UPCOMING VOCAL JAZZ EVENTS

Monday, April 9, 8:00 p.m., Kenton Hall
Avenue C directed by Anna Jalkéus

Friday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., Kenton Hall
Third Street directed by Marion Powers
West End directed by Vaughn Faison

Sunday, April 29
Denton Arts and Jazz Festival
Jazz Singers, Avenue C, Third Street, & West End

Thursday, June 21 - Saturday, June 23
UNT Vocal Jazz Educator Seminar, jazz.unt.edu/vocaljazzedseminar

Sunday, June 24 - Friday, June 29
UNT Vocal Jazz Summer Workshop, jazz.unt.edu/untvocaljazzworkshop

University of North Texas
College of Music
Ensemble Recital

UNT JAZZ SINGERS
JENNIFER BARNES, DIRECTOR

with guest artist
JOHNAYÈ KENDRICK

Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 2018
8:00 pm
Voertman Hall

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PROGRAM

Spring Is Here (1938) .............................................. Richard Rodgers/Lorenz Hart (1902-1979)/(1895-1943) 
arr. Ryan Espinosa

Strollin’ (1960) ............................................................ Horace Silver (1928-2014) 
arr. Paris Rutherford

Four and One Moore (1953) ..................................... Gerry Mulligan (1927-1996) 
arr. Andy Distel

vocal adapt. Ryan Espinosa

vocal adapt. Ken Ballard

vocal adapt. Ryan Espinosa

1-2 songs to be selected by Johnaye Kendrick

Flying (2018???) ......................................................... Johnaye Kendrick (b. 1982) 
vocal adapt. Lizzi Trumbore

--Intermission--

All the Things You Are (1939) ......................... Oscar Hammerstein II/Jerome Kern (1895-1960)/(1885-1945) 
arr. Gene Puerling

arr. Lizzi Trumbore

3 x 5 (2001) ................................................................. John Mayer (b. 1977) 
arr. Johnaye Kendrick 
vocal adapt. Andrew Patrick

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 rhythm section who perform a challenging and varied repertoire of jazz and jazz-influenced music, emphasizing close vocal harmonies, cutting-edge repertoire and improvisation. The ensemble was the Graduate College Vocal Jazz Choir winner in the 2016 DownBeat Student Music Awards and was awarded “Outstanding Performance” in 2015, 2013, and 2012. UNT Jazz Singers has performed at state, national and international music conferences and festivals, including those for the Jazz Education Network, International Association for Jazz Education, American Choral Directors Association and Texas Music Educators Association.

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 sixteen states, and her vocal arrangements are published by Sound Music Publications and UNC Jazz Press. 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, as well as singing solo and group vocals for television shows, video games and films including “Ready Players One,” “Suicide Squad,” “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 (ASCAP), Screen Actors Guild (SAG), American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), and Jazz Education Network (JEN). 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, you may visit: jazz.unt.edu/vocaljazz
Johnaye performs her own original compositions as well as fresh interpretations of beloved jazz and blues compositions. She focuses on graceful renditions of jazz standards and composes music and lyrics where she often accompanies herself on harmonium, violin, viola and percussion. The legendary Jimmy Heath says that “Johnaye is not just a vocalist. She is a complete musician with a beautiful instrument and open ears.”

A dedicated educator, Johnaye resides in Seattle, WA where she serves as an Associate Professor of Jazz Voice at Cornish College of the Arts. In 2013, she was nominated for an Earshot Jazz Golden Ear Award as “Northwest Vocalist of the Year.” In 2014, she recorded, produced and released her debut CD, Here, for the johnygirl label. Featuring twelve of Johnaye’s original compositions, Here finds her supported by pianist Dawn Clement, bassist Chris Symer, and drummers Byron Vannoy and D’Vonne Lewis.

The UNT Vocal Jazz Department has been a thriving part of the Jazz Division within the College of Music for over 35 years. It is comprised of 30-35 students pursuing bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral level degrees in jazz voice. Serving on the UNT Jazz Voice Faculty are highly acclaimed vocal jazz educators Jennifer Barnes and Rosana Eckert as well as four graduate teaching assistants. Vocal jazz students study and experience both traditional and modern 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 combos and one of four vocal jazz ensembles, performing locally, nationally, and internationally. Over the years, UNT vocal jazz students have received numerous DownBeat Magazine Student Music Awards in categories of solo singing, ensemble performance, arranging, 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, producers, arrangers and worship leaders. Continuing the trajectory of founding director, Paris Rutherford, the UNT Vocal Jazz Department continues to be a leader in vocal jazz education.
Johnaye Kendrick was born and raised in San Diego, California. She received a bachelor of music from Western Michigan University in 2005. During her time at Western Michigan, she received a *DownBeat* Student Music Award for Outstanding Jazz Vocalist, and was featured in an honors recital with pianist Fred Hersch. In the fall of 2007, Ms. Kendrick was accepted to the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

While attending the Thelonious Monk Institute, Johnaye worked with many outstanding jazz musicians, including Terence Blanchard, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Danilo Perez, Kurt Rosenwinkel, and Brian Blade. She received an artist’s diploma from the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz and a master’s degree in jazz studies from Loyola University in 2009.

After graduating from the Monk Institute, Johnaye was immediately hired by trumpeter Nicholas Payton, who raves “Johnaye has the potential to be a vocalist of the highest order, the likes of which we have seen seldom since the grande dames of the golden era of jazz roamed about the earth. She’s got IT!” In addition to her many travels with the Nicholas Payton Sextet, Johnaye has also been a featured vocalist with the Ellis Marsalis Quartet and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. The Orchestra won a Grammy® Award in 2009 in the “Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album” category for their release *Book 1* on which Ms. Kendrick is featured.

Johnaye has performed at numerous festivals, concert halls and jazz clubs, including the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Rio das Ostras Jazz Festival, Burghausen Jazz Festival, International Jazz Festival Bern, Playboy Jazz Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Dizzy’s Club, Jazz Gallery, Chicago Symphony Center, Snug Harbor and Birdland with Nicholas Payton, Ellis Marsalis, Sean Jones or John Ellis. She has also performed with her own band at the Earshot Jazz Festival, Lima Jazz Festival, Royal Room, Tula’s, Festival Sundiata, NW African American Museum, Chihuly Gardens and other venues.