

Vocal Jazz Techniques Syllabus - Fall 2021

Vocal Jazz Techniques - MUJS 3120 and 5120

Syllabus and Course Requirements – Fall 2021

Class Meetings - MW 1:00 - 1:50 (MU 263)

Instructor - Rosana Eckert

Office - MU 348. Cell -(817)-368-4422.

Email - rosana.eckert@unt.edu



Course Prerequisites: MUTH 1500, MUJS 1370, 1371, 1470

Course Objectives

The student will develop his/her jazz solo style, ear training, jazz piano skills, and communication skills; study the artistic style of respected jazz vocalists; and develop a personal repertoire and song book. Due to the different levels of experience among the students, the course requirements may be tailored for individual students.

Attendance Policy

Due to the nature of the class, **full attendance is required at all sessions**. Half of you will attend virtually (when you are not scheduled to sing), and half of you will attend in person wearing masks (while singing as well). **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 ten points. Only 2 excused absences will be allowed. Beyond that, the student may be asked to drop the course.**

*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 let me know if you are feeling ill. Text me prior to being absent. If you are experiencing

shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible 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.

Expectations

Each student will be expected to participate in every class by being on time, listening attentively to the performance, and by offering comments courteously and in a positive manner. Tardiness will result in the lowering of the daily participation grade. **Any student who is unable to sing at the allotted time must contact me prior to class.** With such a small class this semester, we can easily switch the schedule around. Failure to do so could result in a zero for that performance grade.

Required Materials

Fake Book (or other means of broadening repertoire)

Video recording device (your phone is fine)

Access to music software for creating charts (Finale/Sibelius)

Five binders or folders for gig book

Facial mask

(You may bring your own microphone and cable if you wish. There will be sanitizing wipes on hand.)

Masterclass

Each student will bring 5 copies (one for each player, one for class) of a properly formatted chart on their designated singing day (each performance will be with piano, bass, guitar, and drums). While one student is singing, the rest of the class will serve as the attentive audience. Some students may be attending the class via zoom. The performer is expected to video record the performance (if using a cell phone, make sure there is sufficient memory space). After each performance, the class will have a brief discussion, and students are encouraged to offer their comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism in a positive manner. Two to three singers will sing on each masterclass day. First semester vocalists should make sure you program at least one song from the following styles: ballad (straight and/or swung), swing (up and medium), bossa nova and/or samba, blues. Optional: Shuffle. If you have questions about your chart, ask me! Please tape the pages together on multipage charts. **All songs should be performed from memory.** Each performance gets a grade. The grade is based mostly on

preparation (is the chart in the right key, are pages taped together? does the singer have the song and arrangement learned? Did the singer show growth from the previous masterclass (or make the same mistakes again?)

Chordal transcription

Each student will complete a lead sheet after having transcribed the chord changes from 32 bars of one of 5 jazz recordings on the chordal transcription list. (Refer to Chordal Transcription Guide for tips on the process.) The melody does not have to be present. If there are significant hits or figures in the rhythm section, please include them on your chart. Lead sheets must be legible (band-in-a-box, finale, *neat* manuscript) and properly formatted (see handout). Please use headphones or good speakers with adequate bass EQ when doing these assignments to ensure you can hear the correct bass notes. Please do not get help from anyone for this assignment. Use it as an opportunity to see where your ears are and to challenge yourselves. It is the sole responsibility of the student to upload the transcription to Canvas on time with name of artist, song, and album of reference recording.

Late assignment grading break-down

one day late = -5

two days late = -10

three days late = -15

four days late = -20

five days late = -25

Late more than five days = half credit

Transcriptions are due on the allocated day. Uploading to Canvas is preferred; however, assignments will also be accepted as a hard copy brought to class.

Midterm Evaluation

Each student will bring 5 copies of 5 charts (including songs performed in class thus far). From this collection, 1 song will be selected for performance in class. The songs must be memorized. If the chart is one that you have done in class, and corrections were discussed in class during the original performance, those corrections should be reflected on this new chart. The grading will be based on: memorization, format and clarity of chart, bandstand communication (pre-performance, solos, ending, etc), visual presentation, vocal presentation (tone, time, expression).

