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MUJS 1131.507

FUNDAMENTALS OF JAZZ PERFORMANCE



Description & Objectives of the Course

Fundamentals of Jazz Performance (Vocal section) is the entry-level jazz curriculum course in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of exploring many facets of what it takes to be a successful vocal musician in the program as you study the art of jazz.

By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

- Have a grasp of who the most important jazz singers (soloists and ensembles) are, what distinguishes them from each other, and be able to place them on a timeline in history from the inception of jazz singing to the present day.
- Sing along in performance with vocal artists and imitate their style through striving for perfection in all aspects of matching them.
- Confidently create written representations of your songs using computer notation software and either create or expand your “book” of tunes and lyrics for performance.
- Develop foundational transcription skills for transcribing music from recordings, starting with bass lines and moving into chord progressions.
- Develop practice methods for improvising over chord changes in a combination of theoretical and aural ways.

Course Information

M/W 2 - 2:50 pm, Room 292

Instructor: Jennifer Barnes

Office: Rm 346

Email: jennifer.Barnes@unt.edu

Cell: (661) 713-0260

Office Hours: By appt. - see
schedule online (Canvas page for
the vocal area)

Course Attendance, Grading & Policies

- Absences are limited to two for the semester. If there is a medical emergency, the student and instructor will work out a modified due date for the assignment(s) missed ASAP. Other than a medical impossibility of singing, 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 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* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.
- Each assignment/performance will be graded on Canvas; the grade is determined by the quality of preparation and the musicality of the assignments/performances.
- Your final semester grade will be calculated as follows:
 1. Attendance and class participation – 10%
 2. Assignments – 80%
 3. Final exam – 10%
- Homework, in-class performances 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 (exceptions will only be made for excused absences cleared in advance):
 - 1 – 2 days late = 10% reduction
 - 3 – 6 days late = 25% reduction
 - 7 – 13 days late = 50% reduction
 - 14+ days late = no credit

If you do well in this class, you too can be successful, like these people!



- Please silence your cell phone prior to entering the classroom space and put it in an inaccessible place to avoid causing distraction to yourself or anyone else. The only exception will be when you plan to use your phone as a recording device, in which case it must remain in “AIRPLANE MODE”.
- Laptops/tablets may be used for note-taking and recording, but no other activities. Students found to be doing so will earn a failing grade for class participation for that day.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although this syllabus is a guide to our plan for this class, the final word on scheduled assignments, due dates and specific content for each assignment will be on **Canvas**, NOT this syllabus, due to adjustments that will invariably need to be made to accommodate the individual pace and level of this specific class. It is each student’s responsibility to consult the online course to verify each assignment’s content and due date.

Required materials:

1. **iRealPro app (for phone, tablet or laptop - around \$15)**
2. **Access to Finale software, highly recommended to be purchased and registered on your laptop computer; if not possible, then you may use the Music Computer Lab. Korg NanoKey or other small/portable MIDI keyboard entry device also highly recommended.**

Additional University policies (click links):

Academic Integrity Policy: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

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

ADA Accommodation statement: disability.unt.edu

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (see Canvas for more specifics)
1	8/23	Introduction to class; Syllabus review; Day One Listening Exam	none!
2	8/25	Listening Exam Review, Part 1	Listening/writing Assignment #1
4	8/30	Listening Exam Review, Part 2	Listening/writing Assignment #2, Lead Sheet
5	9/1	Listening Exam Review, Part 3	Listening/writing Assignment #3
3	9/6	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS!	
6	9/8	Listening Exam Review, Part 4	Listening/writing Assignment #4
7	9/13	Intro to Modal Jazz: “Song for My Father”	Turn in original melody performance online; listen to modal playlist (esp. SFMT)
8	9/15	Workshop on “Song for My Father”	Shed on “Song for My Father”; record and upload to Canvas
9	9/20	Listen to solos on “Song for My Father”; explain Song list assignment	Create song list in Google Sheets
10	9/22	How song lists can be used; example book & lyric sheets; choosing keys	(No homework!)

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (see Canvas for more specifics)
11	9/27	Finale workshop in class - Part 1	
12	9/29	Finale workshop in class - Part 2	
13	10/4	Review lead sheets & answer questions	Lyric sheets
14	10/6	Discuss Singalong Assignment	Choose and upload information for Singalong Assignment #1; prep materials
15	10/11	In-class performances of Singalong #1	Choose and upload information for Singalong Assignment #2
16	10/13	Discuss Finale "Master lead sheet" concept; Slash & Rhythmic notation; Adding other instruments; working with Parts.	Prep Singalong Assignment #2
17	10/18	Introduction to Bass Line Construction	Compose a 2-feel bass line for "HHTM"
18	10/20	Composing bass lines, part 2; transcribing bass lines	Bass Line Transcription #1; compose.
19	10/25	Carmen McRae singing "Old Devil Moon"; analyze performance and interaction with band	Transcribe "Old Devil Moon" bass line
20	10/27	Go over homework; move into Brazilian bass lines - listening.	Start "Girl from Ipanema" bass line transcription
21	11/1	Transcribing bass lines as a step towards transcribing chord changes; review circle of 5ths and common jazz chord progression movement.	Transcribe "A Little Taste"
22	11/3	Review homework on "A Little Taste" and "Ipanema"	Work chords on "A Little Taste"
23	11/8	Piano "Skeletons"; Transcribing Chord Qualities	"How High the Moon" skeletons; Play them also.
24	11/10	Improv on "HHTM"	"Hit the shed!"
25	11/15	Improv day - more practice techniques!	Transcribing more
26	11/17	Individual sessions on Bass Line Transcription #4	Bass Line Transcription #5; Chord Transcription #1
27	11/22	Review Bass Line & Chord Transcription	Complete and edit final transcription of "Never Say Goodbye"
28	11/24	NO CLASS!	
29	11/29	Review & listen for Final Exam	Study!
30	12/1	Improv jam; Q & A	Prep for final.
	12/6	Final Exam 1:30 - 3 p.m.	