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MUJS 3620/5620

ARRANGING II (VOCAL)

Description & Objectives of the Course

This class is an introduction to the art of vocal arranging. Analysis of vocal arrangements by arrangers past and present, drills for writing techniques and tools, and one larger writing project will be the means through which learning will take place. All work must be completed using computer notation, preferably Finale (although Sibelius may be used, just won't be discussed in class). All assignments will be uploaded on Canvas, and it is each student's responsibility to be up-to-date on any changes, announcements, additional assignments, etc., online. The final writing project will be performed and recorded by the students on their own, outside of class.

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

- Write "stock" voicing like four-way close, drop 2, spread, drop 2 & 4, and maintain a consistent musical dialect within your charts
- Use reharmonization and approach techniques to create more interesting harmonic language
- Recognize characteristics and traits of well-written vocal and vocal/instrumental arrangements
- Learn how to roadmap and be able to write under a strict time deadline with externally imposed limitations and constraints
- Understand the basics of how to make a demo recording of your work
- Understand the basics of publishing and copyright where it concerns arranging, and have the tools to begin self-publishing through the ArrangeMe platform (Sheet Music Plus)

Course Information

**Mondays 2 - 3:45 p.m. (w/ 5 min
break in the middle)**

50 min. add'l Lab Time - TBD

Instructor: Jennifer Barnes

Office: Rm 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 compressed nature of the class, absences are strongly discouraged. Any absence must be cleared in advance (prior to class) to be considered excused, and unexcused absences will cause a drop of 5 points off the final grade, with each subsequent absence causing a drop of 10 points off the final grade. If there is a medical emergency, the student and instructor will work out a modified due date for the missed assignment(s) ASAP. In the event that you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to obtain the information missed by watching the Zoom class video; the instructor and teaching assistant will not conduct a private session to re-teach the material.

Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill. 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, as well as making a video recording of the class for you to watch afterwards.

- The final semester grade will be calculated as follows:
 1. Class/lab attendance and class participation – 10%
 2. Assignment grades – 60%
 3. Final project – 30% [Score (10%) + Parts (10%) + Final recording (10%)]
- Homework, in-class performances or projects that are submitted late will be subject to the following grade reduction:
 - 1 – 2 days late = 10% reduction
 - 3 – 6 days late = 20% reduction
 - 7 – 13 days late = 50% reduction
 - 14+ days late = no credit
- For basic assignments in this class, grades will be earned with the following point representations:
 - 95 = A (Excellent work - nearly perfect)
 - 85 = B (Very good work - could be better)
 - 75 = C (Not adequate work - definitely ask for clarification/help, or put in more time on your work!)
 - 65 or lower = F (Failing work - this is the time to get VERY serious about figuring out what you're not understanding!)

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



Rosana
Eckert



Kerry
Marsh



Kelly
Kunz



Kelly
Kunz

Michele
Weir



Well, I
mean...

- Please read all the feedback given after each assignment you submit on Canvas! It is imperative that you understand the errors you made and know how to avoid them in the future. This class is VERY much about cumulative knowledge - don't ever think, "well, I don't really understand this, but hopefully next week it'll make more sense." I guarantee, IT WON'T! If you don't understand, ask, right away!
- **Up until the end of week 7**, homework assignments that receive a grade less than 80 (a "B") can be corrected and re-submitted within one week of the original due date to be re-graded; the original grade plus the revised grade will be averaged to raise the initial grade. **After week 7, assignments will be no longer re-graded for an amended grade.**
- If it is possible for you to have a laptop available during class when we are covering notation-related things, you may find that helpful, in addition to using it to take notes. However, if you choose to have a laptop open, you should use a "focus" mode that ensures that no e-mail, no internet, no other applications will be distracting you! This course is definitely "content-dense", and any lapse in attention span will definitely have an adverse affect on your ability to comprehend the material and complete the next assignment.
- **Note regarding PDF docs in this class:** There is no textbook for this class. Rather, in Canvas, you'll have Modules for each week of class, and there will be PDFs or Pages with information you'll need to access in order to do the homework. I **strongly** urge you to download the PDFs and either store them digitally where you can readily open and access them in a well-organized fashion OR print out the PDFs and make a folder that will amount to your own textbook of material, or both! You simply MUST have access to this information to complete your work every week, and you won't remember all of the rules and guidelines that MUST be followed to complete your work well without them!
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although this syllabus is a guide to our plan for this class, the final word on the content of each class will be on **Canvas**, NOT this syllabus, due to adjustments that will invariably need to be made to accommodate the pace and level of this specific class. It is each student's responsibility to consult the online course on a regular basis.

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

Week	DATE	TOPIC
1	1/19 (Lab)	Introduction to class; Syllabus review; Chord/color tone review; Voicing structures and rules - 4WC
1	1/23	Review 4WC; Swing rhythms, Vocal ranges; color tone pairings
2	1/30	Introduce "Drop 2"; Voicing rules/Flat 9 avoidance
2	Lab	Review homework assignments

Week	DATE	TOPIC
3	2/6	Low interval limits; Approach Techniques.
3	Lab	Review approach techniques homework
4	2/13	PART 1: Sing “All the Things” assignments; Review problems in homework assignments; PART 2: Drop 3, Drop 2 & 4; Publishing, “ArrangeMe/Sheet Music Plus”
4	Lab	Review all voicing techniques; recurring problems in homework (b9 intervals, enharmonic spelling, courtesy accidentals)
5	2/20	PART 1: Writing chord symbols with alterations; read “I Thought About You” examples; Articulations PART 2: Spread voicing techniques; 2- and 3-part writing
5	Lab	
6	2/27	PART 1: Reharmonization techniques; What makes a “good” arrangement PART 2: Background vocals; analyze “Ghost”
6	Lab	Review roadmap; approach techniques; score creation questions
7	3/6	Computer notation concepts; Score layout; Rhythm section writing, part one.
7		NO LAB THIS WEEK DUE TO GOMEZ ARTIST ACTIVITIES
	3/13	SPRING BREAK
8	3/20	5-part chord voicings; drum notation & drum keys; more on rhythm section
8	Lab	TBD
9	3/27	Discuss final project; look at chart examples
9	Lab	Approve final project road map
10	4/3	Look at first drafts in class - sing some; rhythm section writing, part two (hits vs. slashes)
10	Lab	
11	4/10	Completed score due - second draft; discuss MIDI demo process; looking at examples of poor writing or score practice
11	Lab	Assistance - by appt.
12	4/17	Final score & first draft of MIDI demo due
12	Lab	Review parts & MIDI before final version due
13	4/24	Recording - GarageBand/Logic
13	Lab	No lab this week
14	5/1	Adapting charts for other voicings; a cappella chart analysis in-class
15	5/8	Final Exam time - listen to Final Project recordings (NOTE: our official exam time is 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. according to the UNT Spring semester finals schedule, however, since our final exam consists of listening to your charts, which won't take as long as the exam time, we will meet at the regularly scheduled class start time of 2 p.m.)