

## **2024 ACDA Southern Region Student Conducting Masterclass Audition Guidelines and Application Information**

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- 1) Applicants must possess a valid ACDA student membership both at the time of submitting their application and throughout the conference. Applicants will need to provide their membership number through the application portal. If applicants need to join or renew their memberships, they can do so at [[www.acda.org](http://www.acda.org)].
- 2) Applicants must be enrolled as full-time students at a college or university at the time of application. To verify their status as registered students, applicants are required to submit documentation, such as a letter from the Registrar's office or an unofficial transcript, as part of their application portfolio.
- 3) Applicants must record an audition video following the guidelines provided on the ACDA Southern website [[www.acdasouthern.org](http://www.acdasouthern.org)] and subsequently upload it to YouTube. Please ensure that neither the video's title nor the channel identifies the applicant or the affiliated school.
- 4) Applicants must submit all application material through the Submittable platform by the application deadline.

### **Audition Preparation Guidelines**

- 1) Musical Parameters
  - Applicants will conduct and/or rehearse two compositions for chorus in contrasting styles and tempi.
  - Applicants should consult with their conducting mentor to decide which compositions to include in their audition.
  - Selections may be unaccompanied or accompanied. Keyboard reductions may be used for orchestral accompaniments.
  - Excerpts of multi-movement works may be selected.
- 2) Video Conducting (Performance and Rehearsal)
  - In the first segment, applicants will lead a live ensemble through one of their selected pieces without interruption, relying solely on their conducting gesture to convey their musical interpretation. Think of this as an in-rehearsal performance of the work.
  - In the second segment, applicants will lead a rehearsal on their second selected piece, focusing on gestural communication, rehearsal techniques, and verbal communication. The goal is to enhance the development of the musical product, similar to the role of a guest conductor in a festival setting.
- 3) Camera Angle
  - The camera angle will show a full-frontal view of the applicant and all conducting movements.
  - The choral sound and the comments of the applicant must be clearly audible on the video recording.
- 4) Personal Identification
  - Applicants will not identify themselves or the institution of higher learning in the recorded audition. Please remove any signs or posters that could identify the applicant or their school.

## 5) Audition Format and Duration

- Applicants will begin each selection by announcing the title and composer of the work to be presented.
- The video-recorded audition should be presented continuously without any interruptions in recording.
- The video recording must not be edited in any way.
- The video should feature the applicant conducting and rehearsing the choir for a duration ranging from a minimum of eight minutes to a maximum of twelve minutes. This includes the uninterrupted performance of one piece.

## Audition Submission

- 1) It is the responsibility of the applicant to upload their materials to the Submittable platform. The link to the Submittable application can be accessed at [acdasouthern.org].
- 2) It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the selection committee with the correct URL for accessing the video. It is strongly suggested that the applicant cut and paste the URL directly from the browser into the application.
- 3) Videos must be anonymous and submitted as "unlisted." A video with the applicant's name in the title or in the YouTube channel name will be disqualified.
- 4) Applicants whose video auditions are not accessible to the committee will be disqualified.
- 5) An incomplete or erroneous application will disqualify the applicant.

## Application Deadline

- 1) The application materials are due no later than **11:59 pm (CST) on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.**
- 2) The committee suggests uploading your application materials a day or two before the deadline in case you encounter any unexpected technical issues.

## Audition Evaluation Process

- 1) The masterclass committee will select an external review panel from outside the Southern Region. This panel's responsibility is to assess all submissions with the aim of choosing a maximum of six students (comprising three undergraduate conductors and three graduate conductors) for participation in the masterclass.
- 2) The review panel will assess each conductor primarily based on the following criteria: musical interpretation, technical proficiency, communication and leadership skills, and rehearsal technique.

## Notification and Masterclass Repertoire

- 1) Applicants chosen to participate in the conducting masterclass will be notified by email on or before Friday, December 15, 2023.
- 2) The repertoire for the masterclass will be selected by the masterclass clinician, in consultation with the masterclass committee, and emailed to the selected masterclass participants by December 31, 2023.
- 3) It is the responsibility the accepted applicants to acquire the selected compositions at their own expense.

## Conference Session

- 1) Each masterclass participant will receive equal time to conduct the masterclass demonstration choir and receive feedback from the masterclass clinician.

## Disclaimers

- 1) ACDA is not responsible for any expenses incurred by conductors chosen to take part in the 2024 Southern Region Student Conducting Masterclass.
- 2) No member of the masterclass committee, or any individual associated with the selection of participants, can participate in any decisions related to their own students (within the past three years) who have applied for the ACDA student conducting masterclass. All judgments made by the audition adjudicators are considered final.

## Application Checklist

- 1) I have recorded myself conducting/rehearsing two choral works of contrasting styles during a live rehearsal.
- 2) The video provides a full-frontal view of myself.
- 3) All verbal instructions to the choir are clearly audible in the video.
- 4) The choir's sound is neither too loud nor too soft to be heard effectively.
- 5) I have either clearly announced each selection before rehearsing it or included the titles in the video.
- 6) The total length of my video falls within the range of 8 to 12 minutes and includes a performance of one selection.
- 7) My identity is not revealed in the video, and my name does not appear in the video title or the YouTube channel to which it is uploaded.
- 8) I have verified the accuracy of the URL for my YouTube video.
- 9) My YouTube video is set to "unlisted," not "private" or "public."
- 10) I have successfully submitted my application, including all necessary documents and the video link, via the Submittable platform, in accordance with the designated deadline of **11:59 pm (CST) on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.**

For questions, please email Dr. Jabarie Glass, ACDA Southern Region Conducting Masterclass Coordinator, at [jabarie.glass@sc.edu](mailto:jabarie.glass@sc.edu).