

Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting (DMA)  
University of South Florida  
College of Visual and Performing Arts – School of Music

500 word narrative to accompany New Graduate Degree Program Approval Form

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A Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree in Choral Conducting at the University of South Florida (Tampa) would offer a graduate/doctoral degree program that is consistent with degree offerings at our national peer institutions, our aspirational peer institutions as well as a strong majority of the top 62 universities (AAU) in the United States and Canada. The DMA degree in Choral Conducting is currently not offered within the State University System of Florida nor is it listed in the current State University System Strategic Plan. The proposed DMA degree is designed to prepare graduate students to perform at the highest standards as professional and academic musicians while equipping them with the teaching and research skills appropriate for appointments at university music departments and conservatories, high schools and churches in the United States and abroad.

The Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting is proposed in support of and will strengthen the institutional vision, mission and values outlined in the University of South Florida Strategic Plan – *Shaping Our Future, 2007-12, Transforming Higher Education for Global Innovation*.

The Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting at the University of South Florida will serve as a focal point to intensify and sustain an artistic global agenda for USF. The vision statement of the 2007-2012 University of South Florida Strategic Plan centers on USF being “a pre-eminent research university with state, national and global impact.” This global agenda by the USF choral faculty is evident by their involvement in international music academies and festivals and arts organizations. In 2008, USF will be the sponsoring institution of the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria.

The mission statement of the 2007-2012 University of South Florida Strategic Plan projects USF “as Florida’s leading metropolitan research university dedicated to excellence in promoting civic culture and the arts, scholarly and artistic engagement, university and community partnerships and collaborations.” Professors (W. Wiedrich, A. Summer, L. Gackle, R. Summer and R. Zielinski) from the USF College of Visual and Performing Arts School of Music are intensely engaged in community partnerships and collaboration with area Arts organizations (Tampa Youth Symphony, Tampa Bay Children’s Choir, Gulf Coast Youth Choirs, and Master Chorale of Tampa Bay).

The values outlined in the 2007-2012 University of South Florida Strategic Plan are supported by the proposed Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting. Specifically, “access to world-class, globally relevant and affordable education” are elements that would be enhanced by USF offering a DMA degree in Choral Conducting. The global agenda by the USF music faculty is evident by the Study Abroad Courses in Music currently being offered to all USF students and their activities, partnerships and residency at international music academies and music festivals.

The proposed DMA degree in Choral Conducting will: produce more graduate students at the doctoral/graduate two level; increase the graduate enrollment and the number of doctoral degrees awarded each year; enhance the graduate profile of our institution as we strive to become a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU).