



Point Loma Nazarene University Music Department
 School of Humanities, Arts, and Public Engagement

SPRING 2026

Beginning Conducting: MUA2012

2 UNITS

Meeting days: MW	Instructor title and name: Dr. Keith Pedersen
Meeting times: 1:30-2:25	Phone: 619-849-2202
Meeting location: Cooper 116	E-mail: KeithPedersen@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Friday, May 8, 1:30-4:00pm	Office location: Cooper 217 Office hours: MWF 8:45-9:45, TTH 12:30-1:20
This is a Face-to-Face, skills-focused class.	<p>Essential materials for every F2F class: 1) pencil, 2) notebook, 3) 3) Video Recording Device, 4) class textbook, 5) baton (12-14 inch) <i>Please mute and store cell phones during class unless used for video recording.</i></p> <p>Essential platforms for ALL course work: Canvas, Chrome, Google, Word, (<i>not Pages!</i>), Excel</p> <p>If you do not have the necessary technology (e.g. a laptop or access to reliable internet), please email student-tech-request@pointloma.edu for assistance. Also be sure to check the Knowledge Base site for discounted hardware and software. <i>You must log in to this page once you are there.</i></p>

PLNU MISSION

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

POSITION OF COURSE IN COLLEGE CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUA2012 is a basic conducting course for all music majors. It is an introduction to basic conducting techniques, such as score reading, metric patterns, cues and cutoffs. Letter grade.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

- A. To provide a foundation in conducting that will be demonstrated through daily conducting projects.
- B. To explore various conducting techniques with various meters, dynamics, and tempo. Their proficiency will be demonstrated through their signature assignment will be a comprehensive conducting final demonstrating the implementation of varied music meters, tempos, dynamics, cut-offs, and cueing techniques. Other learning outcomes will include, but not be limited to:
 - proper posture

- appropriate use of the baton
 - correct hand position and conducting planes
 - expressive use of both hands
 - selected beat patterns and mixed meters
 - professional stage presence
 - a variety of articulations including legato, marcato, staccato, etc.
- C. Evidence of the student’s proficiency will be available through video archives.
- D. To cultivate a positive learning environment that reflects Christian values outlined in Galatians 5:22-23, while maintaining academic rigor in the pursuit of excellence.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 2-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Required Text: *Basic Techniques of Conducting* Kenneth Phillips ISBN0-19-509937-0

METHODS USED IN THE COURSE:

- A. Read textbook and other supplements as assigned by the instructor.
- B. Prepare oral and written assignments.
- C. Each student will have the opportunity to conduct the class and get feedback from the professor and classmates
- D. A personal video recording device will provide immediate feedback to each student
- E. Practicing conducting techniques outside of class (**20-30 minutes of practice/day**)
- F. Conducting in-class assignments
- G. Preparing oral and written assignments
- H. Various class activities

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

GRADING Your final grade will be assigned in the following manner:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 59 or less
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

- A. Various projects will be assigned to students for a grade.
- B. Students will have various conducting assignments that will include score study, transposition, clefs, leadership, posture, arms/hands, baton, ictus, articulation, accents, conducting varied meters, fermata, breath marks, dynamics, subdivision, and cues.
- C. All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the instructor during the first two weeks of class and provide approved documentation and verification of need. The Academic Support Center is available to students for a variety of tutorial needs.
- D. **Tests:** There will be regular quizzes, conducting tests, and a final examination.

E. Final grade will be determined by the following:

- **65%: Conducting Videos and Reports:** must be accompanied by report to receive credit. You will use your video to complete a written reflection, including a detailed analysis, and the collection of a positive and negative critique from a peer. Conducting assignments completed without a reflection will be given an “F.” (lowest score including missed assignments will be dropped)
- **10%: Assignments** (lowest score including missed assignments will be dropped)
- **25%: Final Conducting Assignment:** the Final Conducting Assignment is considered to be the “signature assignment” and is an in-class comprehensive conducting session. The assignment, consisting of multiple music excerpts, provides the opportunity for you to demonstrate a range of conducting skills and techniques (such as various meters, cueing, dynamics, and tempi) with a live ensemble.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Students are expected to complete assignments by the projected date. No late work will be accepted, and no make-up tests will be allowed. If students are unable to be at an oral presentation, they will need to contact their professor 30 days prior to their absence. At the end of the semester, the lowest conducting project and assignment grades will be deducted from your total score.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR DISABILITY:

If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class or at my office.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

A students can expect to receive one full grade lower for every two unexcused absences. Excused absences might include activities that have been endorsed by the provost and up to two absences due to sickness. A student will be dropped with an “F” grade after four unexcused absences. An absence will be considered unexcused if the students does not notify the professor before the missed class occurs.

