Start your own Girls Jazz Day
[You got this!]

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
+ A HANDY CHECKLIST

Girls Jazz Day is a one (or multi) day event dedicated to girls in jazz. It can include clinics, games, jam sessions, performances, all-sings, and panel discussions. The main thing is to create safe space for female musicians to own their voice, feel empowered in improvisation, and take musical risks.

Our mantra? "Brave, not perfect."
Things we'll cover in this guide:

- Why start a Girls Jazz Day?
- Ingredients for a Successful Day
- Timeline + Planning Checklist
- Sample Schedule #1
- Sample Schedule #2
- Extra Resources
- Contact Us
**Why start a Girls Jazz Day?**

**Find your voice**
Jazz is a way of saying things, of telling the world what you feel and experience.

**The facts**
Most professional jazz musicians are men. Most jazz students are men and boys.

**You’re not alone**
Many girls feel isolated in their jazz band (maybe you too?) Building a community of other girls helps.

**Making space**
Girls need space to themselves, to share stories and to be the only ones there when the director asks, “Who would like to take a solo?”

**Be heard**
Solos are the primary way to fully participate in and be heard through the medium of jazz. YOU can solo. You’ve got this!

**Role models matter**
Female jazz students deserve to watch and learn from professional female jazz performers and educators.

**P.S.**
We recommend making your Girls Jazz Day open to girls, female-identified and gender non-conforming students.
Ingredients for a Successful Day

MUSIC STUDENTS
Girls, and female-identified or gender non-conforming youth, who play an instrument or sing.

TEACHING ARTISTS
Professional jazz musicians and educators who want to encourage these girls to go for it!

SUPPORT
Volunteers or staff to do publicity, check-in students, organize snacks, and help everything run smoothly.

LEARNING SPACE
Site with a large room or hall for jam sessions and whole group meetings, and breakout rooms for smaller clinics.

(SOME) MOO-LAH
A modest budget to rent the space, buy supplies and pay teaching artists. You can charge a small participation fee or ask a suggested donation to help cover costs.

TECH, ETC.
Online registration form, AV equipment, drum kit and piano.

Seattle JazzED | #jazzgirl | jazzgirlusa.org
**Timeline + Planning Checklist**

- **Three Months Out**

  Secure venue (try a local school, college, or performance hall)

  Hire 3-12 female jazz teaching artists. Our typical instrumentation includes trombone, trumpet, sax, drums, guitar, vocals, piano, and bass.

- **One to Two Months Out**

  Decided if your event will be free or if you'll charge a sliding scale fee or post a suggested donation.

  Set up simple online registration form. (Try Google Forms, it's free!)

  Start your campaign to reach jazz-girls! Contact local newspapers, send email announcements to local music teachers, post on social media, reach out in any ways that work for you.

- **One Month Out**

  Get high school mentors involved. Hold a meeting with them two weeks before the event to get their ideas of how to make the event special for the younger students.

  You’ll also want to create your schedule and send it to clinicians and mentors. Check out our example schedule below.

- **One Week Out**

  Finalize schedule and confirm with educators. Organize supplies and volunteers. Send an email to registered students with final reminders.
Sample Schedule #1

Taken from Berkeley High School JazzGirls Day. For more detail visit bhsjazz.org/jazzgirls-day-2.

1:00 - 1:20 PM Registration and Games

We get parent volunteers to have the girls sign in and give us a photo waiver. As soon as they are registered we shuttle them over to a large area where our high school mentors are running fun games to get everyone feeling comfortable together.

1:20 - 1:30 PM Welcoming Remarks

The leader of the event welcomes everyone and says how glad we are that everyone has chosen to spend their afternoon with us. She shares why the event is important—because women's voices MATTER! She also introduces the clinicians and helps the girls choose which improve group to attend.

1:30 - 3:00 PM Jazz Improv Groups

We have kids self-select their level:

- Beginning = no experience, typically 10-11 years old
- Intermediate = some jazz experience, typically 11-13 years old
- Advanced = play in a jazz group regularly, typically 12-14 years old

We put our pro or high school keys, bass, and percussionist in each group, as well as a horn player to lead. The groups play jazz tunes from lead sheets, and the focus is on IMPROVISATION. Once again, the crux of our instruction on this day is to encourage girls to improvise.

3:00 - 3:20 PM Yummy Treats

We have lots of parent volunteers who help with this.

3:20 - 4:00 PM Panel Discussion

We usually have a local female jazz DJ (Melanie Berzon of KCSM) come to emcee this part, and put women of mixed ages and backgrounds on the panel. This might include older professional players, younger pros, college students, and high school students. Sometimes even middle schoolers participate.

Usually there is a broad opening question, for example, “What is it like to be a woman or girl in jazz?” Then the emcee takes the conversation in whatever direction she is feeling in the moment.

4:00 - 4:35 PM Clinicians Jam

We let folks know what four tunes we'll play ahead of time. We also include high-level high school players. We seat the audience right next to the performers, on stage, so they feel close to the action and can really feel how jazz gets made.

4:45 - 5:00 PM Closing Reflections

The girls share something they learned and will take back to their band room.

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Sample Schedule #2

Taken from Seattle JazzED's Girls Jazz Day. For more detail visit seattlejazzed.org/girls.

9:00AM—Girls Check In
Enter venue through main doors. Check in with JazzED staff in entry way to get your welcome packet, t-shirt, #JazzGirl swag and instructions on what to do next!

9:30AM—Introductions and Group Assignments

10:00AM—Jam Session 101

10:30-11:15AM—Group Rotation w/ Johnaye Kendrick: Classic Blues Licks

11:15AM-12:00PM—Group Rotation w/ Marina Albero: Manners/Rules/Cues

12:00-12:45PM—Group Rotation w/ Kate Olson: Classic Blues Heads

12:45-1:30PM—Lunch & Discussion: How to Succeed in Music with Confidence

1:30-2:30PM—Bringing it Together: Jam Session in Practice

2:30-4:00PM—Performance for Friends and Family

Remind girls to bring...

- instrument
- water bottle
- lunch + snacks
- your power!

remember...brave, not perfect

Seattle JazzED | #jazzgirl | jazzgirlusa.org
Extra Credit

#jazzgirl
document the day and use the hashtag

get feedback
follow up with a simple survey to improve the next girls jazz day

share stories
ask girls to share their experience

Contact Us
WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP

Email
kelly@seattlejazzed.org
Kelly Clingan

Instagram
@seattlejazzed
use #jazzgirl!

Facebook
@seattlejazzed
Send us a message

learn more at jazzgirlusa.org
JAZZGIRL IS A PROJECT OF SEATTLE JAZZED

A BIG THANK YOU TO SARAH KLINE FOR SHARING HER RESOURCES AND ALL THE AWESOME FOLKS AND ALLIES WHO ARE WORKING TO MAKE JAZZ A MORE EQUAL PLACE FOR ALL.