

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

**Tues/Thurs 11:00 – 11:50 am, Room 292**

**Instructor: Jennifer Barnes**

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Prerequisites:

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

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 – 10%, 20%

**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**

**Schedule:**

**Week 1**

Tues 9/4 First meeting; discuss purpose and goals of class

Thurs 9/6 Blues handout. "Shape" handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Play blues bass line @ 2 & 4 = 50 - 60 with good time feel by Tuesday. Play r.h. comping figures the same. Not together yet.

## **Week 2**

Tues 9/11 Due: Piano blues assignment. “Chord Surfing” handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Put together w/ 2 hands. Practice surfing.

Thurs 9/13 Due: Piano blues – 2 hands  
“Methods of Shedding Changes” handout.  
ASSIGNMENT: Shed changes to “Autumn Leaves” – voice & piano.

## **Week 3**

Tues 9/18 Due: “Autumn”, a cappella, one chorus. Motivic development techniques.  
ASSIGNMENT: Motives ONLY for 1 chorus, free on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thurs 9/20 Due: “Autumn”, pt. 2. Play changes. Record & listen.

## **Week 4**

Tues 9/25 Listen to the rest. Choose one attribute to focus on improving. Re-record.  
ASSIGNMENT: Shed “Have You Met Miss Jones” – voice & piano.

Thurs 9/27 “Have You Met Miss Jones” thru practice methods

## **Week 5**

Tues 10/2 Due: “Miss Jones” @ 160. Work faster tempos.

Thurs 10/4 Due: “Miss Jones” @ 220. Workout @ 240.

## **Week 6**

Tues 10/9 Due: “Miss Jones” @ 240.  
ASSIGNMENT: Other swing standard of your choice @ 200.

Thurs 10/11 Due: standard @ 200.

## **Week 7**

Tues 10/16 Due: standard @ 240. Prep review for mid-term.

Thurs 10/18 MIDTERM EXAM: Review of all tunes so far.

## **Week 8**

Tues 10/23 Brazilian grooves, pt. 1. ASSIGNMENT: Shed “Corcovado”.

Thurs 10/25 Due: “Corcovado” on piano & voice.

## **Week 9**

Tues 10/30 Record “Corcovado”.

Thurs 11/1 Work “Spain”

### **Week 10**

Tues 11/6 “Spain” on piano & voice.

Thurs 11/8 Due: “Spain” – voice - final

### **Week 11**

Tues 11/13 Ballads – listen and choose one.

Thurs 11/15 Due: ballad with lyric interpretation.

### **Week 12**

Tues 11/20 Final ballad performance.

ASSIGNMENT: Bring “book” of repertoire.

Thurs 11/22 (No class – Thanksgiving)

### **Week 13**

Tues 11/27 Discuss “book” and organization methods. Programming for concerts, clubs, etc.  
What makes a good set. ASSIGNMENT: Make a 30-min, 60-min program.

Thurs 11/29 Discuss programs, pt. 1

### **Week 14**

Tues 12/4 Programs, pt. 2 FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Self-accompany at 3 tempos

Thurs 12/6 Workout: self-accompany.

### **Week 15**

Date t.b.a. FINAL EXAM

1. **Office of Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

2. **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (Undergraduates)**

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of

credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

3. If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.
4. **Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (Graduates)**  
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.
5. If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.
6. **Academic Integrity**  
Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.
7. **Student Behavior in the Classroom**  
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).