In additions, the PLNU attendance policy states:

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent [including classes missed because of

late additions] the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

UNAUTHORIZED CELL PHONE USE

A student's final grade will receive a 2% deduction for EACH unauthorized use of a cell phone.

INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY

Students may call or e-mail the Dr. Pedersen for a private conference. I also have an open-door policy: in other words, if you drop by my office and I am available, please knock and come in.

SPIRITUAL GOALS

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc.) is prohibited in this course for any aspect of your work, including idea generation, drafting, editing, or final submissions. This course is designed to assess your independent critical thinking, writing, and research skills without the assistance of AI technologies. Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic

adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses. If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

STATE AUTHORIZATIONS

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

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PLNU RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

LANGUAGE AND BELONGING

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based

on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

LOMA WRITING CENTER

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>

Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>

LOMABOOKS INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)

MUA 2012 BEGINNING CONDUCTING

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, DISCUSSION & ASSIGNMENTS:

(This schedule is subject to revision as necessary; you are responsible for any announced changes.)

DATE	READING/TOPIC/ASSIGNMENTS
1. M-1/12	Class Introduction; Expectations, Policies, & Syllabus; Zander presentation: Lesson 1, pp. 1-5.
2. W-1/14	Posture, Position, Prep Gesture: Lesson 2, pp. 6-23.
3. W-1/21	The 4 Pattern; Elements of the Pattern; Internal and Final Releases: Lesson 3, pp. 24-37.
4. M-1/26	The 4 Pattern; Varying the Articulation; Tempo Terminology: Lesson 4, pp. 38-44. Quiz #1
5. W-1/28	Videotaping #1; Lesson 5, pp. 45-48; Chester, p. 32. Quiz #2
6. M-2/2	The 3 Pattern; The 2 Pattern; The Daily Dozen: Dyn. Terminology: Lesson 6, pp. 49-62.
7. W-2/4	Selecting a Baton; Dynamic Changes: Lesson 7, pp. 63-66. Baton Grip; Character Terminology: Lesson 8, pp. 67-72.
8. M-2/9	Videotaping #2: Lesson 9, pp. 73-74; My Country 'Tis of Thee, p. 55; Ode to Joy, p. 57. Quiz #3
9. W-2/11	The 1 Pattern; Midterm prep; Release on 1; Articulation Terms: Lesson 10, pp. 77-91.
10. M-2/16	Release on Beat Two; Entrance on a Pick-up; Mid-term prep: Lesson 11, pp. 92-104. Quiz #4
11. W-2/18	Videotaping #3: Lesson 12, pp. 105-108. Sing We and Chant It, p. 81; Chorale "St. Anthoni", p.87.
12. M-2/23	Videotaping #4: Lesson 13, pp. 10-112. Erlaube mir, p. 9, Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts, p. 99.
13. W-2/25	?Midterm Conducting Exam, Part 1: Lesson 14, pp. 113-116. Quiz #5
14. M-3/2	?Midterm Conducting Exam, Part 2: Lesson 15, pp. 117-118.
15. W-3/4	Functions of the Left Hand; the Circle Drill: Lesson 16, pp. 119-134.
	MARCH 9-13: SPRING BREAK
16. M-3/16	Left Hand Sustaining Gestures; Coordinating the Two Hands: Lesson 17, pp. 135-146.
17. W-3/18	Left Hand Strengthening Techniques; Repeat Markings: Lesson 18, pp. 147-150. Quiz #6
18. M-3/23	Videotaping #5; Lesson 19, pp. 151-154. Quiz #7
19. W-3/25	Subdivision; Cues; Alto and Tenor Clefs: Lesson 20, pp. 155-166.
20. M-3/30	Composer's Intent; Listener's Response: Lesson 21, pp. 167-169. Quiz #8 Entrances on Incomplete Beats; Transpositions: C and B-flat: Lesson 22, pp. 170-174.
21. W-4/1	Videotaping #6: Lesson 23, pp. 175-178. Quiz #9
22. W-4/8	Fermatas; Compound Meters (6, 9, 12); Trans.: F, E-flat, A: Lesson 24, pp. 179-192.
23. M-4/13	Asymmetric Meters: Counting in 5 and 7; Changing Meters: Lesson 25, pp. 193-196. Quiz #10
24. W-4/15	Videotaping #7: Lesson 26, pp. 197-200.
25. M-4/20	Accents; Tempo Alterations; Cues: Lesson 27, pp. 201-214.
26. W-4/22	Conducting Synthesis 1: Lesson 28, pp. 215-217.
27. M-4/27	Conducting Synthesis 2: Lesson 29, pp. 218-226.
28. W-4/29	Videotaping #8: Lesson 30, pp. 227-230.