

MUJS 1132 Fundamentals of Jazz Performance (Vocal)

Mon/Wed 2:00 – 2:50 p.m • Room 263 (Lab East)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Fundamentals of Jazz Performance (Vocal) is a two-semester course focusing on the most essential skills required of a vocal jazz major in the Jazz Studies program at the University of North Texas. The second semester of the course will cover topics to include:

- History of the vocal jazz lineage and knowledge of major artists
- The continued use of Finale (music notation software) to create lead sheets and lyric sheets to continue developing a “book” of your repertoire
- Learning to accompany yourself with a “skeleton” of chord changes from a lead sheet
- Basic understanding of vocal pedagogy as it applies to jazz singing
- Developing the foundation for improvising through chord changes including ear training in a manner geared towards vocalists

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

Two absences are permitted for the semester. Additional absences will result in the lowering of your grade by one letter for each absence. Three tardies will equal one absence.

Homework assignments, in-class performances and class participation will all be graded regularly. Final grade will be a weighted average of assignment, Midterm & Final Exam grades.

You are expected to take notes, to keep a notebook for your materials, and to communicate appropriately. All written assignments are to be computer-prepared (Finale, Sibelius or appropriate word processing software), neatly according to the standards set forth by the instructor.

All in-class performances of solo songs will be accompanied by a one-page summary of historical/background information collected about the song including bullet-point style notes comparing at least 3 recordings of the song.

Compliance with Federal Status: The College of Music complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with a 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.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Tahira Clayton	Kayla Highsmith	Murray McCulloch
Amanda Ekery	Marion Powers	Sohui Jeong
Hannah Grantham	Chris Denton	Isabel Crespo

Class Schedule

Week 1

Day	Date	Class content	In-class performances
Mon	1/14	Introduction to class; Chord Surfing;	
Wed	1/16	More on Chord Surfing; “How High The Moon” – roots, guide tone lines, surfing Assignment: Shed “How High” @ 140 bpm;	

Week 2

Mon	1/21	No Class—MLK day	
Wed	1/23	Hear “How High” surfing	Everyone

Week 3

Mon	1/28	Test on “How High”; Review on intros & endings	Everyone
Wed	1/30	Application of intros & endings; Performance-up tempo	Group 1

Week 4

Mon	2/4	Play I – VI – ii – V turnaround & bossa vamp; Performance-up tempo	Group 2
Wed	2/6	Singer reports (2); Performance-up tempo	Group 3

Week 5

Mon	2/11	Test on Piano vamps; Construction of Blues	Everyone (piano)
Wed	2/13	Evolution of Blues; Jazz licks 1	

Week 6

Mon	2/18	No Class—Presidents’ Day	
Wed	2/20	Singer reports (2); Practicing with tracks: Aebersold workout	

Week 7

Mon	2/25	Blues head and Blues tune due	Everyone
Wed	2/27	Blues tune performance	Everyone

Week 8

Mon	3/4	Mid-term Transcription performance: Sing along with solo vocal performance submit book including lead sheet for transcription song	Everyone
Wed	3/6	Singer reports (2); Playing Blues on piano	

Week 9

Mon	3/11	No Class – SPRING BREAK	
Wed	3/13	No Class – SPRING BREAK	

Week 10

Mon	3/18	Hearing bass; How to-band charts; Introduction to Rhythm Changes	
Wed	3/20	Singer reports (1); Performance w/ band - medium/up swing	Group 3

Week 11

Mon	3/25	Jazz licks 2; Performance w/ band	Group 1
Wed	3/27	Performance w/ band; Rhythm Changes	Group 2

Week 12

Mon	4/1	Blues piano test; More Rhythm Changes	Everyone (piano)
Wed	4/3	More Rhythm Changes	

Week 13

Mon	4/8	Test: Rhythm Changes	
Wed	4/10	Singer reports (2); Performance	Group 1

Week 14

Mon	4/15	Jazz licks 3; Performance	Group 2
Wed	4/17	Play “Piano Bar” song (not singing)	Everyone

Week 15

Mon	4/22	Performance	Group 3
Wed	4/24	“Piano Bar” (play and sing); Bass line written transcriptions due	

Week 16

Mon	4/29	Class jam session with band	Everyone!
Wed	5/1	Discuss final jury, review	

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 : FINAL JURY (Time TBA)