



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas
College of Music

Ensemble Recital | Friday, April 14, 2023 | 8:00 pm | Voertman Hall

UNT Jazz Singers Spring Concert
with Special Guest Laila Biali, vocals & piano
Jennifer Barnes, Director

Deixa (1966).....Baden Powell (1937–2000)
arr. Michele Weir

Jazz Singers

Turn That Frown Upside Down (2022).....Dakota Andersen (b. 1998)
Dakota Andersen, soloist & Jazz Singers

A Nightingale Sang in
Berkeley Square (1939).....Manning Sherwin/Eric Maschwitz
(1902–1974)/(1901–1969)
arr. Gene Puerling

Jazz Singers a cappella

Queen of Hearts (2018).....Laila Biali (b. 1980)
adapt. Hannah Goodwin
Laila Biali, piano & vocals with Jazz Singers

Serenbe (2018).....Laila Biali
adapt. Daniëlla Hart-Rossouw
Laila Biali, piano & vocals with Jazz Singers & trumpet

Yellow (2000).....Chris Martin (b. 1977) of Coldplay
arr. Laila Biali
Laila Biali, piano & vocals with Rosana Eckert, background vocals

- We Go (2018)..... Laila Biali
horn arr. Allison Au
Laila Biali, piano & vocals
Jennifer Barnes, Rosana Eckert, Katelyn Robinson, background vocals
alto saxophone, clarinet, trumpet
- Wind (2018) Laila Biali
arr. Scott Dicken/adapt. Jennifer Barnes
Laila Biali, vocals, trumpet & Jazz Singers
- Intermission--
- No Moon at All (1947) Dave Mann/Redd Evans
(1916–2002)/(1912–1972)
arr. Darmon Meader/Peter Eldridge
Jazz Singers with saxophones, trumpet, trombone
- Orange Blossoms (2022) Bianca Lopez (b. 2001)
Bianca Lopez, soloist with Daniela, Dakota, Jasper,
Hannah, Julie, Reagan, Christiana
- Sea Shanty (2023) Jazz Singers
a cappella improvisation
- The Baker's Daughter (2020) Laila Biali
Laila Biali, piano & vocals • Dakota Andersen, background vocals
tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone
- Bye Bye Blackbird (1926) Ray Henderson/Mort Dixon
(1896–1970)/(1892–1956)
arr. Laila Biali
Laila Biali, piano & vocals • tenor saxophone & guitar, soloists
- The Monolith (2020)..... Laila Biali
Laila Biali, piano & vocals • Jennifer Barnes & Rosana Eckert,
background vocals • alto saxophone and acoustic bass, soloists
- My Favorite Things (1959)Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein II
(1902–1979)/(1895–1960)
arr. Laila Biali/Jennifer Barnes
Laila Biali, vocals & Jazz Singers

Tomás Jonsson plays keyboard when Laila Biali
plays piano; no keyboard on Bye, Bye Blackbird

ABOUT LAILA BIALI...www.lailabiali.com

Multi award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, pianist and CBC Music national radio host Laila Biali has headlined festivals and venues spanning five continents from New York City's Carnegie Hall to Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts, and supported international icon Sting. Her latest full album release, *Out of Dust*, received rave reviews and was nominated for a 2021 JUNO Award. In 2020, Laila was honoured by SOCAN Music with the Hagood Hardy Award for Excellence in Songwriting. In 2019, Laila's eponymous release won her a JUNO (Canada's GRAMMY) for "Vocal Jazz Album of the Year." The year prior, she was awarded top prize at the Canadian Songwriting Competition in the Jazz category. Laila was also the youngest-ever double winner at Canada's National Jazz Awards when she was named "SOCAN Composer of the Year" and "Keyboardist of the Year." She received her first JUNO nomination for *Tracing Light* (2011), and a spot on *DownBeat Magazine's* "Best Albums of the Year" for both *Live in Concert* (2013) and *Out of Dust* (2020). In September of 2017, Laila was brought on as the host for CBC Music's weekly national radio show, "Saturday Night Jazz," broadcast to millions of listeners across Canada. While Laila continues to earn high honours in the jazz world, her signature sound transcends genre as she "masterfully mixes jazz and pop, bringing virtuosity and unpredictability to songs that are concise and catchy" (*Washington Post*). Her forthcoming 2023 release – *Your Requests* – showcases personal arrangements of jazz classics requested by her followers and features guest vocalists Kurt Elling, Emilie-Claire Barlow, and Caitly Gyorgy plus instrumentalists Anat Cohen, Grégoire Maret, tenor saxophonist Kelly Jefferson, bassist George Koller, and drummers Larnell Lewis and Ben Wittman.

