

# Commercial Music Lab

## MULB 1819 – MULB 5174

### also known as Zebras

### Fall 2025

Meets in MU262, 2-3.50p, Tuesday and Thursday  
Instructor: Federico Llach / [federico.llach@unt.edu](mailto:federico.llach@unt.edu)

#### Course Description:

The Commercial Music Lab is also known as Zebras, and it is UNT's premier ensemble for Contemporary Popular Music. The repertoire typically emphasizes modern popular music with roots in R&B as well as other adjacent popular song-based musical styles.

Students in the band are given the guidance and opportunity to write their own arrangements. Oftentimes, the Zebras act as a vehicle to connect existing practices in the College of Music, such as Songwriting, Production and Music for Media, by becoming the performance outlet or recording session players for songs, compositions and arrangements by students beyond the ensemble.

#### Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Utilize their musical experience and critical thinking to apply performance concepts to contemporary popular music repertoire by executing parts with creativity and precision.
2. Increase their command of contemporary rehearsal and recording practices by practicing reading skills, improvisation skills, and ensemble musicianship in a popular music setting.
3. Apply concepts of composition, orchestration and musical direction by creating their own songs and arrangements or providing interpretation suggestions for their own musical parts and parts of others.
4. Articulate constructive criticism on the performance of their classmates and receive feedback from others on their own performance

## Required Materials

All students are required to bring a pencil and their Commercial Music Lab music folder to each rehearsal and performance. If students prefer to use a tablet they can request digital parts from the instructor. Cell phones are not an acceptable electronic device to read music from.

Bring all necessary instruments and accessories for each rehearsal, as indicated by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Drummers are required to bring all cymbals as well as sticks, brushes, etc. to each rehearsal and performance.

### Note on Music Folders from the UNT Jazz Studies Student Handbook

Charts and folders are the responsibility of each student. Music must be properly cared for and brought to all rehearsals and performances. A fee of \$1.00 per double page will be charged for the replacement of all lost parts. A fee of \$50.00 for any lab band folder that is lost.

## Attendance:

Members are expected to attend all rehearsals. Substitutes may be sent to rehearsals no more than 4 times in the semester if you notify the instructor in advance. It is your responsibility to make sure your sub has your music folder and is qualified to play your chair. You are expected to play ALL performances and dress rehearsals that occur this semester.

## Performance dates:

1. Tuesday, September 9th, 9p  
**UNT Syndicate**  
**Call time / sound-check 7.45p**
2. Friday, September 26th, 12noon  
**UNT Syndicate**  
**Call time / sound-check 11am**
3. Denton Arts and Jazz Festival  
October 4th, 8pm  
Call time TBD
4. Tuesday, November 18th, 8p  
Lab West  
**Call time / sound-check 6pm**

## Jazz Concert Attendance Requirement Fall 2025

For students in the band who are Jazz Majors:

Concert attendance is an extraordinary opportunity to support your colleagues, learn from observing guest artists, and experience creative music that informs your future artistic self. This is an assessed component of your Lab Band Course. 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 grade. If conflicts arise with the classical ensembles at the Murchison, we will coordinate with Dr. Trachsel to ensure that no student is placed in a difficult position when selecting which concert to attend.

Undergraduate Jazz Studies majors must either swipe their student ID or scan a QR code in the lobby at least **fifteen minutes before** the concert begins. The check-in table will close five minutes prior, and you won't be able to check in after that. After the concert ends, unlike the Conducting and Ensembles Division policy, you won't need to swipe your ID again. We trust everyone will stay for the entire concert rather than doing the second swipe immediately. Here are the dates for the required Jazz Studies concerts for Fall 2025.

UNT Jazz Performances with required attendance:

- Latin Jazz Lab Fall Concert on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall
- Jazz Strings Fall Concert on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall
- Two and Three O'Clock Lab Band Fall Concert on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall
- Jazz Singers Fall Concert on Friday, November 14, 2025 at 8:00 pm in Voertman Hall (attendance not required, but recommended: West End, Third Street, Avenue C, starting at 5:30 pm)
- One O'Clock Fall Concert on Monday, November 17, 2025, 8:00 pm Voertman Hall (guest artist: Pasquale Grasso)

## Grading

The final course grade is based upon the following three categories:

1. Attendance (50%) which includes coming to all rehearsals, soundchecks, and performances on-time. If you are not prepared to play your instrument at the bottom of the hour this will count as tardy.
2. Preparation (50%), including having all of your required class materials and being adequately prepared to perform your part.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## **ODA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](https://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at:

<https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

## **Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

## **Academic Calendar, Spring 2025**

See: [Spring 2025 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2025**

See above

## **Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

### Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

## **COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

## **ADD/DROP POLICY**

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

## **CARE TEAM**

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>