



VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Fall 2015

Meeting days: varies—see attached schedule	Instructor: Dr. Keith Pedersen
Meeting times: 3:00-4:30	Phone: 2202
Meeting location: 115/Crill	E-mail: kpederse@pointloma.edu
Additional info: cell 858.353.3615	Office hours: M-Th 8:45-9:45;
Schedule: See attached	Additional info:

PLNU Mission To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The *PLNU Vocal Jazz Ensemble* is an auditioned ensemble of 7-12 voices focusing on various styles of vocal jazz. The *VJE* performs unaccompanied, with a rhythm section, and with the PLNU Jazz Band. It performs in churches and in the community, and hosts an annual Jazz Festival. It seeks to perform, to the glory of God, vocal jazz music at the highest standards.

Consequently, the ideal singer in *VJE* will be

1. **passionate about artistic, meaningful performance of vocal jazz music**
2. **excited by combining soloistic responsibility with ensemble singing**
3. **committed to group success through positive attitude, faithful attendance and self-improvement**
4. **motivated by the desire to glorify God through development of bestowed talents.**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in *VJE* will:

1. Demonstrate professional levels of individual responsibility and commitment to the group success of *VJE*.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of repertoire assigned as demonstrated by performances and part checks.
3. Apply musicianship skills as demonstrated by musical performance of discussed concepts.
4. Apply applied music skills as demonstrated by improving vocal technique.
5. Understand and be able to describe differences between jazz styles and apply them to appropriate performance repertoire.
6. Demonstrate improvement in vocal improvisation skills through in-class practice sessions as well as possible performance solos.
7. Experience and contribute to an understanding of the role of music as a way to add meaning to life and a demonstration of God's grace and blessing in the lives of both performers and audiences.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Please be honest in all your work. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. Plagiarism will earn you an "F" for the written work in question, and may be grounds for failure in the course. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** Please read the [Class Attendance](#) section of your *PLNU Catalog*, carefully (see link above). It indicates that if students miss more than 10 percent of class meetings (approx. 4 for a MWF course and 3 classes for a TTH course), faculty members may file a written report which may result in de-enrollment from the course. If students miss more than 20 percent of class meetings (approx. 8 for a MWF course and 6 classes for a TTH course), students may be de-enrolled without notice. De-enrollment may have serious consequences on residence, athletic, and scholarship requirements; it may also necessitate a reduction or loss in a student's financial aid.

Attendance Policy for Point Loma Nazarene University Music Department

Students will be advised each term of the schedule of specific ensemble performance obligations they are expected to meet; missing a scheduled performance will result in 1-3 full grades lower (see Attendance/Participation Policy below). It is expected that the ensemble performances will take precedence over outside commitments. Students may only petition an absence penalty for circumstances that are beyond their control such as sickness and personal family matters.

1. Ensemble grades are based on attendance, attitude, and achievement. Students are required and expected to perform to the utmost of their ability, displaying a professional attitude in rehearsals and concerts.
2. Absences due to illness or of a personal nature should be cleared with the conductor of your assigned ensemble. Requests due to personal injury must be accompanied by medical documentation. Timely reporting will help students to avoid penalties due to absence from rehearsals or concerts.
3. At their discretion, conductors may excuse students from rehearsals or concerts for PLNU activities.
4. At their discretion, conductors will have a choice of lowering up to three full grades for missing a performance event. For example, a missed performance for service club may only be docked by one grade while a spring concert would bring a grade down by three full letter grades.
5. Failure to meet the basic guidelines above may result in a student forfeiting their scholarship.

This policy above, instituted by the PLNU Music Department, states the minimum requirement for all courses. Individual professors **do not** have the option of establishing a more lenient policy; they may, however, establish a more rigorous policy, which is to be described in their course syllabus.

3. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:** While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act of 1990, and ADA Amendments Act of 2008, all of which prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and guarantee all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.
4. **FERPA:** In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. *Concert Dress (see following as well):*

To be determined by the group. VJE members will be responsible for providing their own outfits.

2. *Calendar:*

Vocal Jazz Ensemble must have priority in your calendar for all rehearsals and performances.

You are responsible for resolving conflicts well in advance of the event. VJE members are responsible for obtaining a Vocal Jazz Ensemble calendar and living by it. Additional concerts may be added with one month's notice; choir approval will be sought if lead time is less than one month.

3. *Membership:*

VJE members will commit to the choir for the entire year. Their class and work schedules should be clear for both semesters. Schedule conflicts must be resolved with director prior to admittance.

4. *Music:*

Each member of VJE will be assigned their own folder with music. This music is provided at no charge, but it is the responsibility of each singer. All music and folders **MUST** be returned at the end of the year. Grades may be affected if music is not returned. If you are missing your music or folder, please let the librarian know ASAP.

