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MUJS 1820.501/5174.523

JAZZ SINGERS



Description & Objectives of the Course

Jazz Singers is the flagship vocal ensemble in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of exploring the art form of ensemble jazz singing and playing at the highest level possible for a collegiate ensemble in this genre. Ensemble members will be challenged by a variety of levels of difficulty and sub-styles of music, and will be asked to demonstrate ever-increasing excellence in both their ensemble music-making and soloing as they prepare to operate as professionals in the field of performance. Rehearsals will provide the primary method for progress as an ensemble, with two days per week of either acoustic or amplified rehearsals with rhythm section and two days per week of vocal-only rehearsals (or sectionals). Rhythm section players will find an additional hour for sectional rehearsals each week. In addition, students will record themselves to complete learning and memorization assignments and there will be professional studio sessions at the conclusion of the semester to record selected pieces.

Course Information

M 12 - 12:50 Rm. 292 (vocals only)

T/Th 12:30 - 1:50 pm Lab East
(vocals & rhythm section)

Fr 1 - 1:50 pm Rm. 282 (vocals only)

Director: Jennifer Barnes
TA: Quinn Cameron

Office: Rm 346

email: jennifer.barnes@unt.edu

cell: (661) 713-0260

Course Attendance and Other Policies

In an ensemble like this one, 100% attendance is expected unless you are literally bed-ridden or in another emergency situation, due to the obvious effect that even ONE missing “team member” has on the entire group. If you earned a position in this ensemble, I assume that you desire to be here, therefore, I expect the following:

- Any unexcused absence will result in a grade being lowered one letter, and a second absence may result in dismissal from the ensemble.
- Please contact me directly (do NOT tell someone else to tell me!) by email or text if you are unable to attend rehearsal or will be late because you are ill. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent*.
- Arrive **early** to each rehearsal. Tardiness is a sign of disrespect to your fellow ensemble members and your director!
- Please put your phone in “airplane mode” **prior to entering the rehearsal space** to avoid causing distraction to yourself or anyone else (again, unless there’s an emergency situation to which you alert the director). You will use your phone as a recording device during rehearsal, so keep it nearby.
- Be vocally/instrumentally warmed up prior to rehearsal, with a full water bottle, your music folder, and a pencil.
- **Please use the restroom BEFORE you come to rehearsal!**
- Practice outside of rehearsal as much as YOU need to be prepared on part-learning or memorization assignments.
- Rhythm section players: let Prof. Barnes know immediately if you must miss a rehearsal (excused absences would include playing for a departmental or other university-related function or certain paid gigs, on a case-by-case basis). **You must provide a sub for the rehearsal who is your playing-level equal or better, and make sure that the sub has all the book of music, well-organized.**
- In the event that the director is missing for part or all of a rehearsal, ensemble members will treat the Teaching Assistant with the same respect as the director and contribute to a productive rehearsal. Same holds true for section leaders in sectional rehearsals.
- Participate fully in the setup and teardown of sound system equipment.



- Contribute to a rehearsal atmosphere in the ensemble that is positive, encouraging, serious and fun! This includes not talking or singing DURING the rehearsal unless the director is asking for specific kinds of input. Learn to AUDIATE to work on your music while others are being rehearsed.
- Leave personal problems and concerns at the door when you enter rehearsal — we need everyone focused and present to accomplish our musical goals for the day. It's good for you to learn to do this with mental discipline, and you can actually learn to do it with practice.
- Each ensemble member will receive a folder in which to store their music. The replacement fee is \$40 for any lost **or badly damaged** folder, so please treat the folder with respect and care.

You can expect *me* as the director to:

- Be prepared to lead productive rehearsals.
- Be on time for rehearsals.
- Communicate directly and honestly, with passion and compassion for each individual.
- Post a rehearsal schedule online once we have more than a few pieces in our repertoire so you'll know what to prepare to focus on in advance of each rehearsal.
- Hold all ensemble members accountable for their behavior and conduct as positive contributing ensemble members.
- Give fair and reasonable assignments and deadlines.
- Make time to listen to concerns or comments on anything related to the ensemble at a mutually agreed-upon appointment time (not during rehearsal, during which time is at a premium).

JAZZ CONCERT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

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.**

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:

- 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
- One O’Clock Fall Concert on Monday, November 17, 2025, 8:00 pm Voertman Hall (guest artist: Pasquale Grasso)

Grading

Every ensemble member will earn an “A” in this ensemble by their stellar contributions throughout the semester on a (nearly) professional level.....unless, of course, there are problematic patterns of tardiness or absence from rehearsals, call times, or performances; or if your conduct otherwise communicates serious disrespect to the director or fellow ensemble members in how you carry out the expectations listed previously in this syllabus. Each incidence of the aforementioned items will drop the total grade by half a letter grade. (I don’t anticipate this EVER occurring, as it has only happened twice in the entirety of the history of the ensemble since I have been directing it.)

Additional University policies:

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

Student behavior policy: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Eagle Connect info: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA Statement: disability.unt.edu

Registration information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

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

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

Retention of student records policy: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Financial aid and academic progress: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Full list of student resources: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

Final exam schedule: <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

Academic calendar: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

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

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

Performances and Other Obligation Dates

(TIMES ARE GOOD APPROXIMATIONS, BUT MAY CHANGE SLIGHTLY - BE FLEXIBLE)

DATE/TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat., 9/13 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Fall Retreat Day! (Rhythm section will be involved for a shorter period of time)	Lab East & Lab West
Sun., 10/5 1:00 - 5 p.m.	Jazz Singers (and other groups as well) at Denton Arts & Jazz Festival. JS call time is 1:45 p.m.	Quakertown Park, Denton
Fri., 10/10 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	"Nooner" Lunch Set (11 a.m. load-in, 12 noon start time, 12:50 p.m. end time)	The Syndicate - Student Union
Tues., 10/28 7 - 11:30 p.m.	All Vocal Jazz ensembles at The Syndicate - you must be present for the entire evening!	The Syndicate - Student Union
Fri, 11/14 9 a.m. - 10 pm	Fall Concert Vocal Extravaganza! (All vocal jazz ensembles performing.)	Voertman Hall
TBD	Rhythm Section Recording Session (4 p.m. load-in for drums, 4:30 for others)	Crystal Clear Sound
TBD	Vocal Recording Session #1 - Sops/Altos Vocal Recording Session #2 - Tenors/Basses	Crystal Clear Sound
TBD	Vocal Recording Session #3 - any remaining ensemble vocals, soloists, mixing	Crystal Clear Sound

Other performance dates may be added at a later time; students will be required to be available if given 3 weeks notice or more.