

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IOWA'S JAZZ EDUCATORS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- IBA Jazz Ensembles
- All-State Jazz Etudes
- Jazz Girls Day
- MS Combo Camps
- Essential Vibes Solos
- Reminders

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kelli Swehla

JEI Membership,

Welcome to 2025!

In this newsletter, you'll see our All-State Audition etudes linked as well as a reminder that we use Opus software for submissions. You'll also find some information about our Middle School Jazz Combo Camps as well as our first-ever Iowa Jazz Girls Day to

be held at Marion High School. I hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities for your students.

Finally, I want to highlight the person responsible for our Media at JEI, Elizabeth Hand. Ms. Hand is a band director at Solon Middle School and has also written a method book entitled Essential Vibes Solos. It is a collection of solo transcriptions designed to honor those that contributed to the legacy of the jazz vibraphone in its earliest years. Please consider this for your students who play vibraphone!

Please reach out with any questions and have a great start to the new semester!

Sincerely,

Kelli Swehla

IBA JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Congratulations to the following ensembles who were selected to perform at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference!

CONFERENCE HONOR BANDS

Southeast Middle School Jazz Studio

Jonah Prall, Director

Linn-Mar's Colton Center Jazz Ensemble

Jen Tiede, Director

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

Big Fun - 6-Piece Soul, Funk, Jazz Fusion Band

Steve Grismore, Bandleader

Bonorama - Jazz Trombone Quartet w/ Rhythm Section

Jackson Churchill, Bandleader

ALL-STATE JAZZ ETUDES

All-State Jazz Submissions Are Due March 1st.

ETUDES

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO SUBMIT

TIPS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Our submission software, Opus Auditions, will open for submissions on **February 1st**.
- JEI members get \$5 off each student! To receive this discount you must use the same email address for both JEI and Opus.
- Please wait to register students until you have their audition files. If you register students and they decide not to record, you will need to delete their registration.

Don't hesitate to ask questions! president@jeiowa.org

JAZZ GIRLS DAY

Please make plans to join Dr. Colleen Clark and her staff from the University of South Carolina for the inaugural Iowa Jazz Girls Day!

Please pass along [THIS](#) poster/QR code to your jazzers.



School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

JAZZ GIRLS DAY[®]

2024-2025



IOWA
MAY 31, 2025

MARION HIGH SCHOOL
MARION, IA



**SCAN TO
REGISTER
TODAY!**
PARTICIPATION
IS FREE!

JAZZ GIRLS DAY[®] is an
open invitation to middle and high
school girls for a day of masterclasses,
connection, concert and jam session.



Jazz
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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



MIDDLE SCHOOL COMBO CAMPS

Watch out for emails through your district to register!

Iowa City Site: Monday, March 31st at Southeast Middle School

We are super excited to announce that the Middle School Honor Jazz Combo Workshop is coming back to the Iowa City area! This event provides an opportunity for jazz students to focus more on improvisation and jazz heads in a small jazz combo setting. Different from last time, please nominate your strongest jazz musicians in grades 7 and 8. The combos will be ability based. The registration fee is \$40 per accepted student and the event will run from 12:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

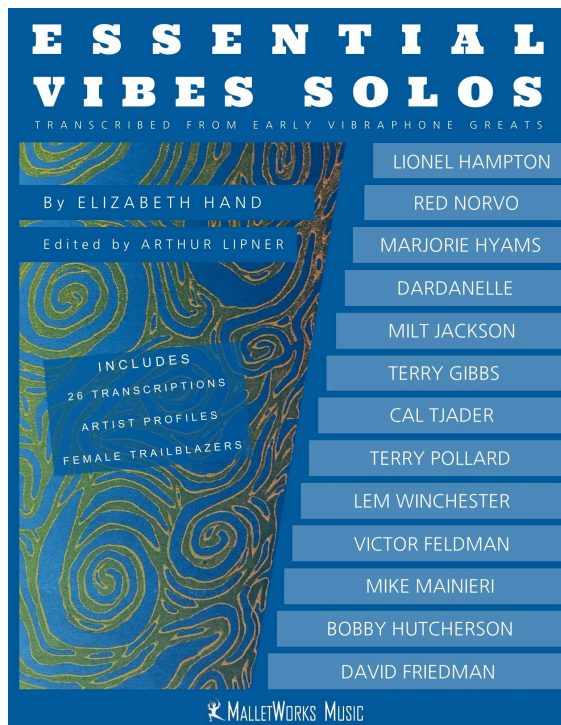
If you have any questions, please contact Jonah Prall at
prall.jonah@iowacityschools.org

