

Syllabus – Spring 2017  
Music 42411 - Jazz Vocal Repertoire & Performance Practices 4  
Friday, 2-4:30pm in SH-306  
**Professor:** Carolyn Leonhart  
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**For Texting between 8am-8pm only: 646-431-1861 (please include your name. Do not leave a voicemail)  
Please Text Or Email To Make An Appointment To See Me If You Are Having Trouble With Any Of The  
Course Materials**

**Course Description:**

This is your last required jazz repertoire class and it's time to start creating good habits as you develop into a performing artists as well as band leaders. You will continue to develop a balanced gig song list, learn new songs, write arrangements, work on your band leading and communication skills, create spontaneous arrangements, and explore ways to present a unique version of a jazz standard through creative arrangements as well as a creative vocal performance. To encourage you to become more engaged and critical listeners of live music, you will also write and hand in 3 reviews of live jazz performances,

**Expectations for the Course:**

1. **Add 9 songs to your existing Jazz Gig List (details below)**
2. **One of the 9 songs will be an instrumental jazz composition, either sung without words or sung with a lyric YOU have written.**
3. **Write 3 new arrangements (details below)**
4. **Write and hand in 3 Reviews Of Live Jazz Performances (ALL are due via email by May 14th)**
5. Apply the skills acquired in Improv, Theory, Piano and Arranging workshops to create interesting arrangements, roadmaps, and vocal performances.
6. Continue to develop the ability to perform at a professional level in an improvisational setting as well as the skills to lead your own gig.

**Required Materials:**

Students will work from this packet of 150 tunes when selecting a song each week to prepare to perform. Students are also required to prepare and bring their GIG BOOK to class each week as well as their most current GIG SONG LIST and a working microphone and cord. For the instrumental song, students are required to find the lead sheet on their own, or transcribe the song.

**GIG BOOK contents:**

**1. GIG SONG LIST: list of songs and keys that you can perform at a moment's notice. The songs are grouped into the following (or similar) categories:**

Uptempo  
Med swings  
Ballad  
12 bar Blues  
Bluesy 12/8  
Bossa nova  
Originals  
Other

**2. LEAD SHEETS / ARRANGMENTS -**

6 copies of a good, clear lead sheet or arrangement of the song in your key  
Lyric sheet if needed  
Any notes/reminders that you need

**3. "IN PROGRESS" SONG LIST -**

this is a list of songs you are working on that are not performance ready. Next to each song, you will notate what you need to work on to get this song on your GIG SONG LIST (ex. “decide key”, “finish arrangement”, “memorize lyric”, etc)

## FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN:

### A. 9 Weekly Complete Song Performance (40%)

Each week, students will choose a song from the packet to prepare to perform the following week. Song selection should take into account their current song list (balancing out or maintaining balance in your song categories). Melody, lyric and form should be memorized, chord progressions understood and bassline movement familiarized. Student will perform 1.5 vocal choruses if a ballad, 2.5-3 choruses of medium swing or uptempo. Students are expected to listen to and analyze at least 4 recorded versions of the song and take notes on their researching work done to prepare a song.

You will be graded on:

1. Lead sheet clarity & copies for band
2. Memorization of melody
3. Memorization of lyric
4. Expressing & personalizing the story in the lyric
5. Knowledge of bass/ harmonic movement
6. Creative phrasing
7. Ability to explore, alter & improvise off of melody and changes in 2nd chorus.
8. Communicating a clear roadmap to the band before the song
9. Count off, cueing band clearly and accurately
10. Overall "arc" for your performance of the song, including but not limited to the roadmap for band

### B. 3 Arrangements due on weeks 6,10,14 (30%)

On weeks 6,10, and 14, you will prepare and perform an arrangement of one of the previous three “new songs”. These arrangements will give you an opportunity to create the most unique presentation of one of the jazz standards you have learned. You are encouraged to incorporate all the techniques and skills you have learned in your other classes as you prepare these arrangements.

You must incorporate the following parameters into your arrangements:

- One arrangement must be in 5/4 or should incorporate a change of meter .
- One arrangement must feature you singing an improvised solo AND part of a transcribed solo from a recording.
- One arrangement should either have a rubato section, or it should have different feels/ grooves.

### C. 3 Reviews Of Live Jazz Performances 10%

You will submit 3 reviews of live shows (from at least 2 different venues & one instrumental gig) via email by May 14th. Students may attend the same gigs but be warned that all reviews will be read and it is expected that each student will have their own original experiences, thoughts, preferences, and comments!

In each review, you will write a minimum one page article that will discuss:

- Artist and band members
- Some background / biographical information about the artist
- Instrumentation
- Songs
- Arrangements
- What you enjoyed about the gig.
- What spoke to you regarding all of above
- What didn't.
- Venue listing

D. Final Exam 20%

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS/CLASS SCHEDULE:

CLASS

DATE

ASSIGNMENT

- 1 Fri feb 3 bring in your gig song list
- 2 Fri feb 10 new song 1 (hand in a sheet explaining work /research you did to prepare to sing this song)
- 3 Fri feb 17 \*\*\*\*\*NO CLASS
- 4 Fri feb 24 new song 2 (hand in a sheet explaining work /research you did to prepare to sing this song)
- 5 Fri mar 3 new song 3 (hand in a sheet explaining work /research you did to prepare to sing this song)
- 6 Fri mar 10 Arrangement A (of either song 1,2 or 3)
- 7 Fri mar 17 new song 4 + TBA
- 8 Fri mar 24 new song 5 + TBA
- 9 Fri mar 31 new song 6 + TBA
- 10 Fri apr 7 arrangement B (of either song 4,5 or 6)
- 11 Fri apr 21\* new song 7
- 12 Fri apr 28\* new song 8
- 13 Fri may 5 new song 9
- 14 Fri may 12 Arrangement C (of song 7,8, or 9)
  
- 15 May 26 FINAL EXAM

\* indicates there will be a guest teacher. Attendance still required

An unexcused absence from any of the classes will result in an "F" for this portion of your grade.

3 absences will result in dismissal from the class and a failing grade. You will be marked absent if you are more than 10 minutes late. This includes a prompt return from a break.

If you have to miss class because of an illness or for professional reasons, you must contact me directly prior to the class meeting. Do not send a message through a fellow student.

You will also be required to make up any missed work.

We encourage private teachers to observe their students in action each semester. Give this schedule to your teacher and invite them to one of your performances.

The university has a published policy on academic integrity that may be found at <http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/current/integrity.cfm>