

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Swingin' the History

Artist: Lisa Henry

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Contact KCYA for
more information on
this and other
programs.

816-531-4022
www.kcya.org

Workshop Description

This presentation introduces students to the historic pioneers of Jazz music. The audience will have the opportunity to experience the sounds of Jazz legends Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughn, Billie Holiday, and many more.

Lisa Henry, a Jazz singer of international acclaim for her numerous performances and recordings, will provide to the students the origins of Jazz music through song and verse. Lisa highlights the foundations of the Jazz sound as well as the beginnings of Kansas City Jazz. She illustrates the impact these hometown musicians had on the global Jazz music scene.

Jazz music is more than one sound. Jazz has many styles, each with unique flavors and

“standards.” A “standard” is a song so well known by the musicians of a genre that they can play it by rote.

Lisa calls upon her extensive knowledge of the Jazz experience to show the students how Jazz music shaped our nation. And, like our country, Jazz grows and changes with each successive generation that plays it. Lisa invites the audience to look at how Jazz music reflects the times and cultures of each age making Jazz a living history of America’s people.



Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Learn about the origins of Jazz music and look into the lives of its pioneers
- Be presented to the Jazz greats and their unique styles
- See how Jazz was shaped by specific periods in history

National Music Standards:

- Identify by genre or style music from various historical periods and cultures

History Standards:

- Know what individuals and groups have played major roles in historical events

Special Points of Interest:

Lisa has performed in venues worldwide including Chile, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Her companion performance, *I Dig Jazz!*, is available through KCYA.

Special **REQUIREMENTS**:

CD player, video monitor, and VCR

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

Chord: a combination of three or more notes that blend harmoniously when sounded together

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

"Jazz Alphabet:" the musical chords and scales used in Jazz music

"Jazz Grammar:" the relationship between the musical

chords and scales

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

Scale: a series of notes differing in pitch according to a specific scheme

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

Post-Workshop Activities

1. Listen to Jazz recordings of notable Jazz performers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Thelonious Monk, and Charlie Parker.
2. Read the history of the notable epochs in Jazz history including the Jazz Age (1920s), the Great Depression (1930s), World War II (1939-45), Cool, Hard Bop, and Modal Jazz (1950s), and Avant Garde/Free Jazz; Fusion (1960-1990).
3. Explore other forms of Jazz music such as Scat Singing, Ragtime, Dixieland, and Bebop.

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

