

The Syncopated Times

Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

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Jazz Jottings October 2023

Lew Shaw | September 26, 2023 | Jazz Jottings



Stephanie Trick's botanical watercolors (photo courtesy Stephanie Trick)

Stephanie Trick has found that painting has given her a release from the "high" of performing, and the results have been most impressive. This paint-on-the-go hobby could well develop into a second career for this talented stride pianist.

"My grandparents on my dad's side were florists in Santa Maria, California," Stephanie remembers. "Growing up, I admired the color plates of botanical studies lining their walls. I think that subconsciously inspired me. I took basic art classes when I was fairly young and started drawing botanical subjects about five years ago, using some brush pens (that are basically blendable markers) I found while in Tokyo. A year later, I started working with

watercolor which has a greater range of expression."



October 2023

Syncopate Like a Bartender!

The Syncopated Times
Exploring the World of Hot Jazz, Ragtime, and Swing

Vol. 8, No. 10 Utica, New York \$4.00 October 2023

Caity Gyorgy Serves Up a Neat Retort to Critics

by Dave Doyle



Women are relatively rare in the jazz world. They still constitute only a small minority of performers, compared with men, particularly if you include singers. A 2016 survey by nonacademic jazz historian David Sanjek that put the percent of jazz instrumentalists as female, while a 2021 study by NPR's *Dissonance* found the share of women in jazz albums only topped 20 percent in 1970. During the 1940s, before the counterculture began in 1967.

One might reasonably assume that women just aren't that into jazz—but checking my notes about artist workbooks, where female artists always outnumbered males, I decided to look at the issue pretty much. The problem, according to one leader of the Women's Jazz Collective, is that female artists are not all performing, just by an academic atmosphere in which they are "valued" and "respected" for their work. In fact, in the case of jazz, the only group that has been the artist.

Caity Gyorgy (pronounced "Gyorgy") is a multi-talented artist who has been in the jazz world since she was 10. Not only has she performed around the world, but she has also been a part of the 2019 of *Women's Jazz Collective*, but she has been so strongly that she has been in the jazz world since she was 10. She has been in the jazz world since she was 10. She has been in the jazz world since she was 10.

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"I get inspiration for painting on tour. **Paolo** (Alderighi) and I sometimes find ourselves in places with beautiful natural surroundings. When we go for walks, I take copious photos of wildflowers. When I receive flowers after concerts, I take photos of them to paint later since I can't take them with me. Painting helps me unwind after concerts and makes me feel closer to nature."

Ideal Hobby for Traveling

"I love being able to mix my own colors and have more expression that way. Watercolor is perfect for traveling because there's no mess, and it's lightweight. I use both normal brushes and water brushes for the road, which are watercolor brushes with a cartridge that can hold water so I can paint on planes, trains and in the car. It's a very rewarding pastime. I threw myself into it during the first part of the pandemic, and I really enjoy the creative outlet. I'm looking forward to seeing where it takes me."

"Originally, painting was something I did in private, not thinking I would show my efforts to anyone. Over time I've felt more comfortable sharing them with friends. When Paolo and I played a piano festival on the charming island of Samso in Denmark, I had the opportunity to debut my botanical watercolors in an art show, which meant a lot to me. I'll be doing another exhibit of my paintings of botanicals and landscapes in conjunction with a concert we will be doing in France in the summer of 2025."

