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MUS-G374

9 October 2020

### Video Reflection 1

After reviewing my videos from conducting class so far this semester, I noticed several of my tendencies, and I have a clearer view of my progress and areas to improve as a conductor. In general, my strengths are in areas of clarity and confidence, while my areas to focus on have to deal with contrast.

In all of my videos so far, my greatest strength continues to be the impulse of will. Whether the class was reading a score for the first time or the fourth, my healthy confidence at the podium translated into a visual product and a noticeably strong and present sound in the ensemble. My patterns are generally slightly ahead of the ensemble, giving the musicians enough time to react to my gestures, but not so early that we aren't playing together. In close relation to impulse of will, by basic or "textbook" conducting patterns tend to be clear and consistent. Particularly in my video from September 29, my four- and five-based patterns during the bridge of my arrangement are clear, consistent, and easy to read. There seems to be a nice balance of beat clarity and demonstration of the style and articulation. Working in tandem with a clear pattern and healthy confidence, my rehearsal pacing and comments to the ensemble are generally effective and concise. In all of my videos, there was a productive balance between playing time and instructional speaking.

Contrasting with these areas of strength, I definitely have room to improve when it comes to contrast in its various forms. Primarily, the size and location of my conducting pattern tends to

stay in a somewhat confined box. There are certainly times that I move my pattern to a higher, lighter position, especially in my September 24 video during the chorale section of my arrangement. However, I can certainly do more to back away and get smaller with my pattern when the music calls for it. I can also explore other options than just giving every beat in the baton for the duration of a piece. This improvement would make my bigger, louder settings more effective by comparison. Along related lines, I can also be more creative with my left hand gestures. I tend to mirror rather often, and as I watched my videos, more often than I thought I did. This aspect has improved week-to-week, with the October 6 video being my best demonstration of independent left hand technique. Another area I can work to improve is in eye contact at strategic moments. In general, I am making eye contact with my musicians, but it is often a bit later than it needs to be in order to be most effective, and I found myself looking down at my score during some transitions or important moments especially in my earlier videos. Improvement in strategic eye contact will come with knowing the score as best I can, and should couple well with my confidence at the podium.