

**MUJS 4120 Vocal Jazz Styles**  
**MUJS 5490 Advanced Jazz Improvisation**

**Tues/Thurs 11:00 – 11:50 am, Room 346**

**Instructor: Jennifer Barnes**

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**Office: MU 346**

Prerequisites:

- Two semesters Vocal Jazz Techniques (B minimum)
- Upper Division Exam (or its equivalent)
- Pass Improvisation Continuation Exam (Pass FIPE for Grad. Improv students)

Co-requisite: Jazz Singers (exceptions must be negotiated in advance)

Absences are limited to two for the semester. Excess will lower your semester grade one letter.

Grading: weekly, and determined by the quality of preparation and the musicality of the assignments. The final semester grade will be calculated from:

- Weekly grades, averaged – 70%
- Mid-term & final exam – 20%
- Visual and musical quality of your jobbing book – 10%

**Content:** Vocal Jazz Styles serves as the final class experience for the vocal jazz program, and is taken in the semester prior to the vocal jazz senior recital. The course focuses upon putting together the skills that have been collected throughout the curriculum and having an artistic and musically holistic (and REALISTIC) view of using those skills. Advanced Jazz Improvisation (for Vocalists) will require additional work and a higher level of performance on the same material as that of the Vocal Jazz Styles student's assignments. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

1. **Performance and improvisation** in three styles of vocal jazz:
  - Swing tunes and blues
  - Straight-eighth tunes, featuring syllabic and lyric improvisation
  - Ballads, featuring lyric improvisation
2. **Piano skills**
3. **Creating programming**

***Compliance with Federal Statutes:** The College of Music complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disability. If you have an established disability as defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act and would like to request accommodation, please see me as soon as possible.*

## **Schedule:**

### **Week 1**

Thurs 1/19 First meeting; discuss purpose and goals of class

### **Week 2**

Tues 1/24 Blues; evaluation of piano skills & improv; blues handout. "Shape" handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Play blues bass line @ 2 & 4 = 50 - 60 with good time feel by Thursday. Play r.h. comping figures the same. Not together yet.

Thurs 1/26 Due: Piano blues assignment. "Chord Surfing" handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Put together w/ 2 hands. Practice surfing.

### **Week 3**

Tues 1/31 Carol Welsman visit (Lecture Series). Due: Piano blues.  
"Methods of Shedding Changes" handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Shed changes to "Autumn Leaves" – voice & piano.

Thurs 2/2 Due: "Autumn", a cappella, one chorus. Motivic development techniques.  
ASSIGNMENT: Motives ONLY for 1 chorus, free on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Week 4**

Tues 2/7 Due: "Autumn", pt. 2. Play changes. Record & listen.

Thurs 2/9 Listen to the rest. Choose one attribute to focus on improving. Re-record.  
ASSIGNMENT: Shed "Have You Met Miss Jones" – voice & piano.

### **Week 5**

Tues 2/14 "Have You Met Miss Jones" thru practice methods

Thurs 2/16 Due: "Miss Jones" @ 160. Work faster tempos.

### **Week 6**

Tues 2/21 Due: "Miss Jones" @ 220. Workout @ 240.

Thurs 2/23 Due: "Miss Jones" @ 240.  
ASSIGNMENT: Other swing standard of your choice @ 200.

### **Week 7**

Tues 2/28 Due: standard @ 200.

Thurs 3/1 Due: standard @ 240. Prep review for mid-term.

### **Week 8**

Tues 3/6 MIDTERM EXAM: Review of all tunes so far.

Thurs 3/8 Brazilian grooves, pt. 1. ASSIGNMENT: Shed “Corcovado”.

### **Week 9**

Tues 3/13 Due: “Corcovado” on piano & voice.

Thurs 3/15 Record “Corcovado”.

### **Week 10 SPRING BREAK**

Tues 3/20 (No class)

Thurs 3/22 (No class)

### **Week 11**

Tues 3/27 “Spain” on piano & voice.

Thurs 3/29 Due: “Spain” - voice

### **Week 12**

Tues 4/3 Due: “Spain” – piano & final voice

Thurs 4/5 Ballads – listen and choose one.

### **Week 13**

Tues 4/10 Due: ballad with lyric interpretation.

Thurs 4/12 Final ballad performance.  
ASSIGNMENT: Bring “book” of repertoire.

### **Week 14**

Tues 4/17 Discuss “book” and organization methods. Programming for concerts, clubs, etc.  
What makes a good set. ASSIGNMENT: Make a 30-min, 60-min program.

Thurs 4/19 Discuss programs, pt. 1

### **Week 15**

Tues 4/24 Programs, pt. 2 FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Self-accompany at 3 tempos

Thurs 4/26 Workout: self-accompany.

### **Week 16**

Tues 5/1 FINAL EXAM

Thurs 5/3 Individual meetings