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MUJS 1820.501/5174.523

## JAZZ SINGERS



## Description &amp; Objectives of the Course

Jazz Singers is the flagship vocal ensemble in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of exploring the art form of ensemble jazz singing and playing at the highest level possible for a collegiate ensemble in this genre. Ensemble members will be challenged by a variety of levels of difficulty and sub-styles of music, and will be asked to demonstrate ever-increasing excellence in both their ensemble music-making and soloing. Rehearsals will provide the primary method for progress as an ensemble, with two days per week of either acoustic or amplified rehearsals with rhythm section and two days per week of vocal-only rehearsals (or sectionals). Rhythm section players will find an additional hour for sectional rehearsals each week. In addition, students will record themselves to complete learning and memorization assignments and there will be professional studio sessions at the conclusion of the semester to record selected pieces.

## Course Information

Mon 12 - 12:50 Rm. 262 (vocals only)

T/Th 12:30 - 1:50 pm Rm. 263 (vocals & rhythm section)

Fr 1 - 1:50 pm Rm. 282 (vocals only)

Director: Jennifer Barnes Teaching Assistant: Tyler Thomas

Office: Rm 346

email: [jennifer.barnes@unt.edu](mailto:jennifer.barnes@unt.edu)

cell: (661) 713-0260

## Course Attendance and Other Policies

In an ensemble like this one, 100% attendance is expected unless you are literally bed-ridden or in another emergency situation, due to the obvious effect that even ONE missing “team member” has on the entire group. If you earned a position in this ensemble, I assume that you desire to be here! Therefore I expect the following pertaining to attendance:

- Unexcused absences are not permitted. Any unexcused absence will result in a grade being lowered one letter, and a second will be grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.
- Other than the medical impossibility of singing/playing, all other assignments that were due in class must be submitted by recording on the day due or will be subject to a late penalty. (see below). While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me directly (do NOT tell someone else to tell me!) if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent*. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) and send an e-mail to [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu).
- While we are not required to wear masks according to UNT policy, we are requested to do so until further notice, so it is up to each student to decide for themselves, and I will ask that for the sake of our unity as an ensemble and the necessary respect we must have for each other, everyone must respect the decisions of others in this matter without discussion or question; any singer who wishes to wear a mask in rehearsal must wear a “singers mask” that provides more room in the mouth area. These are custom sewn by Rosana Eckert’s mother and I will provide more info for purchasing (they cost \$10) for those who don’t already have one.
- Arrive early to each rehearsal. Tardiness is a sign of disrespect to your fellow ensemble members as well as the director and will not be tolerated; repeated tardiness will be discussed as grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.
- Silence and put your phone in an inaccessible place **prior to entering the rehearsal space** to avoid causing distraction to yourself or anyone else (again, unless there’s an emergency



situation to which you alert the director). The only exception will be when you use your phone as a recording device, in which case it must remain in “AIRPLANE MODE”.

- Be warmed up prior to rehearsal, with a full water bottle. Other food or drinks are not permitted in rehearsal.
- Practice outside of rehearsal to be prepared on part-learning or memorization assignments. Assignments may be checked with spontaneous phone recordings of your own performance, which you’ll e-mail to the director or upload to Canvas.
- Rhythm section players: let Prof. Barnes know immediately if you must miss a rehearsal (excused absences would include playing for a departmental or other university-related function or certain paid gigs, on a case-by-case basis). You must provide a sub for the rehearsal who is your playing-level equal or better, and make sure that the sub has all the book of music, well-organized.
- In the event that the director is missing for part or all of a rehearsal, ensemble members will treat the Teaching Assistant with the same respect as the director and contribute to a productive rehearsal. Same holds true for section leaders in sectional rehearsals.
- Participate fully in the setup and teardown of sound system equipment.
- Contribute to a rehearsal atmosphere in the ensemble that is positive, encouraging, serious and fun!
- Leave personal problems and concerns at the door when you enter rehearsal — you can pick them up again when you leave (if you must!).
- Each ensemble member will receive a folder in which to store their music. The replacement fee is \$30 for any lost or damaged folder, so please treat the folder with respect and care.

### **You can expect *me* as the director to:**

- Be prepared to lead productive rehearsals.
- Communicate directly and honestly, with passion and compassion for each individual.
- Post a rehearsal schedule online once we have more than a few pieces in our repertoire so you’ll know what to prepare to focus on in advance of each rehearsal.
- Hold everyone accountable for their behavior and conduct as positive contributing ensemble members.
- Give fair and reasonable assignments and deadlines.
- Make time to listen to concerns or comments on anything related to the ensemble at a mutually agreed-upon appointment time (not during rehearsal, during which time is at a premium).

**Additional University policies:**

Student behavior policy: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ODA Statement: [disability.unt.edu](https://disability.unt.edu)

**Performances and Other Obligation Dates**

(TIMES ARE GOOD APPROXIMATIONS, BUT MAY CHANGE SLIGHTLY - BE FLEXIBLE)

| DATE/TIME                               | EVENT  | VENUE                         |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Sat., 9/11<br/>9 a.m. - 6 p.m.</b>   | Fall Retreat Day! (Rhythm section will be involved for a shorter period of time)       | Lab West & East               |
| <b>Sun., 10/3<br/>2 - 4 p.m.</b>        | Vocal jazz ensembles at Denton Arts & Jazz Festival - details to follow                | Quakertown Park, Denton       |
| <b>Fri., 10/15<br/>11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</b> | Jazz Singers Lunch Set (11 a.m. load-in, 12 noon start time, 12:50 p.m. end time)      | The Syndicate - Student Union |
| <b>Tues., 10/19<br/>7 - 11:30 p.m.</b>  | Jazz Singers, Avenue C & Third Street at The Syndicate (9 p.m. start for Jazz Singers) | The Syndicate - Student Union |
| <b>Fri, 11/12<br/>10 a.m. - 10 pm</b>   | Fall Concert Vocal Extravaganza! (All vocal jazz ensembles performing.)                | Voertman Hall                 |
| <b>Tues., 1/4<br/>Time TBD</b>          | Jazz Singers rehearsals w/ One O'Clock   | Lab East & West               |
| <b>Fri., 1/7<br/>Times TBD</b>          | Jazz Education Network Conference events   | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas   |
| <b>Week of 1/10 - 15</b>                | Rhythm Section Recording Session   | Crystal Clear Sound           |
| <b>Week of 1/10 - 15</b>                | Vocal Recording Session #1   | Crystal Clear Sound           |
| <b>Week of 1/10 - 15</b>                | Vocal Recording Session #2   | Crystal Clear Sound           |