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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 1 - 1:50 Rm. 292 (vocals only)

T/Th 12:30 - 1:50 pm Rm. 263 (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 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 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 everyone 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).

Concert Attendance Spring 2026 (updated 1/19/26 3.0):

Concert attendance is an extraordinary opportunity to support your colleagues, learn by 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.

Concerts required for Spring 2026:

- Gomez Residency Concert with pianist, Benny Green: Thursday, March 19, 8:00 PM (Voertman)
- Jazz Strings Lab Spring Concert: Monday, April 6, 8:00 PM (Voertman)
- Two and Three O'Clock Lab Band Spring Concert: Monday, April 13, 8:00 PM (Voertman)
- One O'Clock Spring Concert with composer, Chuck Owen: Monday, April 20, 8:00 PM (Voertman)
- Nick Finzer Faculty Recital: Monday, February 2, 8:00 PM (Lab West)

All students are also required to attend one of the following weekend concerts. We understand that many of you have weekend gig commitments, which is why we're providing two attendance options. If you are unable to attend both concerts, you must email Professor Parton and copy Michael Martin, explaining your conflict.

- Jazz Singers Spring Concert with guest, vocalist Christie Dashiell: Friday, April 17 at 8:00 PM (Voertman)
- Latin Jazz Lab Spring Concert: Saturday, April 25, 8:00 PM (Voertman)

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
Wed., 2/25 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.	Performance exchange with Extensions (Frost/Miami School of Music) & Jazz Singers, followed by FJO & the One O'Clock at the Syndicate (possible a cappella combined song as well)	Lab West (and the Syndicate)
Fri, 3/20. 11 a.m. load-in, 12 - 12:50 p.m.	Lunch Set	The Syndicate - Student Union
Tues., 3/24 7 - 11:30 p.m.	All Vocal Jazz ensembles at The Syndicate - ATTENDANCE REQUIRED FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE EVENING!	The Syndicate - Student Union
Wed., 4/8 early morning thru Sun., 4/12 evening	Tour to Chicago area schools, then Western Michigan Univ. (Kalamazoo, MI) for the Gold Company Invitational VJ Festival with the New York Voices	Chicago area, Kalamazoo, MI
Thurs, 4/16 6 - 10 pm	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal with Guest Artist Christie Dashiell	Lab West
Fri, 4/17 10 a.m. - 10 pm	Spring Concert setup / soundcheck / performance (8 p.m. concert)	Voertman Hall
Mon, 4/27 5 - 10 p.m.	Rhythm Section Recording Session (4 p.m. load-in for drums, 4:30 for others)	Crystal Clear Sound
Wed, 5/13 1 - 3 pm	Vocal Rehearsal (brushing up after 3 weeks off to prepare for studio recording!)	Lab East
Th 5/14 women (all day) F 5/15 men Sa 5/16 morning only (finishing whatever isn't finished/solos)	Vocal Recording Sessions	Crystal Clear Sound
F 5/15 Time TBD	Jazz Singers concert/gig performance	Windmills (The Colony ,TX)

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