

MUJS 1131.507 Fundamentals of Vocal Jazz Performance

Mon-Wed 2:00 – 2:50 p.m • Room 263

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Fundamentals of Vocal Jazz Performance is an introductory course focusing on the essential elements required of a jazz singer, especially of the vocal major in the Jazz Studies program at the University of North Texas. These include:

- Standard jazz repertoire and interpretation (how and to whom to listen)
- Singing chords, scales and modes
- Developing building blocks of jazz vocabulary for improvisation
- Growth in sight singing
- How to write an acceptable lead sheets
- The use of Finale and Band-in-a-Box
- Learning to schedule yourself and your work efficiently
- Communication skills – verbal and behavioral
- Practice routines to build your fluency in all of the above.

MUJS 1131.507 has no prerequisite. Co-requisites include a music lab (jazz), and the Jazz Fundamentals course(s) as needed (1360, 1361, etc) for advancement in your degree plan. By the end of your Freshman year, you must have completed all four sections of Jazz Fundamentals, and pass the Listening to Jazz Records course (MUJS 1470) with a grade of A or B.

Attendance and Grading You are expected to be at every class on time, and to complete assignments according to directions. Two absences are permitted for the semester. Formal grading will begin with the midterm test, and you will be given a grade for participation and assignments each week thereafter. Final grade will be an average of weekly grades, Midterm, and Final Exam.

You are expected to take notes, to keep a notebook for your materials, and to communicate appropriately. You are also expected to attend jazz performances, both on and off campus, and to learn to associate in the jazz community.

You will learn six new tunes, and sing them in class, on mic, for comments – improvisation is optional at first, expected by midterm. For these, you will prepare lead sheets according to UNT standards. We will help you in all of this! You will also be supportive of others as they sing.

MUJS 1131 operates within the University policy on disabilities. See me for problems during the first week of class.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Terrence Brown	Van Anderson	Taylor Wimberg	Hunter Waters
Katie Bauer	Janelle Taylor	Angela Fritz	Mimi McMurray
Gabrielle Byrd	Lizzie Eidson	Erica Henley	Nash Turbeville
			Se-Jeong Min

Class Schedule

Week 1

Mon	8/29	Intro and perspectives on the jazz degree; listening test
Wed	8/31	Repertoire – what makes good jazz - where to find the best tunes.
Assn		Prepare your own repertoire list, and identify eight new tunes from rep list that you will learn this semester. (Print and submit Wednesday 9/5)

Week 2

Singing in class:

Mon	9/5	Labor Day – no class	No one
Wed	9/7	Listening and transcribing	No one

Week 3

Mon	9/12	Choosing the proper keys	No one
Wed	9/14	Creative listening: the ballad	No one

Week 4

Mon	9/19	Creative listening: the ballad	Group 1
Wed	9/21	Creative listening: Swing	Group 2

Week 5

Mon	9/26	Creative listening: Swing	Group 3
Wed	9/28	Writing good lead sheets	Group 4

Week 6

Mon	10/3	Creative listening: Latin & -8	Group 1
Wed	10/5	Finale software (Room 346)	Group 2

Week 7

Mon	10/10	Creative listening: Latin & -8	Group 3
Wed	10/12	Transcribing bass lines	Group 4

Week 8

Mon	10/17	Reviewing first 7 wks	No-one
Wed	10/19	Mid Term Exam (Room 346 – signup)	No-one

Week 9

Mon10/24	Building your book	Group 1 & 2 Transcriptions
Wed10/26	Enclosures	Group 3 & 4 Transcriptions

Week 10

Mon10/31	Patterns and sight reading	Group 1 & 2 – sing from your book
Wed 11/2	Patterns and sight reading	Group 3 & 4 – sing from your book

Week 11

Mon 11/7	Singing modes to changes	Group 1 & 2 Transcriptions
Wed 11/9	Finale	Group 3 & 4 Transcriptions

Week 12

Mon11/14	Focus on transcriptions	Group 3
Wed11/16	Focus on the keyboard	Group 4

Week 13

Mon 11/21	Improvisational patterns	No one
Wed 11/23	Improvisational patterns	Everyone sings

Week 14

Mon 12/1	Putting it together	Everyone - trading the blues
Wed 12/3	Review for the Final Jury Exam	No one

Week 15

Mon 12/5	Last class meeting – bring all of your materials.
Wed 12/7	Mock Juries, Room 346

Week 16 Final Juries

Mon 12/12	Final Exam
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