



University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Concert | Friday, April 17, 2026 | 8:00 p.m. | Paul Voertman Concert Hall

Jazz Singers
Christie Dashiell, jazz voice

- Groovin' Hard (1970)Don Menza
(b. 1936)
arr. Dave Barduhn
Lyrics by Rob Burgess
- Mad Heaven (2010) Peter Eldridge
(b. 1962)
arr. Rosana Eckert
- Some Other Time (1944) Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990),
Adolf Green (1914–2002),
Betty Comden (1917–2006)
arr. Jennifer Barnes
- Teach Me Tonight (1953)Gene DePaul (1919–1988),
Sammy Cahn (1913–1993)
arr. Kelly Kunz

Christie Dashiell, jazz voice
Program to be announced from the stage

- Dreamland (n.d.).....Composed and arranged by Christie Dashiell
(b. 1988)
adap. Dan Shimon
- Invitation (1950)Bronislaw Kaper (1902–1983),
Paul Francis Webster (1907–1984)
arr. Christie Dashiell
adap. Sasha Garcia,
Elijah Thiessen

Program five hundred seventy-nine of the 2025–2026 season
Photography and videography are prohibited

-INTERMISSION-

Each Day (2014)Michael Valeanu (b. 1985),
Cyrille Aimée (b. 1984),
Matt Simons (b. 1987)
arr. Andrew Patrick

Nature Boy (1947).....Eden ahbez
(1908–1995)
arr. Gene Puerling

Madiba (2014)Composed and arranged by Shaun Martin
(b. 1978)
arr. Jennifer Barnes

A New Dream (1963) Bob Morse
(n.d.)
arr. Gene Puerling

I'm Always Drunk in San Francisco (1967) Tommy Wolf (1925–1979),
Fran Landesman (1927–2011)
arr. Amanda Ekery

Christie Dashiell, jazz voice
Program to be announced from the stage

Always Stay (n.d.).....Composed and arranged by Christie Dashiell
adap. Quinn Cameron

The Way You Look Tonight (1936)..... Jerome Kern (1885–1945),
Dorothy Fields (1904–1974)
arr. Christie Dashiell
adap. Lucas Alyea

Biographies

The University of North Texas Jazz Singers is the premier vocal jazz ensemble within the Division of Jazz Studies in the College of Music. Under the direction of Jennifer Barnes, Jazz Singers consists of fourteen vocalists and a five-piece rhythm section who perform a challenging and varied repertoire of jazz and jazz-influenced cutting-edge repertoire, notably featuring compositions and arrangements by current students, alumni, and UNT faculty. They have performed at state, national, and international music conferences including those for the Jazz Education Network, International Association for Jazz Education, and the American Choral Directors Association, and have earned a DownBeat (magazine) Student Music Award in ten of the last eleven years. Jazz voice majors at UNT sing in one of the four vocal jazz ensembles, as well as studying both modern and historical practices of solo jazz singing, songwriting, vocal pedagogy, improvisation, jazz aural and keyboard skills, jazz theory and arranging, and jazz history. They also sing in Jazz Chamber Ensembles, Latin Jazz Lab Band, Zebras (pop/R&B/soul band), Brazilian Ensemble, and with one of the seven Lab Bands. Over the years, individual UNT vocal jazz students have received Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards for solo singing, arranging, leading small groups, and composition. Alumni of the program have gone on to win or receive nominations for Grammy Awards, Independent Music Awards and CASA awards, and are enjoying successful careers as recording artists, studio singers, college professors, composers, arrangers, music producers, and worship leaders.

