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## MUJS 3120

## VOCAL JAZZ TECHNIQUES



## Description &amp; Objectives of the Course

Vocal Jazz Techniques serves as the band-leading practicum for the vocalists in the UNT Division of Jazz Studies, with the purpose of bringing together many facets of what it takes to be a successful professional jazz vocalist and leader. There will be equal emphasis on chart-writing and leadership skills on the bandstand.

By the end of this semester, you will have increased your skills in:

- Expressing what you want from a rhythm section verbally
- Writing charts that are exact representations of what you want to happen musically in a performance
- Having more confidence with general leadership skills during your performances
- Doing all of the above while maintaining an outward projection in performance (to your audience) that is musically expressive and hides as much of the “behind the scenes” work going on as possible
- Giving constructive, supportive feedback to fellow musicians (instrumental and vocal)

You will also expand your repertoire through exploring new songs and hearing the songs that others in the class choose to perform.

## Course Information

M/W 1 - 1:50 am Rm. 263

Instructor: Jennifer Barnes

Office: MU 346

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

cell: (661) 713-0260

Office Hours: By appt. - see  
office door or online for options

## Course Attendance, Grading & Policies

- Due to the nature of the class, **full attendance is required at all sessions**. If you are unable to attend class (ill, personal emergency, out-of-town commitment, etc.), you must email me *before* class. If the emergency or illness happens within one hour prior to class, please text my cell phone instead, as I likely will not check e-mail that close to the start of class.
- An absence that occurs without prior communication of the legitimate excuse will be marked **unexcused**. An unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by five points. Only 2 excused absences will be allowed. If more than two occur, the final grade is subject to lowering by 10 points for each subsequent absence. Tardiness will result in the lowering of the daily participation grade.
- **Any student who is unable to sing at the allotted time must arrange with another student to exchange times.** Failure to do so will result in a zero for that performance grade since it is not possible to make-up a master class performance.
- Each student will be expected to participate in every class by being on time, listening attentively to the performance, and by offering comments courteously and in a positive manner.
- Each assignment/performance will be graded on Canvas; you may check your grades and discuss any questions about grading with me at any time. Performance grades are determined by the quality of preparation and the musicality of the assignments/performances.
- The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:
  1. Attendance and class participation – 15%
  2. In-class performances – 50%
  3. Written assignments - 15%
  4. Final performance – 20%
- Written homework assignments 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:
  - 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*



- 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 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.

## In-Class Performances, Assignments & Final Performance

- **All songs will be performed from memory.**
- ***Each student must upload a PDF to Canvas AND bring 4 printed copies*** of a properly formatted chart on their designated singing day (each performance will be with piano, bass, guitar, and drums). The chart must be uploaded BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, or will be considered late and graded accordingly.
- The performer must video record the performance (if using a cell phone, make sure there is sufficient memory). After each performance, the class will have a brief discussion, and all students are encouraged to offer their positive and constructive criticism in a positive manner.
- Each student will program at least one song from the following tempo brackets: 60 - 80 bpm (slow/ballad), 100 - 140 bpm (medium), and 220 - 250 bpm (fast); also must perform at least one arrangement that changes from rubato to a tempo and lead through that change; also at least one arrangement that features two different types of grooves in time (i.e., swing to samba)
- Multipage charts MUST be taped properly.
- After each time a student performs, he/she will watch/listen to the performance and write a self-assessment prior to the next class (details will be discussed).
- Final Evaluation and Songbook: The student must memorize and prepare charts for ten songs, including all charts previously performed **AND CORRECTED** from previous class performances. These songs must be put into 5 different binders or folders to be handed to the jury players and evaluation panel. More details on “book” requirements will be discussed in class. The student will perform two songs: 1 student choice, 1 evaluation panel choice.

### Additional University policies:

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

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

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

Retention of Student Records: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

[UNT Spring 2019 Final Examination Schedule](#)

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
1	1/14	Introduction to class; Syllabus review; Chart-writing expectations	Upload and bring a chart for a recording of an American Songbook tune by a favorite artist.
2	1/16	Listen to and look at some of the charts submitted.	Transpose/fix charts and be prepared to perform them.
3	1/21	No class - MLK day (university closed)	
4	1/23	Performance 1: Andrew, Gabi, Jess	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
5	1/28	Performance 1: Grace, Sierra, Hanna	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
6	1/30	Performance 1: Sam, Paris Look at pro charts	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
7	2/4	Performance 2: Andrew, Gabi, Jess	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
8	2/6	Performance 2: Grace, Sierra Look at pro charts	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
9	2/11	Performance 2: Hanna, Sam, Paris	Self-assessment, correct chart.
10	2/13	Teaching/Demonstration/Q & A day!	Prep next performance.
11	2/18	Performance 3 (Rubato to tempo): Andrew, Gabi	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
12	2/20	Performance 3 (Rubato to tempo): Jess, Grace, Sierra	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
13	2/25	Performance 3 (Rubato to tempo): Hanna, Sam, Paris	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
14	2/27	Performance 4 (Changing groove): Andrew, Gabi, Jess	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
15	3/4	Performance 4 (Changing groove): Grace, Sierra, Hanna	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
16	3/6	Performance 4 (Changing groove): Sam, Paris	Self-assessment; correct chart, start listening to next transcription options (see 3/18)
17	3/11- 13	SPRING BREAK	
18	3/18	Written material on charts of a higher complexity (bass line figures, etc.)	Make final choice of recording to transcribe with written-out material, upload and bring first draft.
19	3/20	Listen to selections, look at some charts	Finish transcribing.
20	3/25	Performance 5: Andrew, Gabi, Jess	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
21	3/27	Performance 5: Grace, Sierra	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
22	4/1	Performance 5: Hanna, Sam, Paris	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.

#	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
23	4/3	Performance 6: Andrew, Gabi	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
24	4/8	Performance 6: Jess, Grace, Sierra	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
	4/10	Performance 6: Hanna, Sam, Paris	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
26	4/15	Performance 7: Andrew, Gabi, Jess	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
27	4/17	Performance 7: Grace, Sierra, Hanna	Self-assessment; correct chart, prep next performance.
28	4/22	Performance 7: Sam, Paris	Self-assessment; correct chart. Prep for gig sit-in.
29	4/24	TBD - guest instructor	Prep for gig sit-in and write 6 evaluations of fellow classmates.
30	4/29	"Gig Sit-in" day!	Write final 6 evaluations of fellow classmates.
31	5/1	Piano Bar performances (all students) - NO RHYTHM SECTION.	Self-assessment (due May 7 at 11:59 p.m.).
	5/4	<b>SATURDAY, MAY 4 - 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.</b>  <b>FINAL PERFORMANCE!!! YES, IT'S SATURDAY!</b>  <b>(The official exam time is listed as starting at 10:30 a.m., but since we don't need a full 2-hour block of time, we'll be more reasonable and start at 11!)</b>	