

## **MUJS 4630 Vocal Jazz Arranging**

**Tues. 3 – 3:50 pm, Thurs 10:00 – 10:50 am,**

**(add'l Lab Time individually arranged with Professor Barnes), Room 346**

**Instructor: Jennifer Barnes**

**E-mail: [Jennifer.barnes@unt.edu](mailto:Jennifer.barnes@unt.edu)**

**Phone: (940) 565-4731**

**Office: MU 346**

**Course Objectives:** This class is an introduction to the art of vocal arranging. Analysis of “successful” vocal arrangements from a variety of arrangers past and present will be emphasized as well as three writing projects. All work is to be completed using Finale music notation software, and the specifics of techniques used to accomplish this will be explored. Each writing project will be performed and recorded. The three projects will be as follows:

1. SATB with rhythm section: A standard tune will be chosen and arranged in a swing feel in “head chart” style, using textures from unison to no more than four parts.
2. A cappella SATB: Another standard will be arranged in a ballad feel, once through the form.
3. The final project can be either a cappella or accompanied, with more complex harmonic content and longer form.

**Attendance Policy:** Due to the compressed nature of the amount of material and individual work required in this course, absences of any kind are limited to two for the semester. It is your responsibility to obtain any information missed in class, preferably by arranging to have the class recorded and listening to it on your own time. Additional absences beyond the 2nd will lower your semester grade one letter.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined by an average of weekly class participation grades, quality of score preparation, and a weighted average of the three written projects. The scale will be as follows:

- Weekly participation – 20%
- Project one – 25%
- Project two – 25%
- Project three – 30%

***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 (No class meeting; getting class times set up!)

### **Week 2**

Tues 1/24 First meeting; discuss purpose and goals of class  
ASSIGNMENT: Choose standard and write rhythmic treatment in swing feel of one chorus

Thurs 1/26 Play and sing standards for rhythmic treatment. Discuss Finale rules for rhythms  
Analyze "I've Never Been In Love Before" and discuss techniques.  
ASSIGNMENT: Sketch ideas for chart textures; play changes

### **Week 3**

Tues 1/31 Carol Welsman visit (Lecture Series); abbreviated class from 3:30 – 4 p.m.  
ASSIGNMENT: Voice sketch, sketch intro/ending.

Thurs 2/2 Play voiced sketches & get feedback. Discuss additional techniques.  
ASSIGNMENT: Revise chart.

### **Week 4**

Tues 2/7 Play revisions; Finale feedback. Discuss rhythm section writing.  
ASSIGNMENT: Revise chart, add rhythm section.

Thurs 2/9 Listening session; analyze and write report.

### **Week 5**

Tues 2/14 **Project One score due.** Individual sessions for feedback.  
ASSIGNMENT: finalize score and print parts

Thurs 2/16 Introduce the a cappella ballad; compare and contrast techniques  
ASSIGNMENT: Listen; choose ballad and prepare to sing it

### **Week 6**

Tues 2/21 Sing ballads, discuss phrasing and other a cappella techniques

Thurs 2/23 More a cappella techniques  
ASSIGNMENT: Sketch plan for a cappella arrangement

### **Week 7**

Tues 2/28 Review sketches; more a cappella analysis  
ASSIGNMENT: Revise chart

Thurs 3/1 Play revisions; more techniques

### **Week 8**

- Tues 3/6 Listening session; analyze and write report  
Thurs 3/8 Play revisions; more techniques

### **Week 9**

- Tues 3/13 **Project Two score due.** Individual sessions for feedback.  
ASSIGNMENT: Finalize score and print vocal parts  
Thurs 3/15 Record Project Two charts.

### **Week 10 SPRING BREAK**

- Tues 3/20 (No class)  
Thurs 3/22 (No class)

### **Week 11**

- Tues 3/27 Discuss final project; more advanced techniques  
ASSIGNMENT: choose final song and bring sketch of basic form & texture  
Thurs 3/29 Discuss songs and reharmonization techniques  
ASSIGNMENT: Additional sketch material

### **Week 12**

- Tues 4/3 Analyze charts by Kerry Marsh & Greg Jasperse  
Thurs 4/5 GUEST ARTISTS: Kerry Marsh & Greg Jasperse  
(Fri 4/6 Jazz Singers w/ Vertical Voices, 8 p.m., Voertman Hall)

### **Week 13**

- Tues 4/10 DUE: Complete sketch w/ rhythm section (if applicable)  
Thurs 4/12 Work on voicing the sketch

### **Week 14**

- Tues 4/17 Individual coaching sessions; more progress on chart  
Thurs 4/19 Listening session; analyze and write report

### **Week 15**

- Tues 4/24 Final individual coaching sessions  
Thurs 4/26 **Project Three score due;** make final score revisions and print parts.

### **Week 16**

- Tues 5/1 & Thurs 5/3 No class meeting; Record Project Three