

# Kansas City Young Audiences

## Teacher Program Guide

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### I Dig Jazz

Artist: Lisa Henry

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this and other  
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816-531-4022  
[www.kcya.org](http://www.kcya.org)

### Performance Description

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Lisa Henry introduces students to the basics of Jazz concepts, such as rhythm, swing, call-and-response, and scat singing in this performance. The student will experience Jazz music and gain insight into the lives of four, great Jazz-masters: Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, and Kansas City's Charlie Parker.

Lisa introduces the students to two selections of Jazz tunes that are well know to musicians—called “standards”—as she begins the performance. Background information about the songs and an introduction to two of the four Jazz-masters is given between the selections.

Lisa then encourages the students to interact with the third musical selection: *Kansas City*. The students receive lyrics to this

song and sing along as Lisa adds different concepts and elements to the performance.

The second sing-thru has half the students sing while the other half execute call-and-response. A third sing-thru has the students scat lines from the song.

Lisa concludes the program by helping the students turn another familiar song, like Happy Birthday, into a jazzy presentation incorporating the elements of scat and call-and-response.



### Educational Objectives and Standards

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Students will:

- Be exposed to the concepts of rhythm and call-and-response
- Explore the basics of scat singing
- Listen to well-known jazz hits, like *Kansas City*.

National Music Standards:

- Know that music consists of several elements
- Identify by genre or style music from various historical periods and cultures

#### Special Points of Interest:

Lisa has performed in venues worldwide including Chile, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Lisa's companion workshop, *Swingin' the History*, is available through KCYA.

#### Special REQUIREMENTS:

PA system; two microphones; tuned piano

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## Artist Bio: Lisa Henry

Dazzling and dynamic, Lisa Henry represents the best of Kansas City's current Jazz era.

Lisa has entertained many with her voice and energy around the world. She's performed in numerous festivals, venues, and tours. Her talents have led her to stages in Argentina, South Africa, and Madagascar.

Lisa has also appeared on numerous audio recordings,

many of which were recorded here in Kansas City.

Lisa is also comfortable in the classroom. She has given workshops at many universities both here in the United States and overseas.

Lisa has received honors for her talent including being first runner-up in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition and being named International Jazz Ambassador to Africa.



Lisa Henry

## Vocabulary

**Call and Response:** Echoing a theme, dating back to the days of slavery.

**Jazz:** Music that's improvised. It may take several forms including Dixieland, Swing, Bebop and Ragtime.

**Rhythm:** The basic rhythmic beat in a piece of music. The primary, animating force in Jazz.

**Scat singing:** Improvising with the voice using monosyllabic sounds instead of words.

**Swing:** A style of Jazz played by big bands popular in the 1930s; flowing rhythms but less complex than later Jazz styles.

## Post-Performance Activities

1. Scat the first and third choruses of other popular songs
2. Record yourself singing a favorite song, then try call-and-response to the recording
3. Listen to Jazz recordings of notable performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme, Joe Williams, and Bobby McFerrin



## List of Resources

### MUSIC

Ken Burn's Jazz: The Story of American Music.  
Sony, 2000.

### BOOKS

Shadwick, Keith, The Encyclopedia of Jazz and Blues.  
Chartwell Books, 2003

Morrison, Toni, Jazz.  
Knopf, 1992

Steine, Mike, Building a Jazz Vocabulary: A Resource for Learning Jazz Improvisation.  
Hal Leonard, 1995

### VIDEO

Jazz—A Film by Ken Burns. 2000