Piano Bar

The students will sing while accompanying themselves on the piano (no bass and drums), playing and singing a song of their choice (in an appropriate vocal key) using idiomatic jazz voicings as taught in MUJS 1470. (Don't wait until the last minute! Please ask if you need any help with voicings.) This must be an arrangement, including an intro and ending. The song must contain more than just triads. Grading will be based on the following: accuracy of chords, effectiveness of voicings, existence of arrangement, consistency of time-feel/tempo (if applicable), vocal performance, and overall effect.

Final Exam

The student will sing 2 songs (one their choice, one our choice) for Rosana Eckert, Jennifer Barnes and the class - chosen from a list of 10 that they provide. The songs should be sung from memory. The charts must be put into 5 different binders or folders to be handed to the jury players and the evaluation panel. The charts must look professional (see leadsheet guideline as discussed in Performance Fundamentals), be in an appropriate key specific to the vocalist, and have acceptable chord changes. Arrangements (with intros and endings written in) are highly effective in this setting (as opposed to a simple lead sheet), but not required for all songs. It is required that a chart contain lyric and melody for any section being sung rubato. Otherwise, melody and lyric on a chart is recommended, but not required. If the arrangement is too involved (multiple hits, etc), then it may be more effective for the band to leave off the melody. Consider putting only the lyric at the start of sections as a safety net. Grading will be based on memorization, format and clarity of chart, bandstand communication (pre-performance, solos, ending, etc), visual presentation, vocal presentation (tone, time, expression).

Performance/Participation

This weekly grade is based upon the level of student preparedness for class performances (presentation and accuracy of chart, song memorization, arrangement memorization, vocal readiness). It also includes involvement as an audience member, readiness to record the

performance, and general attendance. See "masterclass" section for grading on class performances.

Final Grade

The final grade is determined in the following manner:

Performances/Participation 40%

Chordal Transcriptions 10%

Mid-Term 20%

Piano bar 10%

Final Exam 20%

Performance Exam Grading Rubric

A+ 97-100, A 94-96, A- 90-93

An A+ would be given based on the following:

Performance was thoroughly prepared and delivered effectively.

- song and arrangement memorized
- singing was in tune, delivered with a stable and idiomatic tone quality/technique/style
- time-feel was stable and style appropriate
- delivery contained some personal elements such as unique phrasing, effective changing of the melody, dynamics, communication with the band, spontaneous creativity/improvisation
- visual presentation was professional, confident, and stylistically appropriate
- arrangement was effective and well-prepared/communicated

B = 80-89

Performance was mostly effective and/or prepared. Some of the elements above were achieved, but enough were missed to take away from the overall effect (some of the more common missed elements include memorization problems, intonation problems, or lack of creativity/expression, or lack of preparation on chord changes for improvisation).

C= 70-79

Performance was sometimes effective and/or prepared, but a significant number of the above elements were not achieved such that the overall effect suffered significantly (often a large memorization problem with song or arrangement).

D = 60-69

Performance was mostly unprepared and unsuccessful. Almost none of the above elements were achieved, mostly due to lack of preparation.

F = 0-59

Performance was unsuccessful, incomplete, or non-existent.

Class schedule

Wk 1 Aug 23 Intro, meet the band

Aug 25 Bandstand communication, charts discussion, grooves

Wk 2 Aug 30 Bandstand communication, charts discussion

Sept.1 Whitney, bandstand communication

Wk 3 Sept 6 Holiday – no class

Sept 10 Jasper, Christiana

Wk 4 Sept 13 Whitney, Rosana demonstration - ballroom grooves (Cha cha, rhumba, tango, mambo)

Sept 15 Jasper, Christiana

Wk 5 Sept 20 Whitney, Rosana demonstration - (odd meter -3,5,7,15-, doubletime feel)

Sept 22 Jasper, Christiana

Wk 6 Sept 27 Whitney, Rosana demonstration - (Reggae, Afro-Cuban, second line)

Sept 29 Jasper, Christiana

Wk 7 Oct 4 Whitney, Rosana demonstration - (Funk, Shuffle, ballad vs. slow swing)

