

GRADUATE MUSIC

MASTER OF CHURCH MUSIC

The Master of Church Music degree began in 1992 as an outgrowth of Concordia's organ program. Prior to 1992, a significant number of organ students were non-traditional students and had earned bachelor's degrees and wished to pursue a master's degree. In addition, these students wished to continue in their current employment and could only pursue studies in the evening and during the summer. Our current program meets the needs of these students, namely an opportunity to further their knowledge and skills in all aspects of church music with evening and summer instruction culminating after 30 credit hours and examinations in the Master of Church Music degree. In 1992 two emphasis areas were introduced: the Choral Emphasis and the Organ Emphasis. In 1997, the faculty approved a partnership between Concordia and Handbell Exploration International of Sellersville, PA, to establish a new Handbell Emphasis area to the curriculum. With the combined resources of Concordia and Handbell Exploration, three intensive graduate courses in handbells began in the summer of 1999, and students can work toward a Master of Church Music degree having handbells as their principal instrument.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHURCH MUSIC DEGREE

For all students:

- Demonstrate knowledge of liturgical church music practices, musical forms, and the song of the church.
- Demonstrate the knowledge of music theory, and facility in arranging and composing.
- Demonstrate appropriate choral conducting techniques.
- Acquire the knowledge and skill to play and direct handbells.
- Possess knowledge on a specific church music topic.
- Demonstrate the ability to work with people.

For Organ Emphasis:

- Improve organ technique for use in service playing or recital.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the literature for the organ and of the styles of organ building.

For Choral Emphasis:

- Improve vocal technique for use in choral directing.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the literature for the choir.

For Handbell Emphasis:

- Improve all ringing techniques for use in performance, conducting, and composition of handbells.
- Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be a successful handbell choir director.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE IN ADDITION TO ADMISSION TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

1. To gain degree seeking status in the Master of Church Music (regular) a student must:

A. Successfully pass the following:

1. Qualifying audition with performance of two contrasting works on organ or voice (not required for Handbell Emphasis students);
2. MUS 541 Graduate Theory Review course;
3. Written examination in General Music History.

B. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for the last two years (or last 48 credit hours) of undergraduate work. Candidacy status: To achieve candidacy status for the Master of Church Music degree the student must have successfully completed 24 hours of course work in the degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better and passed the Qualifying Audition, Theory and History examinations. All students must have achieved candidacy status before registering for MUS 591 Practicum or MUS 599 Recital/Concert.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Only three semester hours of transfer credit may be accepted from a nationally accredited graduate school.

Only courses with a grade of A or B will be accepted for transfer credit. All transfer credits must be certified by the Registrar and approved for the degree program by the Director of the program. All transfer credits should fall within a seven year time limit for the degree. Exceptions must be approved by the Director of the program.

RECITAL OR CONCERT

Organ Emphasis

A recital or service of sacred organ music is required for the Master of Church Music (Organ Emphasis) degree. Students must have passed all portions of the qualifying audition and candidacy status. This recital/concert will be a minimum of 60 minutes in length, with appropriate repertoire chosen by the student and instructor and approved by the department. The intent of the recital or service is to demonstrate the heightened skills acquired through the course of study in organ and church music.

Recital dates can be selected by the student and the instructor based on the school calendar, but final approval must be given by the Music Department Chair.

In addition to playing the recital, the student is to research the selections, write a paper which presents the findings and provide brief program notes for the recital/concert. The paper is to be properly documented and presented to the music faculty at least three weeks prior to the recital/concert. It is to be present the historical facts and insights into the composition and composer which will be used in the interpretation of the music. The department may suggest revisions to this document before granting final approval and acceptance of the paper. A copy of the finished and approved paper will be catalogued and placed into the holdings of the university library.

Choral Emphasis

A concert or service of sacred music is required for the Master of Church Music (Choral Emphasis) degree. Students must have passed all portions of the qualifying audition and have candidacy status. This concert or service will be a minimum of 60 minutes in length, with appropriate repertoire chosen by the student and instructor and approved by the department. The intent of the concert or service is to demonstrate the heightened skills acquired through the course of study in conducting, church music, and/or singing.

Concert or service dates can be selected by the student and the instructor based on the school calendar, but final approval must be given by the Music Department Chair.

