

MUJS 1132.507 Jazz Performance Fundamentals II (Vocal) Spring 2026

Mon/Wed 3:00 – 3:50 pm MU 320

Instructor – Katelyn Robinson

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Course Description

Jazz Performance Fundamentals (Vocal) is a two-semester course focusing on the most essential skills required of a vocal jazz major in the Jazz Studies program at the University of North Texas. The second semester of the course will cover topics to include:

- History of the vocal jazz lineage and knowledge of major artists
- The continued use of Dorico (or other appropriate, professional, music notation software) to create lead sheets and lyric sheets to continue developing a “book” of your repertoire
- Learning to accompany yourself with a “skeleton” of chord changes from a lead sheet
- Basic understanding of vocal pedagogy as it applies to jazz singing
- Deepening the ability to interpret a lyric and melody, delivering a song with a distinct point of view
- Developing the foundation for improvising through chord changes including ear training in a manner geared towards vocalists
- An introduction to arranging for the solo singer

Attendance

Due to the nature of the class, full attendance is required at all sessions. An absence that occurs without prior communication (at least an hour before the start of class) of the legitimate excuse will be marked unexcused. (Excused absences include illness, family emergencies, university ensemble performances, etc.) Only 2 excused absences will be allowed. Additional absences or any unexcused absences could result in the lowering of your grade by one letter for each absence. Three tardies will equal one absence. All excused absences should be communicated to the instructor in advance via email.

Grading/Late Policy

Homework assignments, in-class performances, and class participation will all be graded regularly. Your final grade will be based on the following breakdown:

- Assignments 70%
- Attendance/Participation 5%
- Midterm 10%
- Final Exam 15%

Any late coursework will be graded using the following policy:

- 1-2 days late = 10% reduction
- 3-6 days late = 25% reduction
- 7-13 days late = 50% reduction
- 14+ days late = no credit

Class Expectations/Communication with Instructor

You are expected to take notes, keep a notebook/file for your materials (physically or digitally), and communicate appropriately. All written assignments are to be computer-prepared (using Dorico, Finale, Sibelius, or appropriate word processing software), neatly according to the standards set forth by the instructor.

All communication to instructor should be conducted via UNT email. Cell phone communication is reserved for unexpected emergency circumstances only. Be sure to ask questions pertaining to course assignments in a timely manner, so you receive a response before the deadline. Communication and time management are essential to success in this course!

Additional note: Please be sure to not schedule any end-of-semester juries against our regularly scheduled meeting time.

MUJS 1132 Fundamentals – Katelyn Robinson – Instructor

Tentative Class Schedule

Class schedule subject to change

Week 1

Day	Date	Class content	Assignment Due
Mon	1/12	Introductions, syllabus, rhythm etude	
Wed	1/14	Discussion: Expanding the Guide Tones	Rhythm etude due FRI. 1/16

Week 2

Mon	1/19	NO CLASS – MLK Day	Expanding guide tones pt. 1
Wed	1/21	Practice: Expanding the guide tones pt. 2	Expanding guide tones pt. 2

Week 3

Mon	1/26	Expanding the guide tones pt. 3 performance	Expanding guide tones, in class performance
Wed	1/28	Discussion: Michele Weir intros/endings	

Week 4

Mon	2/2	Intro/ending quiz Standard with intro/ending performance	Intro/ending arrangement #1
Wed	2/4	Discussion: Intros/ending and arranging techniques	

Week 5

Mon	2/9	Swing tune with special touch performance	Intro/ending arrangement #2, in class performance
Wed	2/11	Discussion: Intros/endings and arranging techniques	

Week 6

Mon	2/16	Special Topic	
Wed	2/18	Discussion: Gettin' it Together Aebersold	

Week 7

Mon	2/23	Gettin' it Together, improv jam	Gettin' it together, in class performance
Wed	2/25	Discussion: Chromaticism in improvisation with enclosures, chromatic linking, neighbor tones, etc.	

Week 8

Mon	3/2	Midterm prep: All of Me solo drafts	All of Me improv pt. 1
Wed	3/4	Midterm: All of Me solo	All of me improv pt. 2

Mon	3/9	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
Wed	3/11	NO CLASS – Spring Break	

Week 9

Mon	3/16	Discussion: Lyric goal words and melodic variation	Bossa nova piano
Wed	3/18	Discussion: Second chorus singing, student led listening	Swing tune second chorus pt. 1

Week 10

Mon	3/23	Swing tune second chorus performance	Swing tune second chorus pt. 2, in class performance
Wed	3/25	Discussion: Bass lines in minutes	

Week 11

Mon	3/30	Practice: Bass lines drafts	Bass lines pt. 1
Wed	4/1	Discussion: Rhythm changes etude	Bass lines pt. 2

Week 12

Mon	4/6	Discussion: Audience interaction and stage presence	Rhythm changes etude
Wed	4/8	Stage presence group presentations	Stage presence presentations

Week 13

Mon	4/13	Discussion: Rubato phrasing	
Wed	4/15	Practice: Rubato phrasing	Rubato phrasing pt. 1

Week 14

Mon	4/20	Rubato phrasing performance	Rubato phrasing pt. 2, in class performance
Wed	4/22	Discussion: Multi-groove arrangements	

Week 15

Mon	4/27	Two groove performance	Two groove arrangement, in class performance
Wed	4/29	Final exam discussion + Q&A	

Final Exam

Wed	5/6	Blues etude	Take home exam due by 2:30pm
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

disability.unt.edu

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

<https://music.ut.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

SEMESTER CALENDAR (INCLUDING FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE), SPRING 2026

<https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

FINANCIAL AID AND SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Undergraduates

<http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

<http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

<http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

<https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

<https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>