

## **MUJS 3620/5620 Jazz Arranging (Vocal Section)**

**Monday 2 – 3:40 p.m., Rm. 288**

**(Additional lab time individually arranged with TF Ryan Howe, Practice North Rm. 319)**

**Instructor: Jennifer Barnes**

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**Phone: (661) 713-0260 (only in case of last-minute emergency, please)**

**Office: MU 346**

**Course Objectives:** This class is an introduction to the art of vocal arranging. Analysis of “successful” vocal arrangements by 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. All assignments and homework will be done through Blackboard, and it is your responsibility to be up-to-date on any changes, announcements, additional assignments, etc., that are uploaded to Blackboard. The writing projects will be performed and recorded by the students on their own. Details will be available on Blackboard, and basic structure 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. Details will be
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, only absences cleared in advance are excused. Any unexcused absences from a Monday class will lower your semester grade BY ONE LETTER! It is your responsibility to obtain any information missed in class by arranging to have the class recorded and listening to it on your own time.

**Grading:** Grades will be determined as follows:

- Weekly participation in class & lab, and lab attendance – 10%
- Homework assignments and quizzes – 40%
- Project one – 20% [Full score (5%) + MIDI demo (5%) + Parts (5%) + Final recording (5%)]
- Project two – 30% [Score (7%) + MIDI demo (8%) + Parts (10%) + Final recording (5%)]

Homework or projects that are submitted late will be subject to a grade reduction off the total grade on the following scale (but will still be expected to be completed, since you must learn the material!):

- 1 – 2 days late = 25% reduction
- 3 – 6 days late = 50% reduction
- 7 – 13 days late = 75% reduction
- 14+ days late = no credit

***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**

Tues 1/20 PART ONE: Introduction  
Handout: "Functions of Notes/Chords"  
Handout: "Vocal Ranges"  
Handout: "Rhythmic Notation"  
Rhythmicization of swing melodies  
ASSIGNMENT: Rhythmicization of "Autumn Leaves"  
PART TWO: "Basic Voicing Structures", an introduction to 4-way close voicing technique; "Voicing Rules", rhythmic notation rules & guidelines, voicing "rules";  
set up lab time with Ryan  
ASSIGNMENT (due at lab): 4WC practice  
ASSIGNMENT (due Monday): "How High The Moon" – write 4-way close voicing for 1<sup>st</sup> half of the form of the song in key of F

### **Week 2**

Mon 1/21 PART ONE: Analysis of charts  
ASSIGNMENT: Choose 8 measures of music in a vocal jazz chart that prominently features the 4WC technique and analyze the harmony.  
PART TWO: Handout: "2-Part Homophonic movement texture options"  
ASSIGNMENT: "How High The Moon" – write 4-way close voicing for 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Review 4-way close and drop 2 techniques  
ASSIGNMENT: Voice 2<sup>nd</sup> half of "How High The Moon" in Drop 2 voicings (in Bb).  
ASSIGNMENT: Use the rhythmicized melody exercise and add a 2<sup>nd</sup> part, using concepts from the handout

Lab Play voiced sketches & get feedback.

### **Week 4**

Mon 2/3 Review analysis homework and discuss mistakes.  
ASSIGNMENT: Analysis of accompanied vocal charts.  
ASSIGNMENT: Rhythmic notation matrix.

ASSIGNMENT: Choose standard for your 1<sup>st</sup> chart. Due @ lab. CAN be the one you already started working on for homework, or something new. If new, must bring lead

sheet rhythmacized once through the form.  
Lab Review rhythmic notation and rhythmacized lead sheets with feedback.

### **Week 5**

Mon 2/10 TEST: 4WC & D2 voicing techniques  
Reharmonization techniques; 2 approach techniques.  
ASSIGNMENT: Approach techniques practice examples. (Due Wednesday night)  
ASSIGNMENT: Complete accompanied chart analysis (Due at lab)  
Lab Review approach techniques homework and spot any mistakes.  
ASSIGNMENT: Approach techniques practice examples. (Due Monday at class)

## Week 6

- Mon 2/17 Three more approach techniques. Common articulations.  
ASSIGNMENT: Approach techniques practice examples (due Wed. night).  
Creating a “road map” of your vocal arrangement.  
ASSIGNMENT: Create your roadmap.
- Lab Review roadmap, get feedback.  
ASSIGNMENT: Complete roadmap based on feedback, prepare for test.

## Week 7

- Mon 2/24 **TEST:** Approach techniques and articulations  
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 1<sup>st</sup> draft of a rhythm section part for your vocal arrangement;  
Write vocal parts for minimum of 1<sup>st</sup> chorus.
- Lab Feedback on rhythm section draft and vocal parts.  
ASSIGNMENT: Create a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of a rhythm section part for your vocal arrangement;  
Complete vocal parts for the rest of the chart.

## Week 8

- Mon 3/3 More on vocal score layout issues as well as creating audio trax (computer lab); review  
and sing vocal arrangements.  
ASSIGNMENT: Complete vocal arrangement and rhythm arrangement, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final draft  
(due at LAB). Recruit your singers and rhythm players to perform your chart!
- Lab Review and get feedback on project.

## Week 9 SPRING BREAK

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

## Week 10

- Mon 3/17 **Project One completed score due.** Individual read-thru of charts/feedback in class.  
ASSIGNMENT: Edit and finalize printed parts. Due Wednesday by midnight. You will  
pick up your graded/corrected parts by Friday morning from an envelope on my office  
door, so you can distribute to your singers for them to practice over the weekend.
- Lab (No lab today – finish editing parts, making MIDI demo and send to your singers  
instead!)

## Week 11

- Mon 3/24 No class today – instead, you are getting your chart recorded during this week on your own.  
ASSIGNMENT: Choose song for project two! (Due Monday, 3/31).  
Final recordings must be uploaded by 3 p.m. Friday, 3/28.
- Lab (No lab)  
ASSIGNMENT: Start road map for project two! (Due Monday, 3/31).

## **Week 12**

- Mon 3/31 Spread voicing techniques; a cappella vocal chart listening.  
ASSIGNMENTS: Spread voicing technique practice exercises (due Wednesday by midnight); a cappella chart analysis & continue roadmap (due Friday).
- Lab Review roadmap for Project Two.  
ASSIGNMENT: Complete roadmap and begin writing rhythm section & vocal parts.

## **Week 13**

- Mon 4/7 Class meeting to look at/analyze vocal arrangements, followed by individual sessions for feedback on Project Two
- Lab More feedback on Project Two

## **Week 14**

- Mon 4/14 In-class feedback and singing of Project Two; more chart analysis; individual sessions.
- Lab Project Two Final draft feedback.

## **Week 15**

- Mon 4/21 **Project Two score due:** Class meeting to read/listen, analyze charts
- Lab **Vocal and rhythm section parts due** (if rhythm section is used)

## **Week 16**

- Mon 4/28 No class meeting today: record Project Two on your own during this week. Recordings must be uploaded by 5 p.m. Friday, 5/3.

## **FINAL EXAM WEEK:**

- Mon 5/5 Listen to recordings of **Project Two** and receive graded scores back.  
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.