

**MUAC 1503**  
**Applied Jazz Voice Lessons**

**University of North Texas College of Music, Spring 2026**

**Course: MUAC 1503**

**Location: Bain 219**

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**Office Hours: By appointment only**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

50 minute lesson for jazz voice students. Technical Requirement: Warm-ups, cool-downs and introductory exercises for breath management. Attack in phonation, resonance, articulation, coordination, microphone technique, key selection, vocal hygiene and maintenance.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Demonstrate appropriate vocal technique, tone production, and stylistic nuances specific to excellent jazz performance.
- Select, prepare, and perform repertoire that both expands stylistic range and targets areas for technical and musical growth.
- Cultivate somatic awareness by understanding and applying kinesthetic principles to healthy and expressive vocal production.
- Build and maintain an effective organizational system for lesson materials and personal practice documentation.
- Analyze and articulate the historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts of the repertoire, understanding *why* the music exists and how it functions within the jazz tradition.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Phone, laptop, tablet, or other recording device to **record lessons each week**.
- Filled water bottle (not just coffee/tea!)
- ALL material from previous weeks, annotated (can be print or digital).
- Organizational/Note Taking System (see below for details).
- A warmed up voice, productive attitude, and open mind!
- iRealPro App
- Finale, Dorico, or Sibelius for PROFESSIONAL LOOKING charts
- Amazing Slow Downer App (or comparable)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL MATERIALS AND PRACTICE TRACKING**

Students are required to maintain a **dedicated lesson folder or binder** containing all **lead sheets, arrangements, assignments, and handouts** provided throughout the semester. No lesson notes need to be kept in the binder. iPads or other tablets are acceptable **as a supplement** to a physical binder, but **not as a replacement**.

All students must maintain a **shared OneDrive folder** accessible to both the student and instructor, containing:

- **PDF copies of all lead sheets, arrangements, and other printed materials** provided throughout the semester.
- A **shared Word document for post-lesson notes and the weekly practice log**. Students are expected to **listen to their lesson recordings** and summarize key technical goals, repertoire guidance, and stylistic feedback. The weekly practice log should be brief and simple, designed primarily for accountability, noting what was practiced and for how long.

For all printed materials, students must bring **two printed copies**—one for themselves and one for the instructor—as well as a PDF version stored digitally in the shared folder. **Multi-paged charts should be taped.**

All lessons should be **recorded by the student**, and notes and practice logs are to be added afterward in the shared Word document. Organization is **of critical importance** to your growth as a musician; failure to maintain the binder, shared digital materials, lesson recordings, or weekly practice logs will negatively affect lesson grades.

## **SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR REFLECTIONS/PRACTICE LOGS**

Here is a suggested format for your lesson reflections and practice logs. Feel free to diverge from this format if you choose. Find what works for you, but make sure you stay consistent!

### **Lesson Reflection (after listening back to your recording)**

- Date:
- Main technical focus:
- Key feedback from lesson:
- Personal takeaways / goals for the week:

### **Practice Log**

- Date:
- Minutes practiced:
- What I worked on:
- Quick reflection: (1–2 sentences: what felt better, what was difficult, what to try next)

## WARM UP EXPECTATION

Students are expected to **warm up prior to each lesson**. If a student is unsure of how to warm up properly, part of the first lesson can be dedicated to building a warm up routine. Lessons will include vocalization/exercises, which are **more fun with a warm voice!** Search *Jacobs Vocal Academy* for warm-up resources!

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Lessons are **50 minutes long**, allowing you 10 minutes to get to your next class.
- **An absence is considered unexcused for the following reasons:**
  - Failure to notify instructor of absence at least 24 hours in advance
  - Planned absence for an unacceptable reason (acceptable reasons include illness, emergency, University obligations)
- **EACH UNEXCUSED ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN 5% OFF FINAL GRADE.**
- Last minute cancellations will be accepted in the case of family emergency or illness (with doctor's note). Please notify me via text: **(206) 596-1967**
- Official University obligations (such as ensemble performances) must be communicated at least **1 week** in advance and accompanied by official documentation/institutional letter in order to be considered excused.
- Please arrive at your lesson on time. **3 tardies will count as one unexcused absence.**
- Underpreparedness is **NOT** a valid reason to reschedule your lesson. Personal matters will be taken into consideration—just be open about what is going on.
- Only **2** reschedules will be accommodated per semester. Scheduling will be at the instructor's discretion and subject to availability.
- **ALL MAKEUP LESSONS MUST BE SCHEDULED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF ORIGINAL ABSENCE, OR MAKEUP WILL BE FORFEITED.**

## GRADING POLICY

Each lesson is evaluated using a 4-point pass/fail system. Students may earn up to 4 points per lesson, with 1 point available in each category listed below. Points are awarded only when work is completed to a satisfactory level. Incomplete or insufficient work receives no point for that category.

### **On-Time Arrival (1 point)**

- Pass: Student arrives on time and ready to begin at the scheduled lesson start time.
- Fail: Student arrives late.

### **Listening Responses (1 point)**

- Pass: Assigned listening work is completed to a satisfactory level and demonstrates engagement with the material.
- Fail: Listening work is incomplete or does not meet a satisfactory standard.

### **Written Assigned Material (1 point)**

- Pass: Assigned written materials are completed to a satisfactory level with appropriate care and attention.
- Fail: Written work is incomplete or does not meet a satisfactory standard.

### **Preparedness for Performance (1 point)**

- Pass: Student arrives prepared to perform assigned repertoire, exercises, or technical material to a satisfactory level.
- Fail: Student is unprepared or preparation is incomplete or insufficient.

### **Important Notes**

Each category is graded independently on a pass/fail basis. All assigned work must be completed to a satisfactory level to earn the point for that category. Incomplete work receives no point, regardless of partial completion. **Your semester grade will depend primarily on your preparedness in lessons and technical/musical development over the course of the semester.** Keep your standards high! Remember, these lessons are for **YOU!** Don't you want to be excellent?

**Your final grade will consist of:**

***Lesson Grades: 65% (13 weeks x 5% each week)***

***Final Jury: 35%***

A = 4 points earned

B = 3 points earned

C = 2 points earned

D = 1 point earned

F = 0 points earned

### **AI POLICY**

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for writing text for assignments and papers in this course is prohibited, as it will interfere with your opportunity to build critical thinking and writing skills. Any use of AI to support or assist writing projects (research, summaries of sources, outline suggestions, editing/grammar) must be disclosed and properly cited.

**FOR CURRICULUM/JURY INFORMATION, SEE THE DIVISION CANVAS PAGE!**

## **SUGGESTED MATERIALS (with recommendations)**

- Fake Books (The Standards Real Book, The Ultimate Fake Book)
- Dynamic microphone (Shure SM58, Shure BETA 58A, Sennheiser e835)
- XLR microphone cable (suggested, Mogami Gold)
- PA/Speaker (Roland CUBE)
- Nebulizer (VocalMist) and/or steamer

## **RESOURCES AND POLICIES**

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

Dean of Students - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/>

Eagle Connect - <https://aits.unt.edu/eagleconnect/>

Office of Disability Access - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>

Division of Student Affairs - <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/index.html>

Registration Information for Students - <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar - <https://registrar.unt.edu/academic-calendar-by-semester.html>

Health and Safety - <https://music.unt.edu/resources/students/health-and-wellness>