

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 1/15/13 First meeting; discuss purpose and goals of class

Thurs 1/17 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 1/22 Due: Piano blues assignment. “Chord Surfing” handout.
ASSIGNMENT: Put together w/ 2 hands. Practice surfing.

Thurs 1/24 Due: Piano blues – 2 hands
“Methods of Shedding Changes” handout.
ASSIGNMENT: Shed changes to “Autumn Leaves” – voice & piano.

Week 3

Tues 1/29 Due: “Autumn”, a cappella, one chorus. Motivic development techniques.
ASSIGNMENT: Motives ONLY for 1 chorus, free on the 2nd.

Thurs 1/31 Due: “Autumn”, pt. 2. Play changes. Record & listen.

Week 4

Tues 2/5 Listen to the rest. Choose one attribute to focus on improving. Re-record.
ASSIGNMENT: Shed “Have You Met Miss Jones” – voice & piano.

Thurs 2/7 “Have You Met Miss Jones” thru practice methods

Week 5

Tues 2/12 Due: “Miss Jones”/“Joyspring” @ 160 – 2 choruses sung, 2nd chorus a cappella.
Also play changes at minimum 55 bpm (2-feel bass line). Workout at faster tempos.

Thurs 2/14 Due: “Miss Jones”/“Joyspring” @ 200. Workout @ 220/240 (Styles/Grad).
ASSIGNMENT: Choose swing tune to be approved by instructor

Week 6

Tues 2/19 Due: “Miss Jones” @ 220/240. Approval of swing tune.

Thurs 2/21 Due: standard @ 180. Piano skills – play in 2 feel with intro (prep for midterm)

Week 7

Tues 2/26 Due: standard @ 220/240. Prep review for mid-term.

Thurs 2/28 MIDTERM EXAM: Play and sing a swing tune with a simple arrangement (some improv required somewhere!)

Week 8

Tues 3/5 Brazilian grooves, pt. 1. ASSIGNMENT: Shed “Corcovado”.

Thurs 3/7 Due: “Corcovado” on piano & voice.

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK

Week 10

Tues 3/19 Work “Spain” & “Chega de Saudade”

Thurs 3/21 “Spain” or “Chega” on piano & voice (not simultaneously – one at a time!)

Week 11

Tues 3/26 Due: “Spain” – voice – final

Thurs 3/28 Current Artist Reports (5)
ASSIGNMENT: Bring favorite “meaty” ballad.

Week 12

Tues 4/2 Ballads – listen and discuss. Piano skills for ballad playing.

Thurs 4/4 Current Artist Reports (4)

Week 13

Tues 4/9 Due: ballad with lyric interpretation, melodic improvisation.

Thurs 4/11 Discuss “book” and organization methods. Programming for concerts, clubs, etc.
What makes a good set. ASSIGNMENT: Make a 30-min, 60-min program.

Week 14

Tues 4/16 Discuss programs, pt. 1

Thurs 4/18 Programs, pt. 2

Week 15

Tues 4/23 FINAL ASSIGNMENT: Choose one of the up-tempo selections to sing/blow over; self-accompany on a ballad; accompany someone else on a medium swing tune.

Thurs 4/25 Workout: final prep.

Week 16

Thurs 5/9 FINAL EXAM/PERFORMANCE (open to the public)
11 a – 12:30 p.m.

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.