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MUJS 3120/5120/5174

VOCAL JAZZ TECHNIQUES



Description & 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

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.), please **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. If more absences 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.
- **Rhythm section players must send a sub (at equal or better playing level) if they will be absent, and notify Prof. Barnes in advance.** Please be aware that you are being graded for your playing level, attitude and contributions to the class like the singers, as in a lab band, even though advance preparation of charts isn't required.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance

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 so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu). UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important. Face coverings are requested in all UNT facilities.

For the most updated COVID guidelines, see:
<https://healthalerts.unt.edu/covid-guidelines>

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



- Each student will be expected to participate in every class by being on time, listening attentively to the performance, taking notes, and offering feedback courteously and in a constructive, 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
- 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 use your phone as a recording device, in which case it should be used in “AIRPLANE MODE”.
- Laptops may not be used during class unless the laptop is the recording device for a performance, or taking class notes.

In-Class Performances, Assignments & Final Performance

- **All songs will be performed from memory, but you need a copy of your chart to look at and on which to make notes, and you may have notes for your talk-thru.**
- ***Each student must upload a PDF to Canvas AND bring 5 printed copies*** of a properly formatted and taped chart on their designated singing day. The chart must be uploaded BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, or will be considered late and graded accordingly.
- The performer must video record their 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 will offer feedback in a constructive, respectful and professional manner.
- 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 update and correct all charts for songs performed throughout the semester. These songs must be put into 5 different folders or binders to be handed to the jury players (4) and evaluation panel (1). 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 & services:

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

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

ODA Statement: disability.unt.edu

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

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

• **Student Health and Wellness Center** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)

• **Counseling and Testing Services** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

• **UNT Care Team** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)

• **UNT Psychiatric Services** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)

• **Individual Counseling** (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

#	DATE	TOPIC
1	1/19	Introduction to class; Syllabus review
2	1/24	Listen to and look at the charts submitted; Chart-writing expectations
4	1/26	Performance 1 - Stolen “Bookend” Arrangement: Christiana, Daniella
5	1/31	Performance 1 - Stolen “Bookend” Arrangement: Jasper Demo: Sitting in!
6	2/2	Sitting In!
7	2/7	Performance 2 - Stolen Ending: Christiana, Jasper
8	2/9	Performance 2 - Stolen Ending: Daniella Performance 3 Demo

#	DATE	TOPIC
9	2/14	Performance 3 (Rubato to tempo): Jasper, Daniella
10	2/16	Performance 3 (Rubato to tempo): Christiana
11	2/21	Teaching/Demonstration/Q & A day! Demo Changing groove
12	2/23	Performance 4 (Changing groove): Christiana, Daniella
13	2/28	Performance 4 (Changing groove): Jasper
14	3/2	Performance 5 - Key change and vamp ending: Christiana, Jasper
15	3/7	Performance 5 - Key change and vamp ending: Daniella
16	3/9	Duo prep & sitting in!
	3/14-16	Spring Break!
18	3/21	Prep for the Syndicate gig! Duo prep part 2.
	3/22	Syndicate gig - 9 p.m. (followed by other vocal soloists)
19	3/23	Watch & debrief Syndicate gig; duo prep part 3.
20	3/28	Performance 6 - Guitar Duos
21	3/30	Performance 7 - Piano Duos
22	4/4	Performance 8 - Bass Duos
23	4/6	Performance 9 - Drum Duos
24	4/11	Written material on charts of a higher complexity (bass line figures, etc.)
25	4/13	First draft of Performance 10 charts
26	4/18	Performance 10: Christiana, Daniella
27	4/20	Performance 10: Jasper
28	4/25	Prep for performance 11 - soli lines
29	4/27	Performance 11: Christiana, Jasper, Daniella
30	5/2	Sit in!
31	5/4	Final, Part 1 - Performance
	5/9	Final, Part 2 - Writing Assignment due, 1 p.m.