"Biali's voice – spanning registers – is pure and warm. She's also fearless on piano and, above else, in her imagination." – *DownBeat Magazine*

"There's no boxing Laila Biali in ... Capable of making you laugh and cry all at once." – *All About Jazz*

"Biali provides the positive, come-together messaging we need in these challenging times." – *Parade Magazine*

"... moving, inspiring, and life-affirming songs." – *SOCAN Music*

"Masterfully mixes jazz and pop, bringing virtuosity and unpredictability to songs that are concise and catchy" – *The Washington Post*

"A keyboard virtuoso with a distinctive sultry voice - intimate and emotional." – *Toronto Star*

"Accomplished and brave ... a gifted player and natural risk taker" – *Exclaim!* (CA)

"Mellifluous vocals, dynamic pianism and hook-laden songs" – *Jazzwise* (UK)



Jennifer Barnes is the Director of Vocal Jazz at UNT, in addition to being a highly sought-after vocalist, educator, clinician and arranger throughout the United States and Canada. She has directed award-winning Vocal Jazz Ensembles at eight universities, won a 2016 "Jazz Education Achievement Award" from *DownBeat* magazine, has served as a guest conductor for District and All-State Music Festivals in 16 states, and her vocal arrangements are published by Sheet Music Plus, Anchor Music, UNC Jazz Press, and at her own website (JenniferBarnesMusic.com). In addition to her teaching activities, Jennifer is an active performing and studio vocalist, including her roles as alto vocalist, composer and arranger for the professional vocal ensemble Vertical Voices, solo and group vocals for television shows, video games and films including "World of Warcraft", "Wall-E", "Enchanted", "Ice Age (2, 3 & 4)" and "Glee". Ms. Barnes is a member of the American Society of Composers, Arrangers and Publishers, Screen Actors Guild, and the Jazz Education Network. She earned the master of music degree in studio music and jazz performance from the University of Miami (FL) and the bachelor of music degree in piano performance from Western Michigan University.

For more information, visit: jazz.unt.edu and "UNTVocalJazz" on Facebook and Instagram.



