San José State University  
School of Music and Dance  
MUSC 39ABCD, 139 ABCD, Applied Jazz Voice, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Ren Geisick

Office Location: Music Building, Room 271

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Days/Time: Scheduled per Student

Classroom: Music Building, Room 271

Prerequisites:  
MUSC 39ABCD: Successful audition into the Music Dept.  
MUSC 139ABCD: Successful completion of Junior Qualifying Examination

Course Description and Objectives

Students will work one-on-one with their assigned teacher to develop their vocal technique, sense of jazz style, and other skills related to being a musically competent jazz singer. Progress will be assessed on a weekly basis.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Learn to sing with proper vocal technique
2. Successfully learn and memorize the assigned music for the semester
3. Gain an understanding of stylistic elements of the jazz idiom using assigned repertoire
4. Gain an understanding of basic jazz theory through assigned repertoire
5. Develop an understanding and personal interpretation of lyrics
6. Encourage effective practice techniques
7. Foster a basic understanding and competency with vocal improvisation
8. Learn proper and practical performance/gig etiquette
Material Requirements

☐ The instructor will assign students appropriate repertoire. Once assigned, the student is responsible for obtaining a lead sheet to that piece of music in the student’s key.
☐ Students are required to bring their music (in a folder or binder), and a pencil
☐ Students are encouraged to bring an audio recording device to each lesson

Course Requirements, Assignments and Grading

1. Lessons: Each student will learn a minimum of 7 tunes, memorized, demonstrating the following styles including 1 aural transcription:
   ☐ 2 Swing
   ☐ 2 Ballads
   ☐ 1 Bossa Nova
   ☐ 1 Aural Transcription
   ☐ 1 Student/Teacher choice
2. Performance: Each student is expected to participate in public performances.
3. Scale Jury: Each student will be given a specific scale jury in the last lesson of the semester.
4. Jury Examination: Sign-up sheets will be posted the week before juries. Each student's performance level and ability will be assessed.

Determination of Grades

Grading will be based on weekly lesson grades and jury/lesson grades. There will be extra credit for attending and participating in local jazz jams.

Weekly Lesson Grades 5pts X 15 lessons 75pts
Jury/Recital Grade 25pts
TOTAL 100pts

A = 93-100 C = 73-76
A- = 90-92 C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89 D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86 D = 63-66
B- = 80-82 D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79 F = Below 60

Attendance/Punctuality

☐ Do not be late. Do not be absent. You are here not only to study music, but to understand what it means to function as a musician in the professional world. Lessons should be treated as a professional commitment. You will be treated as a professional musician.
☐ If you know you will not be able to be at a lesson, let the instructor know as far ahead of time as possible. Absences will only be excused if approved ahead of time by the instructor, or if a doctor’s note is brought in to the next lesson. In any case, if you are going to be late or absent,
excused or unexcused, you should notify the instructor in a timely manner in person, by e-mail, or phone.

☐ A “no-show” for a lesson will result in “0” points being assigned for that lesson.
☐ A “no-show” for a jury will result in a grade of “F” for the semester.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know the University’s Academic Integrity Policy that is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.