

## Conducting Level 1 Test-Out Process

Conducting Level 1 examines the basic components of conducting, execution of metrical patterns and the means by which to communicate all the musical indicators contained in the score in a clear, concise and understandable manner. Repertoire range: Level 2- 3.

**If you have not conducted before, consider taking a basic conducting class before you undertake this process. Another option would be to ask a conductor who you wish to emulate to provide private conducting lessons.**

In order to successfully pass this course as part of the certification curriculum, students must be able to:

1. Demonstrate correct posture and stance
2. Demonstrate clear cut-offs
3. Demonstrate baton selection and technique
4. Conduct common meter patterns as well as mixed meters (including all common patterns in four, three, two and 6/8)
5. Demonstrate a clear preparatory beat
6. Demonstrate the ability to conduct music beginning on various beats
7. Demonstrate a steady/consistent beat/pulse
8. Demonstrate dynamic changes with the use of the conducting and non-conducting hands
9. Identify basic elements of score study (i.e. form, rhythm, melody)
10. Research background of the musical selection and share your interpretation of the same
11. Demonstrate the ability to recognize incorrect or missing notes and various techniques
12. Demonstrate how to conduct musical and stylistic elements (i.e. ritardando, fermata, cuing, legato and staccato)
13. Demonstrate verbal and non-verbal communication skills
  - a. non-verbal skills include:
    - i. Facial expressions
    - ii. Body movement
    - iii. Gestures
    - iv. Eye contact
    - v. Posture
    - vi. Tone of voice
14. Demonstrate the ability to memorize sections of the repertoire

To apply for Conducting 1 certification test-out, you will need to select 2 pieces of contrasting style that will allow you to demonstrate ALL of the items listed above in four videos that you will submit:

1. One of the two selections must be completely memorized and performed in a performance or worship setting. That selection should be accompanied by an additional video introducing the piece and providing a brief background about the piece, including form and structure. These two videos combined should be 5-7 minutes.
2. The other selection must be recorded during a rehearsal setting that includes performer/conductor interaction. The rehearsal should be towards the end of your work to prepare the piece for performance. That selection should be accompanied by an additional video introducing the piece and providing a brief background about the piece, including form and structure. These two videos combined should be 5-7 minutes.

In addition, you must:

3. Submit a short paragraph for each selection that addresses the form and character of the selection.
4. Submit a fifth video discussing the following two subjects: (sample of 5-7 minutes)
  - a. Share your conducting experience (years of conducting experience, musical degrees or conducting classes, name and types of groups directed)
  - b. Discuss how your conducting has impacted a musical group
5. Provide two references (see below for required information) regarding your conducting experience. These individuals should not be family members. They could be someone who has observed you directing, instructed you, or a musician/ringer who has rehearsed or performed with you directing.
6. Participate in a phone/skype interview with the Conducting Master Teacher(s).

Videos must be recorded so that you are facing the camera straight on and are shown from head to toe. The video should be uploaded to YouTube as an “unlisted” video. The link to the video should be sent to Sharon Schmidt, the Handbell Musician Certification Program Coordinator, at [certification@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:certification@handbellmusicians.org).

The attached candidate information sheet, paragraphs and references should also be sent to Sharon Schmidt, the Handbell Musician Certification Program Coordinator, at [certification@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:certification@handbellmusicians.org).

Required information for references:

Reference Full Name:

Reference Email:

Reference day phone number:

Reference evening phone number:

**Conducting Level 1 Test-Out Candidate Information**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name  |  |
| Handbell Musicians of America Member Number |  |
| Mailing Address                             |  |
| City  |  |
| State                                       |  |
| Zip Code                                    |  |
| Phone – Day                                 |  |
| Phone - Evening                             |  |
| E-mail                                      |  |