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MUJS 1820.501/5174.523

JAZZ SINGERS



Description & 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 acoustic vocal-only rehearsal (one may be sectional rehearsals or all vocalists together), and two days per week of amplified rehearsal with rhythm section. In addition, there will be studio recording sessions at the end of the semester to record songs that will be added to other previous sessions to compile an album recording approximately every two years.

Course Information

Full ensemble: T/Th 12:30 - 1:50 pm (Rm. 263);

Vocalists only: M 12 - 12:50 pm (262), Fr 1 - 1:50 pm (282)

Director: Jennifer Barnes

Teaching Assistant: Dakota Andersen

email: jennifer.barnes@unt.edu

cell: (661) 713-0260

Office: Rm 346

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 things 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 a 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 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 possible symptoms of COVID-19, please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. For the most updated COVID guidelines, see: <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/covid-guidelines>
- 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 should be used 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:** Let the director 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.
- Participate fully in the setup and teardown of sound system equipment. Every ensemble member is necessary to this task, and avoidance of this responsibility won't be allowed.
- 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 feel 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 carefully.

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

Performances and Other Obligation Dates

DATE/TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Fri., 3/4 11 am - 1 pm	"Nooner" Syndicate Performance	The Syndicate
Week of 3/7 - 11	Gomez Artist Kurt Elling visiting campus; plan to be available for all of his sessions!	
Wed., 3/9 7 - 9 pm	Extra rehearsal with Kurt Elling	Lab West
Fri., 3/11 3 pm - 11 pm	Soundcheck and concert (7:30 p.m.) with Kurt Elling	Winspear Hall
Wed. - Fri, 3/6-8 Times TBD	Sessions and an extra rehearsal with Guest Artist Sinne Eeg	TBD
Sat., 4/9 12 noon - 10 pm	Spring Concert with VJQ and Guest Artist Sinne Eeg - exact times TBD	Voertman Hall
Tues, 4/26 7 pm - 11:30 pm	Soundcheck and concert - Jazz Singers & VJQ	The Syndicate
Mon, 5/2 5 pm - 10 pm	Rhythm Section Recording Session	Crystal Clear Sound
Fri, 5/6 10 am - 8 pm	Vocal Recording Session #1	Crystal Clear Sound
Sat, 5/7 10 am - 6 pm	Vocal Recording Session #2	Crystal Clear Sound

(NOTE: Other performance dates may be added with a minimum of 3 weeks advance notice.)