# MU266 Basic Conducting – Conducting Sessions Review Form

Conductor: Kate Zimmerman Date of session: November 17, 2010

Work conducted: Psalm 42 “Freu dich sehr” (Bach) Date of review: November 18, 2010

1. Major strengths in the session:
* Fermati release and continuation into next phrase
* Character change in line “But with zeal…”
* Ritard in last line
1. Major areas that need attention:
* Reacting more to what the ensemble is doing; not focusing so much on what I am doing, but at the same time, focus more on what I’m doing to change the sound to what I want to achieve! I need to listen and respond with my gesture. I hear the issues, but don’t always think fast enough to change them!
* My facial expression was appropriate, but I think that it could be more expressive. I always think that I am doing more than what I see on tape!
1. Musical considerations i.e. appropriateness of tempo, character etc:
* I did start the chorale a bit fast, but slowed the tempo down after it was suggested to me. I think that the second tempo was more appropriate. I did use dynamics and tempo appropriately, especially the ritard at the end. I followed the text and used that as my character and dynamic choices.
1. Conducting technique:
	1. Posture: tall, appropriate, I did not move around as much as I used to – I was working on rotating from the hips rather than leaning or moving my feet
	2. Affect display-facial expression, eye contact: could be more – again, I always feel like I am doing more! Eye contact was good, however. I did not look down!
	3. Clarity of non-verbal message sending: As usual, when talking about what I want, my hands naturally show it! Once I let go of the nerves of getting everything right the first time, I am able to show the character and mood more through my gesture.
	4. Effect of conducting on tone and rhythmic quality: At first, the ensemble was chopping the notes. I wanted a more legato, yet still accented and deliberate attack. Once I changed my gesture, they responded right away!
2. Specific skills to refine for next session:

I will practice more facial expression, perhaps more expression in my eyes. I will also work on changing my gesture while they are singing, instead of waiting for the second run-through!

1. Biggest improvements/general comments:

I think that conducting is so much fun! Each time I get up, I learn something else about being in front of an ensemble. I was nervous about the fermati at first because I thought that one wrong flick of my wrist would ruin everything! But, I practiced diligently, and it paid off!