



RHYTHMS AND REVOLUTION: Race, Gender, and Jazz

**TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON,
SÀJE, AND PATRICE RUSHEN
IN CONCERT**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021, AT 7 P.M.
BOVARD AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Photo (Patrice Rushen): “Cowboy” Ben Alman

Photo (sàje): Lauren Desberg

Photo (Terri Lyne Carrington): Erik Jacobs

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- This event will feature performances by drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, vocal group sàje, pianist and USC Thornton professor Patrice Rushen, bassist Anna Butterss, and students from the USC Thornton School of Music.
- The concert will be preceded by an open rehearsal and followed by a discussion of the musicians’ experiences as women and BIPOC artists in jazz, moderated by USC professor Sean Holt.

“I feel like people aren’t as quick to call women geniuses as they are men. My hope is that other women won’t have to feel like people are constantly surprised at how good they are.”

—Terri Lyne Carrington

ABOUT THE ARTISTS AND SPEAKERS

Terri Lyne Carrington is a musician, producer, educator, and activist who has won three GRAMMY Awards. She has performed on over 100 recordings and has worked with artists including Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Stan Getz, Cassandra Wilson, Dianne Reeves, and Esperanza Spalding. In 2019, Carrington was granted the Doris Duke Artist Award for her contributions to jazz. Her latest work, *Waiting Game* (with Social Science), was nominated for a 2021 GRAMMY for best jazz instrumental album.

sàje is a GRAMMY-nominated vocal supergroup featuring Sara Gazarek, Amanda Taylor, Johnaye Kendrick, and Erin Bentlage.

Patrice Rushen is an award-winning musician, composer, and chair of popular music at the USC Thornton School of Music. She is considered one of the world’s top jazz pianists and has collaborated with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Prince, Nancy Wilson, Sheena Easton, Carlos Santana, and Freddie Hubbard. Rushen also spends time with organizations dedicated to establishing music education and mentorship programs for underserved youth.

Anna Butterss is an upright and electric bassist. She frequently performs with Jeff Parker, Jenny Lewis, and Madison Cunningham, and has also performed and recorded with artists including Phoebe Bridgers, Bright Eyes, Makaya McCraven, Walter Smith III, Chris Speed, and Larry Goldings.

Sean Holt is a musician, producer, songwriter, and vice dean of contemporary music at the USC Thornton School of Music. Holt has collaborated with artists including Carlos Santana, Flo Rida, Slash, John Legend, Big and Rich, Bette Midler, Bruno Mars, Kenny Loggins, Mary J. Blige, Gloria Estefan, Arturo Sandoval, Michael Bublé, Will.i.am, Sergio Mendes, and Sheila E.

JAZZ

Jazz is a genre of music developed by Black American musicians, with roots in blues and ragtime. It’s a dynamic art form with many different styles, but some common characteristics include syncopated rhythms, polyphonic ensemble playing, and improvisation. Jazz is significant as an art form that has uniquely American—specifically African American—roots.

WOMEN IN JAZZ

Historically, the most famous women in jazz have been singers, like the legendary artists Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, and Sarah Vaughan. Women instrumentalists—let alone composers or bandleaders—have often been marginalized. And while this is changing somewhat, marginalization persists. NPR, which conducts an annual poll of jazz critics, found that of the top 50 albums named by the critics each year since 2007, the share of women-led or co-led projects named never got above 20% until 2019. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, the majority of the recordings ranked in the poll included no women musicians at all among their core personnel.

LISTEN LIST: A BRIEF TOUR OF WOMEN INSTRUMENTALISTS, COMPOSERS, AND BANDLEADERS IN JAZZ, FROM THE 1920S TO TODAY

- 🕒 **Dolly Jones** – trumpet, trombone
- 🕒 **Mary Lou Williams** – piano, arranger, composer
- 🕒 **International Sweethearts of Rhythm** – band
- 🕒 **Vi Redd** – saxophone, vocals
- 🕒 **Alice Coltrane** – piano, harp, bandleader, composer
- 🕒 **Carla Bley** – piano, organ, composer, bandleader
- 🕒 **Toshiko Akiyoshi** – piano, composer, arranger, bandleader
- 🕒 **Esperanza Spalding** – bass, composer