In addition to directing the concert or service, the student is to research the selections, write a paper which presents the findings, and provide brief program notes for the concert/service. This paper is to

be properly documented and presented to the music faculty at least three weeks prior to the concert/service. It is to present the historical facts and insights into the composition and composer which will be used in the interpretation of the music. The department may suggest revisions to this document before granting final approval and acceptance of the paper. A copy of the finished and approved paper will be catalogued and placed into the holdings of the university library.

Handbell Emphasis

A concert or service of sacred handbell music is required for the Master of Church Music (Handbell Emphasis) degree. Students must have passed all four handbell courses (MUS 585, 586, 546, and 686), passed MUS 541 Graduate Theory Review, and passed the written examination in General Music History. This concert or service will be a minimum of 60 minutes in length, with appropriate repertoire chosen by the student and instructor and approved by the department. The intent of the concert or service is to demonstrate the heightened skills acquired through the course of study in the conducting, composition, and performance of handbells.

Concert or service dates can be selected by the student and the instructor based on the school calendar, but final approval must be given by the Music Department Chair.

In addition to directing the concert or service, the student is to research and analyze the selections, write a paper which presents the findings, and provide brief program notes for the concert/service. This paper is to be properly documented and presented to the music faculty at least three weeks prior to the concert/service. It serves to present the historical facts and insights into the composition and composer which will be used in the interpretation of the music.

The department may suggest revisions to this document before granting final approval and acceptance of the paper.

A copy of the finished and approved paper will be catalogued and placed into the holdings of the university library.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive examination is given at the end of the student's course of study. It is designed to bring together all aspects of the student's study and experiences into one culminating activity of two parts, a written and oral examination. Students must have achieved candidacy status and completed the recital/concert/service before attempting the comprehensive examination.

After the student has thoroughly prepared and completed all courses for the degree, a committee of music faculty will be selected. That committee will consist of two instructors of the student's choosing and the Head of the Master of Church Music program. It is the student's responsibility to secure the consent of each instructor to serve on his/her committee and to coordinate the meeting of this group. A three-hour time period will be scheduled where the student can take the written portion of the examination. Each committee member will present questions from church music in general or from their area of expertise in particular which can be completed in a one-hour period.

The written examination will be graded and after a reasonable amount of time, an oral examination will be scheduled through the Music Department Office where the student and the instructors can meet and the student can complete and /or extend the answers given in the written examination. If at the end of the Oral Examination, the student's answers are not satisfactory, the committee members may request a portion of the examination be retaken.

THE CURRICULUM (36 credits)

ORGAN EMPHASIS

MUS 551 Advanced Choral Conducting

3 Cr.

MUS 585 Handbell Methods and Materials	3 Cr.
MUS 565 Survey of Christian Hymnody	3 Cr.
MUS 569 Issues in Church Music	3 Cr.
MUS 571 Musical Heritage of the Church	3 Cr.
MUS 541 Graduate Theory Review	3 Cr.
MUS 545 Composing and Arranging	3 Cr.
MUS 521 Applied Organ	min. 6 Cr.
MUS 522 Organ Literature	3 Cr.
MUS 591 Practicum	3 Cr.
MUS 599 Recital or Service (document)	3 Cr.

Comprehensive Exams (Written and Oral)

CHORAL EMPHASIS

MUS 585 Handbell Methods and Materials	3 Cr.
MUS 565 The Hymn as Literature	3 Cr.
MUS 569 Issues in Church Music	3 Cr.
MUS 571 Musical Heritage of the Church	3 Cr.
MUS 541 Graduate Theory Review	3 Cr.
MUS 545 Composing and Arranging	3 Cr.
MUS 551 Advanced Choral Conducting	6 Cr.
MUS 511 Applied Voice	3 Cr.
MUS 591 Practicum	3 Cr.
MUS 599 Choral Concert/Service (document)	3 Cr.

Comprehensive Exams (Written and Oral)

HANDBELL EMPHASIS

MUS 551 Advanced Choral Conducting	3 Cr.
MUS 565 Survey of Christian Hymnody	3 Cr.
MUS 569 Issues in Church Music	3 Cr.
MUS 571 Musical Heritage of the Church	3 Cr.
MUS 541 Graduate Theory Review	3 Cr.
MUS 545 Composing and Arranging	3 Cr.
MUS 585 Handbell Methods and Materials	3 Cr.
MUS 586 Conducting Handbells	3 Cr.
MUS 546 Composing for Handbells	3 Cr.
MUS 586 Handbell Performance	3 Cr.
MUS 591 Practicum	3 Cr.
MUS 599 Recital or Service (Document)	3 Cr.

Comprehensive Exams (Written and Oral)