

DCP SAMPLE TEST
SKILL AREA 1
CONDUCTING SKILLS

HOW TO PREPARE FOR SKILL AREA 1 EVALUATION

You may find it helpful to make a videotape and critique yourself prior to the official evaluation, using the checklist below. An audiotape of your chorus made while you are directing could also help you to determine if a steady tempo is being maintained and if the chorus is responding appropriately to your direction of attacks and releases. In addition, it may be helpful to watch your own directing in a mirror while playing an audiotape of your chorus. DCP Resource Module 1 includes some basic conducting information and a sample videotape.

For your evaluation in Skill Area 1 you will be videotaped or observed conducting a chorus. The evaluator will analyze your ability to demonstrate the following things:

Understanding of ictus through appropriate breaths and downbeats

Ability to keep a steady tempo in an uptune

Rubato technique appropriate to the interpretation of a ballad

Ability to indicate attacks and releases clearly

Congruency between mouth posture and hand motions

Body posture appropriate for good singing

Avoidance of body posture distractions

Maintenance of eye contact with the performing unit

Facial posture appropriate for expressive singing

Ability to communicate dynamics effectively