Michael Loughran Music 266 Dr. Kiver December 11, 2010

## Final Conducting Comparison

After viewing my final conducting and comparing it to my first conducting I have to say that overall I am really pleased with my progress this semester. I still need to work on keeping a lot of my gesture smaller and in a condensed space. Once I achieve this I also need to make sure that I can keep the level of musicality that I have when I conduct bigger within the smaller space. I think that within each of my conducting sessions I have really visible musical intentions I just am conducting too much and really need to focus on just conducing a little less. Some of my biggest improvements were technical improvements, such as non-conducting hand use and prep beats; however, these are areas that still need attention. One aspect I am proud of in this final conducting was my musicality. Even though some of my gestures were still a little too big I really was focusing on letting the music speak and allowing a more organic conducting experience. After looking at the video there were some errors, but it was the first time I let myself just go and become apart of the music and I was really proud of myself for this.

This is not just a conducting class, I have learned so much more than conducting, which I am grateful for. In regards to musicianship I feel that I finally understand transposition and feel so much more comfortable with it than I did last year, as well as with sight singing and singing in general. Even more than that I feel that conducting has really helped me tap into being musical by looking at phrasing, harmony, and musical peaks. By conducting and doing the listening journals I have been able to truly understand these concepts better and will now be able to effectively apply them to my solo playing and teaching.