- Oct 6 Jasper, Christiana, quick discussion - self-accompaniment techniques on piano **Chordal Transcription #1** due
- Wk 8 Oct 11 Whitney, Rosana demonstration - (Tango, Salsa)
- Oct 13 Jasper, Christiana
- Wk 9 Oct. 18 **Midterm**
- Oct 20 **Piano Bar**, Discussion - microphone EQ (**band attendance optional**)
- Wk 10 Oct 25 Whitney, Rosana demonstration (singing duets on the fly)
- Oct. 27 Jasper, Christiana
- Wk 11 Nov 1 Whitney, Rosana demonstration (rubato)
- Nov. 3 Jasper, Christiana
- Wk 12 Nov. 8 Whitney, Rosana demonstration (trading 4's and 8s) **Chordal Transcription**
- Nov. 10 Jasper, Christiana
- Wk 13 Nov. 16 Whitney, Rosana demonstration (the second chorus of lyric)
- Nov. 17 Jasper, Christiana
- Wk 14 Nov. 22 **Gig Sit-In with rhythm section**
- Nov 24 Whitney, Jasper, Christiana - Last chance with the band (re-do, try something new, whatever you want)
- Wk 15. Nov 29 **Final Exam**
- Dec 1 Final Discussion: Gigging, Marketing, Business, Promo, etc. (**Band attendance optional**)

Vocal Jazz Techniques Rhythm Section Information:

Rhythm Section - Thanks so much for your participation in MUJS 3120 this semester. Below are some objectives and information concerning this course specific to the rhythm section.

IMPORTANT: LAB CREDIT: In order to receive lab credit for this course, please enroll in MULB 1820.505 or the graduate course number MUJS 5174.526. (Or, you can enroll in the actual course number for this class, MUJS 3120, and it can serve as an upper level music elective. The choice is yours.)

Objectives for Rhythm Section

The purpose of this course is:

- To gain experience playing in a small group with a vocalist;
- To gain familiarity with standard vocal repertoire and practice transposition;
- To become familiar with various grooves commonly called by professional vocalists; To practice the art of sounding “rehearsed” quickly when sight-reading;
- To exercise recovery reflexes in the event a chart or a bandleader’s signals are unclear; To practice generating energy at various tempi while playing transparently;
- To help bridge the communication gap between instrumentalists and vocalists.

Masterclass

During each master class, two vocalists will get an opportunity to perform with the rhythm section. The vocalist will present a lead sheet or basic arrangement to the players, verbally offering any additional information needed. The vocalists will be responsible for all count-offs. When the performance has ended, the room will open for comments from the class. The constructive (yet courteous) input of the instrumentalists is welcome and appreciated.

Subs

As with any other jazz performance ensemble, it is customary to get a sub when you are unable to be in class. (The general rule is to send a sub that has the same or more experience than you.) Please let me know in advance if you plan on sending a sub to class. (Texts are fine.)

Schedule

A detailed performance schedule will be handed out at the start of the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf (Links to an external site.)

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 Dean of Students 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct> (Links to an external site.)

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu (Links to an external site.). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/ \(Links to an external site.\)](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu \(Links to an external site.\)](http://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: [Diversity Statement \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf \(Links to an external site.\)](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf)

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students> (Links to an external site.)

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

See: [Academic Calendar \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2021_Academic_Calendar.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Final Exam Schedule

See: [Fall Final Exam Schedule \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall> (Links to an external site.)

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

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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 hours registered. 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.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

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. It is

recommended that 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 before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> (Links to an external site.)

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. 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. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> (Links to an external site.)

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services> (Links to an external site.).

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu> (Links to an external site.).

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed "Request to Drop" form to the Registrar's Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2021 is November 12. Information about add/drop may be found at:

See: [Dropping a Class \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class> (Links to an external site.)

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf (Links to an external site.)

HEARING PROTECTION

The use of hearing protection (ear plugs) is strongly recommended. The UNT Speech and Hearing clinic will provide a hearing test to every enrolled UNT student for a flat fee of \$25. In addition, “musician’s ear plugs” can be purchased at the clinic for \$175. The College of Music provides foam ear plugs at no charge; students can pick these up from the repair shop, MA 106.