Jennifer Barnes is a highly sought-after vocalist, educator, clinician and arranger and Professor of Music at the University of North Texas. As Director of Vocal Jazz Studies, Ms. Barnes oversees all vocal activities within the Division of Jazz Studies at UNT, including four vocal jazz ensembles, and directing the award-winning Jazz Singers. She has previously taught at seven other universities, served as a guest conductor for District and All-State Music Festivals in sixteen states, taught jazz vocal improvisation at the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camps from 1998 through 2015, and was the invited conductor of the inaugural American Choral Directors Association Honor Jazz Choir in 2025. Her vocal arrangements are published by Sheet Music Plus, Anchor Music Publications, UNC Jazz Press, KerryMarsh.com, and self-published on her website, JenniferBarnesMusic.com. She was awarded the 2016 Jazz Education Achievement Award by DownBeat Magazine, as only the second vocal educator to receive that honor. Ms. Barnes's voice has been heard in feature films including *Wall-E*, *Ice Age 2, 3 & 4*, *Enchanted*, *Star Trek*, and the television show *Glee* as well as the *World of Warcraft* video games. She has sung on or appeared in advertising for Chili's Bar & Grill, Epson, Old El Paso and McDonald's. Ms. Barnes earned the Master of Music degree from the University of Miami (FL) and the Bachelor of Music degree from Western Michigan University.

For more information, visit jazz.unt.edu and follow "UNTVocalJazz" on Facebook and Instagram. You may also write to Jennifer.Barnes@unt.edu and request to be added to the email list that will help make sure you receive information about performances and other vocal jazz events.

Washington, DC-born and North Carolina-raised vocalist and composer **Christie Dashiell** lives at the musical crossroads of jazz, rhythm and blues, gospel and soul. Known for her improvisational prowess and effortlessly rich and clear tone, she has become one of the most sought-after artists on the scene today. Growing up in a musical family, Christie has been singing all of her life. She is the third of four multi-talented and musical children of jazz bassist, Carroll Dashiell, Jr. Her musical lineage is deeply rooted.

Christie is a graduate of Howard University and the Manhattan School of Music. While at Howard, Christie sang in the university's premier vocal jazz ensemble, Afro-Blue. As a member of the Afro-Blue, she appeared on NBC's "The Sing Off." She has twice received recognition in DownBeat Magazine's Student Music Awards as Outstanding Soloist and Best Vocalist in the Graduate College division and was selected as a semifinalist in the 2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Vocals Competition.

In 2016, Dashiell released her debut solo album, *Time All Mine*, debuting on Billboard's Jazz Album and Contemporary Jazz Album Charts at numbers thirteen (13) and twenty-two (22), as well as JazzTimes' Top 50 Writer's Ballots, Critics' Poll. In addition to performing with her quartet, she works with many artists including Grammy-Nominated vocal ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock. She has appeared as a featured artist on Blue Note Record's, Supreme Sonacy, Marquis Hill's album, *The Way We Play*, Wynton Marsalis' work, "The Ever Fonky Lowdown" with Wynton Marsalis and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and most recently the social-justice compilation album, *Black Lives: From Generation to Generation*. She has been seen in concert on various national and international stages including, Jazz at Lincoln Center Shanghai, The Baku Jazz Festival in Azerbaijan, and Bunkamura Orchard Hall in Tokyo. Dashiell is on faculty at Temple University, Howard University and The University of the District of Columbia.

Christie's long-awaited sophomore album features seven original compositions and two arrangements that explore themes of freedom, legacy, grief and joy. Funded in part by Chamber Music America's Performance Plus Grant, the collection of music fuses the sounds of improvised music and various styles of Black American Music. Titled *Journey in Black*, the album boasts a stellar cast of musicians, including Shedrick Mitchell, Marquis Hill, Allyn Johnson, Romeir Mendez and Carroll Dashiell, III with creative guidance from NEA Jazz Master, Dianne Reeves.

Jazz Singers Personnel

Soprano

Georgia Barge
Sasha Garcia *
Natalie Holsey
Ava Ramsey
Shelby Yount

Alto

Marisa Cravero
Sloane Dyer
Margaret Nicholson

Tenor

Quinn Cameron +
Elijah Thiessen *

Bass

Lucas Alyea
Luke Bielfeldt
Dan Shimon

Rhythm

Bailey Dixon, percussion
Aiden Frier, piano and electric keyboard
Noah Rosulek, guitar
Parker Sibley, drumset
Kai Wagner, acoustic and electric bass *

+ Graduate Assistant

* Section Leader