Praised as a world-class artist, and with an international reputation in several facets of the music industry, **Rosana Eckert** wears many hats as a versatile live and studio vocalist, a dynamic improviser, a creative songwriter and arranger, and a masterful educator of jazz and voice. She has performed and recorded with many jazz luminaries, including Christian McBride, Bobby McFerrin, George Duke, Bill Mays, Jon Faddis, Marvin Stamm, and the New York Voices. Recently, she was one of the three vocalists on "Eberhard," the 13-minute mini-symphony and final recording of 11-time Grammy-winning jazz pianist Lyle Mays, which was released posthumously in August 2021 and won a Grammy Award. Performing regularly with her own bands and projects, Rosana's critically acclaimed 5th solo album *Sailing Home*, produced by Peter Eldridge in 2019, was praised as "bright and innovative" (*AllAboutJazz*) and "alluring" (*Jazz Weekly*). In 2021, her Brazilian jazz fusion band, Brasuka, released their highly acclaimed debut album of original songs titled *A Vida Com Paixão*. Lauded as "addictively joyful" (*Exclusive Magazine*), "positively infectious" (*The Big Takeaway*), and "entirely engaging and entertaining" (*Phil's Picks*), the album received 4 stars in *Downbeat* and *All About Jazz.com*, and it made several "Best of 2021" music lists. A renowned educator, Rosana is principal lecturer of jazz voice and has helped build the thriving UNT vocal jazz department since 1999, teaching private jazz voice lessons and performance techniques, and creating new courses in songwriting and vocal pedagogy. Rosana also serves on the faculty of the UNT Vocal Jazz Summer Workshop and the New York Voices Summer Vocal Jazz Camp, and she has been a visiting teacher and lecturer at the Centro Cientifico da Voz in São Paulo, Brazil, the Golden Jazz Music Camp in Zhuhai, China, The Speech Level Singing Summer Program in Hollywood, CA, and the online Jazz Harmony Retreat. Rosana works regularly as a studio vocalist, producer, and voice-over actor in Dallas, and is the in-house voice for KERA TV, Dallas's award-winning PBS station. Her many published vocal ensemble arrangements, for all levels of singer, have been performed worldwide, and she has conducted 14 All-State jazz choirs around the country. She authored *Singing with Expression: A Guide to Authentic and Adventurous Song Interpretation*, contributed to *The Voice Teacher's Cookbook*, co-wrote a jazz musical for young voices with Sharon Burch titled *Freddie the Frog and the Jungle Jazz*, collaborated on an elementary music collection called *Jazz And Kids: Songs and Activities for a Swingin' Classroom*, is a featured artist on the vocal improvisation app *Scatability* by Michele Weir, and is the female vocalist on the tracks for Darmon Meader's popular book *Vocal Jazz Improvisation: An Instrumental Approach*.



UNT JAZZ SINGERS

+ Dakota Andersen, baritone.....Fairfield, IA
* Paul Briggs, acoustic bass..... Cincinnati, OH
Jeffery Chaidez, percussion..... Houston, TX
Julie Coggiola, alto.....Syracuse, NY
Jeffrey Dalton, drumset..... Portland, ME
Jasper Fearon, baritone.....Ithaca, NY
Reagan Garza, tenor..... San Benito, TX
* Hannah Goodwin, alto..... Coeur d'Alene, ID
Daniëlla Hart-Rossouw, alto..... Johannesburg, South Africa
Tomás Jonsson, piano/keyboard..... Houston, TX
Bianca Lopez, soprano.....Harlingen, TX
Will Peters-Seymour, guitar..... Lexington, KY
Katelyn Robinson, soprano..... Los Angeles, CA
Christiana Schiller, alto..... San Jose, CA
Daniela Toralla, soprano..... Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

+Graduate Assistant

*Section Leader

Special thanks to our Horn Section:

Carly Stock, alto saxophone • Anthony Singer, tenor saxophone
Jonathon Orellana-Sanchez, trumpet • Cam Henderson, trombone

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 ten vocalists and a four-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 American Choral Directors Association, and have earned a *DownBeat* (magazine) Student Music Award in nine of the last ten 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. In addition, they 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* 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.

JAZZ STUDIES FACULTY

Rob Parton Chair, lead trumpet, Two O'Clock Lab Band
José Aponte Latin Jazz Lab
Jennifer Barnes Jazz Singers
Alan Baylock..... conducting, One O'Clock Lab Band
Rodney Booth..... trumpet
Quincy Davis..... drumset
Rich DeRosa..... composition, arranging, Three O'Clock Lab Band
Philip Dizack trumpet
Rosana Eckert.....voice, songwriting
Nick Finzertrombone
Brad Leali..... saxophone, small groups
Federico Llach..... commercial music
Dave Meder piano, small groups
Davy Mooneyguitar
Jessica Muñoz-Collado business, entrepreneurship
Lynn Seaton bass
Kimberly Hannon Teal..... history, theory
Scott Tixier violin, String Lab