

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY | SCHWOB SCHOOL OF MUSIC GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

Ianthe Onelia Marini, DMA

The Paul S. and Jean R. Amos Distinguished Chair for Choral Activities

Director of Choral Activities

Assistant Professor of Music

Schwob School of Music | Columbus State University

Columbus, Georgia

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<http://www.ianthemarini.org>

Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music offers a Master of Music Performance degree in Choral Conducting. The program is a two-year commitment, designed to prepare conductors in effective musical leadership at the academic or professional level. It is expected that the applicant will have had prior experience as a conductor.

Requirements are listed below:

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. Completed application for admission.
3. Transcripts of all prior work.
4. Command of advanced conducting techniques beyond the training level.
5. Familiarity with a significant portion of choral and choral/orchestral repertoire.
6. If invited, completion of a live audition with the CSU University Singers and/or the Choral Union.

Financial Assistance

Graduate Assistantship Award includes full In-State or Out-of-State tuition waiver plus a modest monthly stipend for the two years of degree program.

Application:

Apply to Columbus State University Graduate School and School of Music
https://music.columbusstate.edu/admissions/how_apply.php

Submit separate application/audition materials to Dr. Ianthe Marini

marini_ianthe@columbusstate.edu by December 1st of the Academic Year. Please include ALL information in ONE email:

1. 2 Public or private YouTube video links of twenty minutes each of conducting (front view): One of rehearsal, and one of performance. Please choose videos that you feel best show your abilities to rehearse efficiently and communicate effectively.
2. Your philosophical statement on Conducting/Teaching/Artistic Direction
3. Two-page paper demonstrating your musical insight and analysis of ONE of the following works: Brahms' *Requiem* Movement 1, Mozart's *Requiem* Movement 1, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (movement of your choice), or Handel's *Messiah* Part II.
4. Three letters of recommendation, emailed directly from the recommender to Dr. Ianthe Marini marini_ianthe@columbusstate.edu. Recommenders will NOT be prompted by the University to submit electronically, so please provide them with the email address above.
5. Resume/Curriculum Vitae

6. Works Conducted List

7. Short essay stating your goals of Graduate Work, the reasons you chose to continue your education, and what draws you to complete an MM at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University.

If invited, audition will consist of an interview with Dr. Marini and select members of the Vocal/Music Education faculty, score analysis, conducting a rehearsal with a choral ensemble at CSU, and a conversation Dr. Marini.

If admitted, Graduate Assistants will:

- Receive ample podium time with the choral ensembles at Columbus State University
- Receive individualized attention from Dr. Marini in the areas of:
 - Score Study and Score Interpretation
 - Choral Pedagogy and Rehearsal Techniques
 - Choral Repertoire Seminar (from Medieval to Current Day)
 - Conducting: the gesture and the ways in which it communicates score interpretation
 - Acting Techniques for the Conductor and Singer
 - Communication in and out of the rehearsal setting
 - Each MM student receives a weekly 90 minute private lesson in Conducting
 - Programming: developing your own philosophy and carrying it through effectively

Knowledge of the humanities, including art, history, languages, philosophy, poetry, and other disciplines is integral to the effectiveness of a Conductor. This program is cross-cultural, cross-curricular, and aims to actualize the potential of each student as a composite ARTIST.

OBJECTIVES for the MM in Choral Conducting at Columbus State University:

This program is designed to offer you exposure to repertoire, understanding of historical performance practices and the reasoning behind them, the ability to study and interpret scores, and the development of gestural and verbal vocabulary to relay those interpretations to a live ensemble. This program is also designed to help students hone their strengths and develop their weaknesses in the fields of theory, history, choral pedagogy, body movement, and inter/intrapersonal communication both on and off the podium.

Graduate students will gain the ability to make well-founded musical opinions based on the study of historical context, harmonic language, and score study/interpretation. Graduate students will also gain the knowledge necessary to become free in their artistic leadership. Graduate students will not be asked to “do as I do” or to copy gestures, motions, or language used by me. Instead, they will be taught in a way that encourages and helps them find their own gestural and verbal artistry and vocabulary.

In this program, conductors will develop the ability to take artistic risks, to find the core of their artistry, and to communicate text and music in a fully realized and honest way.

DR. MARINI'S STATEMENT ON ARTISTIC CHORAL CREATION:

I believe that the purpose of art is to offer understanding, empathy, and healing to its creators and observers alike. Artists unmask themselves in order to facilitate and allow their audience members to do the same. A successful actor is one who can embody her character so fully that the audience does not see an actor on stage, but the journey of a human being. I believe that great choral singing can have the capacity to do the same thing. Acting is not an imitation or a reproduction of an emotion. It is a process of doing and experiencing that results naturally in an emotional response. It is a false conceptualization of acting that people put on masks to become a character. Rather, acting is a taking off of masks to reveal the character, and the character, at its core, comes from within. As communicative artists, our objective is to offer empathy and understanding, and our vehicle is Choral Music. -Ianthe Marini

Please Contact:

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