

MUJS 3620 Jazz Arranging (Vocal Section)/

MUJS 4630 Vocal Jazz Arranging

Monday 2 – 3:40 p.m., Rm. 288

(Additional lab time individually arranged with TF Mafe Naranjo, North Practice 309)

Instructor: Jennifer Barnes

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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 two writing projects. All work is to be completed using Finale or Sibelius music notation software (although only Finale will be “supported”), and the specifics of techniques used to accomplish this will be explored. Each writing project will be performed and recorded. The two 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 five parts.
2. 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, no absences of any kind are permitted. 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. Unexcused absences 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 – 15%
- Homework assignments – 35%
- Project one – 20%
- Project two – 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

Mon 1/13 Introduction
Handout: "Functions of Notes/Chords"
Handout: "Vocal Ranges"
Rhythmicization of swing melodies;
ASSIGNMENT: Rhythmicization of "Autumn Leaves"; set up lab time with Mafe

Week 2

Tues 1/21 Handout: "Basic Voicing Structures", an introduction to 4-way close voicing technique
Handout: "Voicing Rules", rhythmic notation rules & guidelines, voicing "rules"
Handout: "2-Part Homophonic movement texture options"
ASSIGNMENTS: "How High The Moon" – write 4-way close voicing for 1st half of the form of the song in key of G; study and memorized voicing rules

Lab Review "How High The Moon" assignment – make corrections. Introduction to "Drop 2" voicing technique.

Week 3

Fri 1/31 TEST: Voicing rules, 4WC techniques.
Review 4-way close and drop 2 techniques
ASSIGNMENT: Voice 2nd half of "How High The Moon" in Drop 2 voicings (in Bb). Reharmonization techniques.
ASSIGNMENT: Create 2 unique 16-bar reharmonizations of the chosen standard.
ASSIGNMENT: Use the rhythmicized melody exercise and add a 2nd part, using concepts from the handout

Lab Play voiced sketches & get feedback.

Week 4

Mon 2/3 TEST: 4WC & D2 voicing techniques
Review analysis homework and discuss mistakes.
ASSIGNMENT: Analysis of accompanied vocal charts.
ASSIGNMENT: Rhythmic notation matrix.
Common articulations.
ASSIGNMENT: Choose standard for your 1st chart. Due @ lab. CAN be the one you already started working on for homework, or something new. If new, must bring lead sheet rhythmicized once through the form.

Lab Review rhythmic notation and rhythmicized lead sheets with feedback.

Week 5

Mon 2/10 Other harmonization techniques; 2 approach techniques.
ASSIGNMENT: Approach techniques practice examples. (due at lab)
Analyzing and listening to accompanied vocal arrangements.
ASSIGNMENT: Complete accompanied chart analyses (due 2/18)

Lab Review harmonization & approach techniques

Week 6

- Mon 2/17 Three more approach techniques.
ASSIGNMENT: Approach techniques practice examples.
Creating a “road map” of your vocal arrangement.
ASSIGNMENT: Create your roadmap.
- Lab Review roadmap so far, get feedback. Final review before test.
ASSIGNMENT: Complete roadmap based on feedback, prepare for test.

Week 7

- Mon 2/24 **TEST:** Harmonization techniques, approach techniques and rhythmic notation rules
Rhythm section writing techniques
Computer lab (if available) – workshop on rhythm section score techniques on Finale;
Vocal score layout in computer music notation.
ASSIGNMENT: Create a 1st draft of a rhythm section part for your vocal arrangement;
Write vocal parts for minimum of 1st chorus.
- Lab Feedback on rhythm section draft and vocal parts.

Week 8

- Mon 3/3 More on vocal score layout issues (computer lab or classroom, tbd); review and sing
vocal arrangements.
ASSIGNMENT: Complete vocal arrangement and rhythm arrangement, draft 2.
- Lab Review and get feedback on project.

Week 9 SPRING BREAK

- Mon 3/10 (No class)
- Lab (No class)

Week 10

- Mon 3/17 Individual read-thru of charts/feedback in class.
- Lab **Project One score due. Feedback given on the spot for any corrections.**

Week 11

- Mon 3/24 Final vocal parts and rhythm section parts due.
Chart recorded during the rest of the week on your own.
Final recordings must be uploaded by 5 p.m. Friday, 3/29.
- Lab (No lab)

Week 12

- Mon 3/31 Spread voicing techniques; a cappella vocal chart listening.
ASSIGNMENTS: Spread voicing technique practice exercises;
Choose song for Project Two & start roadmap (for lab).
- Lab Review song selection and roadmap for feedback.
ASSIGNMENT: Complete roadmap and begin writing vocal parts.

Week 13

Mon 4/7 Individual sessions (by appointment) for feedback on Project Two
Lab More feedback on Project Two

Week 14

Mon 4/14 In-class feedback and singing of Project Two
Lab Project Two Final draft feedback.

Week 15

Mon 4/21 **Project Two score due**
Lab Vocal and rhythm section parts due (if rhythm section is used)

Week 16

Mon 4/28 Discuss scores and other topics as review.
Record Project Two on your own during the rest of the week. Recordings must be uploaded by 5 p.m. Friday, 5/3.

FINAL EXAM WEEK:

Time TBA Listen to recordings of **Project Two** and receive graded scores back.
Final exam time