

Orchestral 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 Orchestral Conducting either with **main emphasis piano** or **main emphasis orchestra instrument** – therefore, there are different audition programmes with different requirements for each.

Candidates with main emphasis piano

1st. Step: attendance tests

Major subject orchestral conducting

The first round of the conducting examination usually takes place with piano(s).

Conducting of three pieces:

- Beethoven: 1st or 2nd Symphony (complete in each case)
- Weber: Freischütz Overture
- Stravinsky: from "Soldier's tale" No. 1 "Marche du Soldat"

Coaching / piano reduction performance

1. performance of two opera scenes 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 examination committee attaches great importance to a musically convincing, rhythmically stable performance. The programme must be submitted in writing. 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 operas by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Lortzing, Weber or Wagner or excerpts from choral symphonic works by Bach, Haydn, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy or Brahms.
2. sight-reading test. Unprepared sight-reading of simple excerpts from piano scores of music theatre works or choral symphonic works selected by the examination committee. The candidates should show that they are able to quickly grasp the essential musical content of the music presented to them and to present it in a musically meaningful way on the piano.

Special requirements of the proficiency test

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

Main subject orchestral conducting

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

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

Candidates with main emphasis orchestra instrument

1st. Step: attendance tests

Major subject orchestral conducting

The first round of the conducting examination usually takes place with piano(s).

Conducting of three pieces:

- Beethoven: 1st or 2nd Symphony (complete in each case)
- Weber: Freischütz Overture
- Stravinsky: from "Soldier's tale" No. 1 "Marche du Soldat"
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Coaching / piano reduction playing

Sight-reading test. Unprepared sight-reading of some easy excerpts from music theatre works selected by the examination committee. Candidates should show that they are able to perform essential musical content from simple piano scores on the piano.

Orchestral instrument

The examination in the chosen main instrument takes place in front of a commission with the participation of the relevant department. The examination requirements correspond approximately to the level of difficulty of an entrance examination for the main subject in the respective instrument. It is recommended to contact the respective institute to discuss the repertoire to be played.

Piano

Performance of two stylistically different works (duration approx. 10 minutes).

Singing / Speaking

Performance of a self-selected 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 available four weeks before the attendance test.

2nd step: attendance test

Main subject orchestral conducting

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

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