

Dear Jazz Girls Day Supporter

The term 'jazzman' is in the dictionary, but not 'jazzwoman'. While most groups especially during the Big Band era featured female vocalists, the participation of female instrumentalists in jazz was limited due to the dangerous and difficult touring circuits and club environments as well as the competitive nature of the art form jazz. Early pioneers such as: Mary Lou Williams, Lil Hardin, Melba Liston, and Marian McPartland persevered due to their exceptional talents and strong personalities but struggled throughout their careers to get recognition and equal compensation.

During World War II, there was a surge of all-female Big Bands due to many male musicians being drafted, but most of these groups were disbanded on return of their male counterparts and most of these outstanding female players never made it in the history books. Filmmaker Kay D. Ray did a wonderful job documenting these untold stories in her documentary [“Lady Be Good”](#). With the rise of jazz education in college, more female musicians became involved but the growth rate of involvement has been much slower than expected and participation in the professional world is still in the single digits. Several research studies have documented the drop-off in participation from secondary schools to colleges. Reasons for the drop-off are mainly due to lack of role models. Other reported issues are instrument distribution, psychological issues when teaching improvisation, and not having blind auditions for professional jazz orchestras, i.e. Jazz at Lincoln Center. Activists such as Ellen Seeling with her non-profit organization Jazz Women and Girls Advocates have worked diligently in advocating for blind auditions and affirmative action. One of the results of such advocacy is Jazz Girls Day, initiated in 2013 at SF Jazz by saxophonist Jessica Jones as a day of clinics and mentoring for girls involved in jazz studies. Jazz Girls Day is an event specifically designed to invite girls and young women into the world of jazz. It includes games, clinics, jam sessions, performances, and panel discussions to help give girls a break from the male dominated jazz world they encounter on all other days. The whole point is to provide role models and a safe space so that girls can consider taking up jazz, and specifically, jazz improvisation.

On March 7, we will present Jazz Girls Days 2020 in Indiana. We are combining the events with the CD Release Tour of Sheroes, Monika Herzig's All Star Ensemble from New York featuring Jamie Baum, Leni Stern, Reut Regev, Jennifer Vincent, and Rosa Avila. In addition, regional leaders will join as mentors and collaborative performers, specifically Noblesville High School band director and bassist Bethany Robinson, acclaimed jazz vocalist Janiece Jaffe, and songwriter/ pianist Krista Detor. The events are presented in collaboration with The Hundredth Hill Artist Retreat, the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, Noblesville High School, and the Monroe County Public Library.

Especially in the age of #MeToo this is one area where we need to make an effort towards equal participation in order to facilitate access and freedom of expression. Several institutions and companies have already pledged their support but additional resources are needed in order to maximize impact and participation. You can make a difference by subsidizing costs for the clinicians, technology and hospitality, as well as teaching materials in return for recognition as an event sponsor. Such activism is recognized and supported by the community.

Below please find some options for support of Jazz Girls Day 2020. All sponsors will be listed in the event marketing materials as well as on the event T-Shirts. In partnership with the Non-Profit - Symphonic Youth Orchestra of Greater Indianapolis, Jazz Girls day is able to facilitate tax-deductions for donations.

Please do let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely

Monika Herzig

**Please mail with your payment, make checks payable to Jazz Girls Day – Monika Herzig and send to: Jazz Girls Day – Monika Herzig, 3375 Old Meyers Rd, Bloomington, IN 47408**

Yes, I would like to support Jazz Girls Day 2020

Event T-Shirts specify how you'd like to be featured - projected production cost \$800

Clinician - recognition as a sponsor with a minimum of \$100 contribution towards travel, rooms, and clinician fees

Producer - recognition as a major event sponsor with a minimum of \$500 contribution towards the event production and clinician costs

VIP - join us at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater with free tickets up to 10 and be recognized as VIP sponsor for both Jazz Girls Day Events with a contribution of \$1,000 minimum

Other – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact Monika Herzig, mherzig@indiana.edu, 812-369-8217 for details on merchandise sponsorships and any other questions