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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 solo singing and ensemble music-making.

Rehearsals will provide the primary method for progress as an ensemble, with two days per week of vocal-only, a cappella rehearsals and two days per week of amplified rehearsal with rhythm section. In addition, there will be one hour of sectional rehearsal required per week for both vocalists and rhythm section, with that scheduled time being added after member's schedules are taken into account. There will be both on- and off-campus performances as well as studio recording each semester, providing a multitude and variety of musical settings in which to learn and grow as musicians in Jazz Singers.

Course Information

M 12 - 12:50 pm Rm. 262

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

F 1 - 1:50 pm Kenton Hall

Director: Jennifer Barnes

Teaching Assistant: Marion Powers

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, and if you demonstrate otherwise, you will be replaced by someone who does want to be here! Therefore I expect the following things pertaining to attendance:

- Unexcused absences are not allowed. Any unexcused absence will result in a grade being lowered one letter, and a second will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.
- In the event that you are ill or otherwise have an emergency that will prevent you from being at rehearsal, you will contact the director as soon as possible by e-mail (if more than one hour prior to rehearsal time) or text (if less than one hour prior to rehearsal time). If at all possible, you will then contact the Teaching Assistant or Section Leader to ask for a meeting prior to the next rehearsal to go over notes and update your scores accordingly.
- In the event that you are not feeling well enough to sing, but are attending other classes, you will attend rehearsal with your music and sit quietly and take notes so that you can still mentally progress along with the ensemble.
- Arrive early to each rehearsal, so that you are prepared to either set up sound equipment (T/Th) or begin actually making music (M/F) at the start time of rehearsal. Tardiness is a sign of disrespect to your fellow ensemble members as well as the director and will not be tolerated; repeated tardiness will be discussed as grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.
- Silence your cell phone prior to entering the rehearsal space and put it in an inaccessible place to avoid causing distraction to yourself or anyone else (again, unless there’s an emergency situation to which you alert the director). The only exception will be when you use your phone as a recording device, in which case it must remain in “AIRPLANE MODE”.
- Be vocally warmed up upon arrival at rehearsal, and will have a full water bottle. No other food or drink is permitted in rehearsal.
- Practice your music outside of rehearsal as needed to be prepared on part-learning or memorization assignments. Assignments may be checked with spontaneous quartet performances, or a request to e-mail the director with a recording of yourself singing the part.
- Attend weekly sectionals with the same respect for time and



preparation as the full ensemble rehearsals. Contribute and participate, but defer to the leadership of the section leader at all times. This is a key element of successful and productive rehearsals.

- Rhythm section players: let the director know immediately if you must miss a rehearsal (excused absences would include paid gigs, playing for a departmental or other university-related function) for any reason. 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.
- Participate fully in the setup and teardown of sound system equipment. Every ensemble member is necessary to this task, regardless of gender or physical limitations (unless cleared by the director)!
- Contribute to a rehearsal atmosphere in the ensemble that is positive, encouraging, serious and fun!
- Leave personal problems and concerns at the door when you enter rehearsal — you can pick them up again when you leave (if you must!).



You can expect me as the director to:

- Be prepared to lead productive 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.
- Always 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).

Additional University policies:

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

ODA Statement: disability.unt.edu

Retention of Student Records: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Performances and Other Obligation Dates

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

| DATE/TIME | EVENT | VENUE |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Tues, 3/6 8 - 11:30 pm | Tuesday Night Jazz @ The Syndicate (w/ Vocal Combos & Third Street also) | The Syndicate, Student Union |
| Fri, 3/23 11:30 am - 1 pm | Lunchtime @ The Syndicate | The Syndicate, Student Union |
| Th, 4/5 7 - 10 pm | "Dress" rehearsal with Johnaye Kendrick for Spring Concerts (not actually in concert attire) | TBD |
| Fri, 4/6 12 noon - 10 pm | Spring Concert setup/soundcheck/concerts | Voertman Hall |
| Sat, 4/7 11 a.m. - 11 pm | Master class/soundcheck with Johnaye Kendrick, evening concert | Voertman Hall |
| Mon, 4/23 5-10 pm | Rhythm Section Recording Session | Crystal Clear Sound |
| Sun, 4/29 2:00-4:30 pm | Denton Arts & Jazz Festival performances | Quakertown Park, Denton |
| Fri, 5/11 11 am - 7 pm | Vocal Recording Session #2 | Crystal Clear Sound |
| Sat, 5/12 11 am - 6 pm | Vocal Recording Session #3 | Crystal Clear Sound |

Additional dates MAY be added at a later date.