works selected by the examination committee. The candidates should show that they are able to quickly grasp essential musical content of the music presented to them and to present it in a musically meaningful way on the piano.

Main emphasis voice/ singing

Presentation of the following works:

- two self-selected songs from different style epochs
- an aria from a choral symphonic work or an opera
- one song a cappella
- two short spoken texts

The exam also includes a comprehensive test of the singing and speaking voice, as well as a sight-singing test.

Piano accompanists are available for the two songs and the aria during the qualifying examination.

The scores for the piano accompaniment must be submitted at least four weeks before the entrance examination.

piano

The preparation of four representative works of the piano literature is expected:

- One polyphonic work of the Baroque period
- A classical sonata (complete)
- A work of Romanticism or Impressionism

The examination committee selects single parts from the prepared programme. The performance does not have to be by heart. The programme must be submitted in writing. In addition, a list of the works studied in piano lessons during the last two years must be submitted.

2nd step: attendance test (only after passing 1st step)

Major subject choir conducting

Rehearsal with an vocal ensemble (duration approx. 10-20 minutes).

The work to be rehearsed will be communicated approx. three weeks before the examination.