

Avenue C

MULB 1820.502/5174.524

Spring 2026



INSTRUCTOR: Liz Townsend

EMAIL: liztownsend@my.unt.edu

PHONE: (315) 491-3441

OFFICE: Bain 219

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

OBJECTIVES

- Develop technical proficiency within the context of a vocal jazz ensemble and beyond
- Expand stylistic knowledge of the many sub-genres within the vocal jazz idiom
- Understand and appreciate the rich and varied traditions of the vocal jazz ensemble
- Cultivate skills of professionalism needed to sustain a career in music
- Contribute positively towards a supportive music-making environment

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Arrive ON TIME, warmed up, and prepared with music and a pencil
 - All students are expected to arrive 5-10 minutes before the start of rehearsal time in order to be set up and ready to make music when rehearsal begins
- Practice outside of scheduled rehearsals to master individual parts
 - After initial rehearsal on any given piece, note-plunking will not occur during rehearsal time. It is the responsibility of the student to come to rehearsals with their part learned
- Rehearse with patience, persistence, kindness, and respect for yourself and others
- Be present, focused, and prepared for all rehearsals and performances
- Leave personal problems and concerns at the door when you enter rehearsal
- Actively mark music with pencil throughout each rehearsal. All notes given by director and/or section leaders MUST be marked in your music
- Perform at your highest level at each rehearsal and performance
- Vocalists - Audiate your music while director is working with other sections
- Keep phones/tablets/smart watches/etc. in “do not disturb” mode during rehearsals
- Participate in the set up/tear down of the sound system
- Maintain and use all ensemble equipment responsibly, including audio equipment, instruments, sheet music, and folders (there is a \$40 replacement fee for lost or damaged folders)

STUDENTS CAN EXPECT THE DIRECTOR TO:

- Be prepared to lead productive rehearsals
- Communicate directly and honestly with passion and compassion for each individual
- Be a facilitator of a positive ensemble environment
- Hold all students to a high musical and personal standard
- Give fair and reasonable assignments
- Make time to listen to concerns or comments on anything related to the ensemble at a mutually agreed-upon appointment time

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be weighed accordingly:

- Attendance/Preparedness: 70% (see attendance policy below)
- Assignments: 20%
- Teamwork/Attitude: 10%
- Require Concert Attendance*

*All undergraduate jazz majors in a jazz lab band are required to attend a select series of Jazz Studies concerts each semester. Each unexcused absence from a required Jazz Studies concert will result in a half-letter grade deduction from your Lab Band [Avenue C] grade.

Late work:

- 1-2 days late = 10% reduction
- 3-7 days late = 20% reduction
- 8+ days late = no credit

Grading scale:

- A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=0-59%

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In an ensemble like this one, 100% attendance is expected unless you are seriously ill or have an emergency.

- Unexcused absences are not permitted. The first unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your grade by half a letter grade. Any subsequent unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your grade by a full letter grade.
- If you must be absent, please EMAIL the director 48 HOURS PRIOR to the missed rehearsal for it to be an excused absence.
 - When you are absent, it is your responsibility to arrange to have someone in your section record rehearsal so you can catch up and be prepared to return
- In the case of an emergency absence/tardiness, please text the director at (315) 491-3441. All other written communication with director should take place via UNT email
- All performances and the retreat dates are mandatory
- Tardiness is unacceptable. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence
- Rhythm Section: let the director know ASAP if you must miss a rehearsal. if you are to miss a rehearsal, you must provide a sub for the rehearsal who is equal or above your playing level. You must also make sure that sub has your music folder.

REQUIRED DATES & PERFORMANCES

Times are subject to change - keep your schedule open these days. Please write these dates into your calendar as they are mandatory; attending these dates is part of your grade.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday, March 21** 5:00 - 9:30 PM	Eric Ladish Recital **Tentative	Voertman
Tuesday, March 24 7:00 - 11:30 PM	All Vocal Jazz Ensembles @ The Syndicate	The Syndicate Student Union
Wednesday, April 1 5:00 - 10:00 PM	Avenue C Spring Concert (8:00 Concert)	Lab West
Friday, April 10 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Set @ The Syndicate (11:00 load-in, 12:00 music)	The Syndicate Student Union

REQUIRED CONCERTS FOR JAZZ MAJORS

- Nick Finzer Faculty Recital - Monday, February 2 at 8:00 PM - Lab West
- Gomez Artist Concert w/ guest Benny Green - Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 PM - Voertman
- Jazz Strings - Monday, April 6 at 8:00 PM - Voertman
- Two and Three O'Clock Lab Band - Monday, April 13 at 8:00 PM - Voertman
- One O'Clock Lab Band w/ guest Chuck Owen - Monday, April 20 at 8:00 PM - Voertman

& ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND CONCERTS

- Jazz Singers w/ guest Christie Dashiell - Friday, April 17 at 8:00 PM - Voertman
- Latin Jazz Lab, Afro Cuban & Brazilian Ens. - Saturday, April 25 at 6:30 PM - Voertman

RESOURCES & POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy - <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>
Dean of Students - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>
Access to Information (Eagle Connect) - eagleconnect.unt.edu
Office of Disability Access - disability.unt.edu
Diversity and Belonging - <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>
Registration Information for Students - <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>
Academic Calendar Fall 2025 - <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>
Health and Safety Information - <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>
Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress, undergrad - <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>
Retention of Student Records - <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>
Counseling and Testing - <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>
Mental Health Resources - <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>
Add/Drop Policy - <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>
Student Resources - <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>
Care Team - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>