5. *University Responsibility:*

PLS members must commit to making acceptable progress in their other classes. They should assume perfect attendance in all classes even the day after concerts or tours. You are responsible for class work even during absence for concerts.

6. *Department Participation:*

First year students in VJE may count participation in lieu of Choral Union.

7. *Classroom Decorum:*

Please manage your electronic devices appropriately and with consideration for others. All electronic devices should be turned off for rehearsals and stored for performances. Please dress in appropriate academic attire out of consideration for others in our class. I do reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if I believe your attire to be offensive and/or will distract from a positive learning and teaching environment.

8. *Email & Eclass:*

You are responsible for checking your *PLNU email account* and *Eclass* regularly for electronic messages from me (and sometimes from your classmates). You are fully accountable for all course material, announcements, communications that are distributed via email; and I will send messages only to this site. Please let me know if you encounter any technical problems with email.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading is based on attendance, attitude and participation. The grade may be lowered one level per absence after three. An unexcused absence from a concert is unacceptable. Your grade will be based on the quality of your work in these areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • Attendance | 70% |
| • Contribution | 10% |
| • Assignments/quizzes | 20% |

Your work will not be graded on a curve. A traditional US scale will be used.

- A** indicates exceptional commitment and/or contribution (most students achieve this)
- B** indicates good commitment and/or contribution (a few students may achieve this)
- C** indicates satisfactory/average commitment and/or contribution (students achieving this may not be asked to return to PLS)
- D** poor commitment and/or contribution (any student achieving this will not be asked to return to PLS)
- F** indicates unsatisfactory and/or contribution (any student achieving this will not be asked to return to PLS)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The *Vocal Jazz Ensemble* maintains a reasonable performing schedule. As it is a chamber ensemble, often with 1-2 on a part, each singer is essential. Please clear the following schedule, remembering that one or two dates may be changed and others added—always with advanced notice.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble Spring Schedule: 2014-15

Saturday, Sept. 20: Singing Saturday, 9-6, Cooper 115

Friday, Oct. 10: Jazz-at-the-Point (with Jazz Band) 7:30 concert, 6:00 call.

Saturday, Nov. 1: Cantate (with Point Loma Singers) 7:30 concert, 5:30 call.

Sunday, Nov. 2: VJE/PLS Foothills United Methodist; 4:00, 1:15 call-7:00.

Sunday, March 1: VJE/PLS Nestor United Methodist—South Bay (12:15-6:00; 3:00 concert)

Saturday, March 28: Workshop/High School Festival/Concert: Crill 9:00AM-10:00PM
John Knutsen and Cuesta Voce from Cuesta College

Saturday, April 25 : “Swingin’”, PLNU Vocal Jazz Night (6:00 call; 7:30 concert)

Friday, May 8: Spring Music Festival, PLNU (6:00 call; 7:30 concert)

--Variety Show? Friday, Nov. 21

--one additional church concert, TBA?

--another festival?

Any additional concerts will be discussed and approved by the group.

PLNU VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE: OBJECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE

- To become acquainted with various styles in jazz and their development through history
- To know some essentials of theory with regard to scales and chords in relation to jazz
- To name some quality singers and players in jazz and know some of their personal history

SKILLS

- To sing, shape and articulate jazz music in an ensemble setting, mastering the melodies, harmonies, rhythms, dynamics, colors and emotional message of each chart
- To develop your ear so that you have an awareness of intonation, tone and chord progressions
- To evaluate the qualitative aspects of an improvised solo and discuss it with appropriate terminology and vocabulary
- To develop comfort and skill in improvisation
- To develop a level of jazz professionalism and courtesy as a soloist, in a group, or with a combo in a performance situation
- To memorize and perform with improvisation for the class one jazz standard each semester

ATTITUDE

- To respect jazz as a musical art form
- To respect and encourage musical expression of others in all idioms of music
- To increase your desire to improve jazz skills
- To develop the persona of a jazz musician

APPRECIATION

- To appreciate the efforts of all improvisers around you, especially those you hear in performance
- To appreciate all idioms of jazz—vocal, instrumental, ethnic, etc.
- To appreciate skilled and tasteful performances

HABITS

- To acknowledge the efforts of improvisers with enthusiasm
- To put forth the effort to improve skills by listening, practicing, and performing
- To collect and listen to the best in jazz on recordings, in concerts, and on video: each student will listen to jazz every day and make at least one listening presentation to the class each semester
- To be responsible with the health and use of your instrument (your voice) and those of others (voices, instruments, and sound system)
- To participate in as many jazz opportunities as possible