VOCABULARY CORNER

polyphonic – containing multiple simultaneous but independent melodic lines

syncopated – a rhythm that places the stress on an unexpected part of the pattern—for example, omitting the “strong” beat or emphasizing the “weak” beat



Dolly Jones



Mary Lou Williams



International Sweethearts of Rhythm



Vi Redd



Alice Coltrane



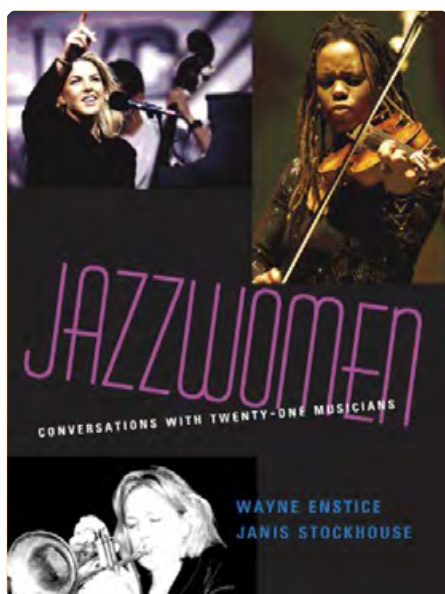
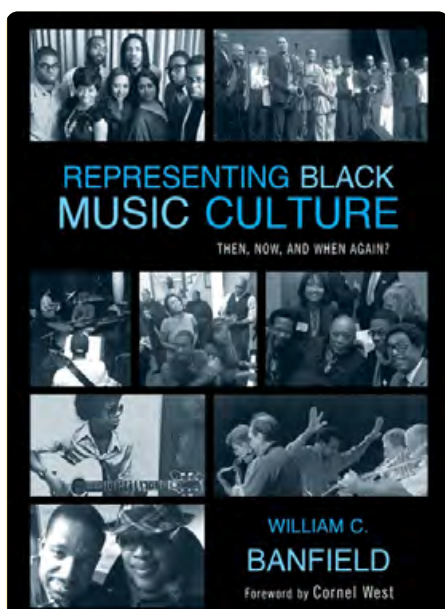
Carla Bley



Toshiko Akiyoshi



Esperanza Spalding



FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- What did you hear in this event that was new to you musically?
- Did you hear anything in the discussion that changed or expanded your perspective? That inspired you?
- How is art influenced or shaped by the society in which it's created?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- The documentary *The Girls in the Band*
thegirlsintheband.com
- Women in Jazz Organization – for women and non-binary performing jazz musicians
wearewijo.org
- Jazz studies at the USC Thornton School of Music
music.usc.edu/departments/jazz-studies
- Terri Lynn Carrington's article, "Dismantling Patriarchy is a Daily Practice"
<https://blogs.loc.gov/music/2021/04/dismantling-patriarchy-is-a-daily-practice>

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

Andrew Justice of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS AND DISSERTATIONS

- William Banfield, *Representing Black Music Culture: Then, Now, and When Again?* (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2011)
- Wayne Enstice and Janis Stockhouse, *Jazzwomen: Conversations with Twenty-One Musicians* (Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 2004).
- Brittney Proctor, "They Say I'm Different": Theories of Black Gender and the Grammatologies of Funk." PhD diss., Northwestern University, 2018.

JOURNALS

- H. Zahra Caldwell, "'We Are in the Feminine Aspect Now': Women Artists, Prince, and Visions of Utopia," *Journal of African American Studies* 21, no. 3 (2017): 408–424.
- Kristin McGee, "The Girls in the Band," *Jazz Perspectives* 9, no. 1 (2015): 95–101.

MIXED MEDIA

- Cassandra Wilson, et al., *Blue Skies* (Hanover: JMT Productions, 1988).
- Patrice Rushen, et al., *Prelude: Before the Dawn* (Berkeley: Prestige, 1998).
- Robert Townsend, et al., *Hollywood Shuffle* (Chicago: Olive Films, 2015).
- Terri Lyne Carrington, et al., *Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue* (Beverly Hills: Concord Jazz, 2013).
- Terri Lyne Carrington, et al., *The Mosaic Project* (Beverly Hills: Concord Jazz, 2011).