

WEST END

T/TH 5-6:20PM, Rm 262

Contact Info:

Director: Rachel Azbell
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Objectives:

1. Apply optimal vocal technique within the context of the vocal jazz ensemble.
2. Apply optimal ensemble professional presentations (rehearsals/performances).
3. Demonstrate a broader understanding and appreciation for vocal jazz literature and styles.

Students are responsible for:

1. Arriving on time and warmed up to all rehearsals and performances.
2. Practicing outside of scheduled rehearsals to solidify individual parts.
3. Recording parts for each piece as assigned by the director on Soundtrap.
4. Adhering to sound equipment responsibilities and handling all equipment carefully.
5. Keeping track of music and group folder. If misplaced, the student will pay a \$30 replacement fee.

Students can expect the director to:

1. Approach the class with the mindset that every student is capable of succeeding.
2. Hold each student accountable to successful habits.
3. Be prepared for rehearsals and model musical ideas.
4. Communicate the passion for this music and the ensemble.

Attendance Policy:

Excused absences are planned ahead of time. Absences due to illness require a doctor's note to be considered excused. Texting or emailing me an hour before rehearsal to let me know you will not be there does not count as excused. Each student will be allowed one "freebie" absence where they will not be required to produce documentation to prove why they were absent. However, the student must still let the director know ahead of time that they will not be attending rehearsal. Beyond the first, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction from your overall grade. Three tardies count as one absence; please be on time.

Rhythm section members, if they must be absent, are responsible for finding substitutes for themselves. (Note: This is NOT to be used for anything other than excused absences described above and must be communicated to the director ahead of time.) Their substitute must be of equal playing ability or higher and the absent instrumentalist must provide their substitute with all music and any other materials required for the rehearsal. If attendance becomes an issue, the student must meet with the director and Professor Barnes outside of rehearsal to discuss whether they will be allowed to continue singing in the ensemble. **Essentially: Be punctual, positive, and prepared!**

Most importantly: keep in mind that we are an ensemble and we function best when every member is present, on time, and focused. Respect everyone's time!

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 COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. 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) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. 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.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction

The UNT fall schedule requires this course to have fully remote instruction beginning November 28th. Additional remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. **This class will have online/remote components and expectations throughout the entirety of this semester.** Students will need access to stable WIFI connectivity, at least one device (preferably a laptop) a recording microphone (either the one already within the laptop or a secondary one) and a Soundtrap account (recording program, we will discuss this in class!) in order to participate in remote portions of the class. [Learn more about how to be successful in a remote learning environment.](#)

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during the in-person portions of this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

Grading Policy:

Attendance/Participation: 30%

Assignments (In-Class or Remotely): 30%

Final Performance: 30%

Attitude and Preparedness: 10%

Soundtrap and Recording Responsibilities:

This semester, we will be combining in-person rehearsal with remote/online music-making using Soundtrap. This is a free online program that allows groups of musicians to record music together asynchronously. We will become acclimated with this program early in the semester. Students are expected to record their parts as assigned by the director. These will makeup part of the “assignments” portion of your grade.

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 must be submitted by recording on the day due or will be subject to a late penalty.

Recording 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, since you must learn the material and contribute to the group recording projects. 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

Final Performance:

Recording Session for Livestream Concert: **Friday November, 13th - All Day.**

This is mandatory (NOT optional). Missing this performance will result in an automatic zero for the semester. The official call time will be announced in the weeks leading up to the performance and will be based on how much set up is needed, etc. Once officially announced by the director, this call time will become mandatory as well. You will not be singing for the entirety of the day but I ask that you block off this entire day NOW so we can be flexible and present when needed.

Additional Student Resources:

Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (Undergraduates)

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or

visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please check your UNT email for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: www.unt.edu/csrr.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.