Nominations are due by Friday, February 28th.

[Click Here To Nominate Your Students!](#)

Cedar Rapids Site: Friday, April 18th at Excelsior Middle School

ESSENTIAL VIBES SOLOS



WORDS FROM THE AUTHOR

Essential Vibes Solos is a collection of solo transcriptions designed to honor the musicians that contributed to the legacy of jazz vibraphone in its earliest years. Encompassing a range of difficulty levels, this book is a meaningful resource for vibraphonists at any stage of playing. As an educator, I have witnessed the remarkable impact that these solos can have in the hands of percussionists as young as eleven years old! Regardless of where your students are in their vibraphone journey, may this collection provide them inspiration, representation and a challenge to move them forward.

[Transcription Playlist](#)

www.malletworksmusic.com

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BACKGROUND

BIRTH 1931 • Detroit, MI

DEATH 2009 • New York, NY

- Known as the "Queen of the Vibes."
- Child prodigy who started playing piano in clubs by the age of 14.
- Discovered by Terry Gibbs whom she toured/recorded with for eight years. While playing several nights at Birdland, Charlie Parker repeatedly offered her a job but she declined.

AWARDS

- 1956 New Artist Award - *DownBeat*

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1956 The first black female jazz musician to perform on the Tonight Show.
- Terry Pollard was the only album recorded of her as a leader. The record sleeve for this piano album was a testament to the disparities of race and sex at this point in history: no photos of Pollard appeared anywhere on the packaging. Misrepresentation for marketing's sake can also be found in the differences between the U.S. and Japanese releases of *Cats vs Chicks*.
- Today the Terry Pollard Foundation focuses on supporting young women in jazz and other music genres.

VIEWING VIDEO:
Terry Gibbs Quartet
Featuring Terry Pollard
"Here's The Thing"
Recorded October 18, 1956
On The Tonight Show



Terry Pollard



SELECT DISCOGRAPHY

Cats vs. Chicks (A Jazz Battle Of The Sexes)
Forty years Of Women In Jazz (A Feminist Retrospective)
Message From Garcia
New Sounds In Modern Music
Soft Winds: The Swinging Harp Of Dorothy Ashby
Swingin' With Terry Gibbs And His Orchestra
Terry Gibbs Quartet Featuring Terry Pollard
Terry Pollard - A Detroit Jazz Legend
The Dreamer
The Fabric Of Jazz
Women In Jazz: Swingtime To Modern

COLLABORATIONS

Beryl Booker	Lucky Thompson
Charlie Parker	Mary Osborne
Clark Terry	Miles Davis
Dizzy Gillespie	Tai Farrow
Ella Fitzgerald	Terry Gibbs
Horace Silver	The Supremes
John Coltrane	Yusef Lateef

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If I Were A Bell

Lem Winchester | *Winchester Special* (1959)



Start 0:48

Medium Up Swing ♩ = 165

If I Were A Bell
from GUYS AND DOLLS
By Frank Loesser
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REMINDERS



Invite Your Friends To Become Members of JEI!

QUICK LINKS

Past Newsletters

Clinicians

Resources



Stay up-to-date with current activities and future events by following us on your favorite social media channels.



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