

# MASTER OF SACRED MUSIC ONLINE (M.S.M.)

## Program Overview

This online Sacred Music program offers an education of the highest quality and broadest scope to those musicians who aspire to be leaders of their time and place. An interdenominational program, it seeks to train church musicians to a high level of competency in the traditional ways of making sacred music while also striving to engage students in new ways of achieving liturgical excellence and spiritual depth in practices that respond to the various cultural forces that continue to transform the ways in which worship is accomplished in the 21st-century.

In order to meet the needs of those musicians who may not find it feasible or expeditious to matriculate in the on-campus program offered during the academic year, this pedagogy-based track is delivered entirely online. While still broad and comprehensive in its curricular design, it offers students a chance to focus on the practical side of making music in a church setting.

## Degree Offered

- Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.)

## Contact

### Margaret Cusack, M.M.T.

Professor and Chairperson  
Department of Performance Studies  
Westminster Choir College  
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**Program Website:** Sacred Music (<http://www.rider.edu/wcc/graduate-programs/sacred-music/>)

**Associated Department:** Department of Performance Studies

## Related Programs

- Master of Music: Choral Conducting (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-certificates/mm-choral-conducting/>)
- Master of Music: Sacred Music (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-certificates/mm-sacred-music/>)

## Faculty

**Tom T. Shelton, Jr.** • Associate Professor and Chairperson, Sacred Music, 2012. B.M., M.M., University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Vinroy Brown** • Adjunct Instructor, Sacred Music, 2017. B.M., Westminster Choir College of Rider University; M.A., Regent University.

**Steve Pilkington** • Associate Professor, Sacred Music, and Director of Chapel, 1992. B.A., St. Olaf College; M.M., University of Illinois; Ph.D., Drew University.

**Gillian Erlenborn** • Adjunct Instructor, Sacred Music, 2018. B.M., M.A.T., Westminster Choir College.

## Master of Sacred Music Online

(31 credits)

Learn more about General Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.rider.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/>).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Major Area</b>		
SM 523	Choral Music for Adults	1
SM 610	Foundations of Music Ministry	2
SM 630	Sacred Music Capstone	1
SM 631	Worship Planning/21st Cent.	3
SM 710	Panorama of Sacred Music	3
SM 722	Theology, Liturgy & Worship	3
<b>Core Courses</b>		
MH 731	Intro to Musicology	3
	Theory or Music History elective	3
	Core Elective <sup>1</sup>	3
CR 524	Vocal Techniques for Choirs	3
CR 621	Choral Conducting I (OR Conducting Intensive Workshop - one week OR Choral Institute at Oxford (student must be accepted to conduct, not audit))	3
CR 625	Choral Pedagogy	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>31</b>

<sup>1</sup> The core elective must be a single, 3-credit graduate-level course outside the student's major area of emphasis, and or area of applied study.

## Courses and Descriptions

### SM 523 Choral Music for Adults 1 Credits

This course is designed to acquaint the church choral director with repertoire suitable for use with adult choirs and adult ensembles. Representative repertoire from all periods of music will be discussed and analyzed. Rehearsal techniques will be incorporated regarding introducing the repertoire, skill-building development, and warm-ups. Focus will be on repertoire that can be used during special services throughout the liturgical church year.

### SM 610 Foundations of Music Ministry 2 Credits

This graduate level course surveys the vocational needs, professional relationships, administrative styles, and teaching roles of the practicing church musician. In addition to an overview of professional standards, emphasis will also be placed on music engraving skills (music notation software), budgeting, recruitment, endowments and fundraising.

### SM 630 Sacred Music Capstone 1 Credits

Independent research leading to a completed capstone project, such as a pedagogical publication or presentation, development of an original or unique method of instruction, instructional materials, etc. The project must be approved by the department.

### SM 631 Worship Planning/21st Cent. 3 Credits

Designed to facilitate the planning of worship, this practical course will be an immersion in the musical and theological materials available to those who create worship.

**SM 710 Panorama of Sacred Music 3 Credits**

This graduate-level course is a one-semester survey of those masterworks and significant musical movements that have shaped the evolution of Western Sacred Music. Beginning with the Old Testament, this course will move through all eras, highlighting important composers and liturgical trends, placing them in their appropriate cultural and theological contexts.

**SM 722 Theology, Liturgy & Worship 3 Credits**

A detailed study of the Bible. Principal thematic and narrative elements are correlated to the development of the church's historic liturgies and the theological principles behind them.

**MH 731 Intro to Musicology 3 Credits**

Introduction to the basic tools of research in historical musicology in order to foster: (1) an awareness of the nature and scope of historical musicology as a scholarly discipline; (2) familiarity with the techniques of musicological research; (3) an understanding of the relationship between musicological research and performance practice; and (4) experience in the application of musicological techniques to specific musical works and issues. It is strongly recommended that this course be taken at the outset of graduate study. Required for all Master of Music candidates.

**CR 524 Vocal Techniques for Choirs 3 Credits**

Study of vocal techniques appropriate for use in choral rehearsals and for teaching class voice. Techniques for effecting change in group vocal productions are discussed, including such topics as the identification of group vocal problems and mental and physical preparation of a group for good vocal production. Techniques to be developed include (1) how to communicate information about vocal technique to amateur singers, (2) exercises used to develop choral sound by improving diction, dynamics, legato, staccato, martellato, high and low registers, resonance, vowel modification, etc., (3) how to train singers to use a vocal production specifically appropriate to the repertoire of various style periods and the demands of individual composers, and (4) conducting methods for good choral and vocal training. Recommended both for conducting majors and for students in other major programs, including those for whom the voice is not the primary performance medium.

**CR 621 Choral Conducting I 3 Credits**

A study of conducting to develop technique through facial expression, breathing, alignment and gesture. Emphasis is placed on developing and refining a process of score study. This course will assist conductors in evaluating their conducting and preparing them to make conducting decisions based upon score study.

**CR 625 Choral Pedagogy 3 Credits**

This online course reorganizes the components of choral rehearsal technique to reflect a harmonic approach to rehearsing, teaching, and learning. It is designed to emphasize the importance of teaching audiation and rehearsing choirs within a harmonic context.