

Learn about, watch, and discuss influential female musicians from around the world. Visit MIM's Geographical Galleries on the second floor to complete this activity sheet.

Africa Gallery | Sierra Leone

- This **ivory side-blown trumpet** displayed near the Sierra Leone exhibit is an important part of a masquerade tradition which features women.
- The Mende people perform initiation ceremonies for young girls who are coming of age.
- During the masquerade, women wear wooden masks, such as the one pictured here.



Discuss: Have you ever participated in an event to mark an important moment in your life or someone else's? Describe it.

Middle East Gallery | Israel

Watch: Clip F in Israel. How does Chava Alberstein's music sound to you?

- Chava Alberstein is an important folk singer and guitarist in Israel.
- More than being a talented musician and vocalist, Alberstein uses her status to promote peace in her country.

Discuss: If you had a lot of influence to do so, what causes would you help to support?



Oceania Gallery | Ukulele

Watch: Clip D. You can see Brittni Paiva's name engraved on her ukulele.

- Brittni Paiva is an up-and-coming ukulele soloist in Hawaii at just twenty-three years old.
- Paiva plays the ukulele as a soloist, meaning that the ukulele is the star of the show!

Discuss: What do you hope to accomplish by the time you are 23 years old?





Asia Gallery | India: Carnatic

Watch: Clip C in India: Carnatic. T. Brinda is playing the vīṇā with her daughter.

- Thanjavur Brinda (T. Brinda) was a well-known guru of Carnatic music and dance in India. She worked to develop the talents of many students during her lifetime.
- In a genre of music played mostly by male musicians, T. Brinda fostered the talents of many female musicians.

Discuss: As a teacher or guru, how might you be able to influence subsequent generations?

Latin America Gallery | Belize

Watch: Clip B. How does *brukdong* music sound to you?

- Lila Vernon, from Belize, is the “Queen of *Brukdong*.”
- *Brukdong* is a musical style that sounds like calypso (steel pan) and creole music mixed with other Belizean, Jamaican, and African influences.
- Today, she works to promote awareness and appreciation for Belizean culture, arts, and history.



Discuss: Why do you think it is important to preserve and promote a cultural heritage, like Vernon does?



United States / Canada Gallery | Women in Jazz

Watch: Clip C shows Nadine Jensen playing the flügelhorn and piano *at the same time!*

- Women have made jazz music since the genre’s beginning. However, female instrumentalists met resistance in the male-dominated industry.
- It wasn’t until the 1960s, during the women’s liberation movement, that the contributions of female jazz artists began to be appreciated in the US.

Discuss: What other female jazz musicians can you find in the Women in Jazz exhibit and video clips?

Europe Gallery | Ireland

- During the 1800s the harp was one of the few musical instruments that were socially acceptable for women to play.
- Women played a significant role in reviving harp traditions and promoting Irish cultural heritage during the 1920s, after being suppressed during English colonial rule.

Discuss: How does the **harp** on display in the Ireland exhibit compare to other harps in the Europe Gallery?

