



Down the Lesbian Music Memory Lane

An OLOC Zoom Panel Presentation
Thursday, September 17, 2020

<https://youtu.be/f9Q3V0psE0s>

A distinguished panel of women's music legends discuss how they got started in women's music and what they are doing today, and their experiences with touring, festivals, activism, Lesbian issues, and more.

This is an edited version of notes from the chat board that happened during this event. Participants added comments throughout. These are the comments that add to what the presenters were discussing.

Remembrances of the Lesbian Music Scene:

- Margie, you were my first. National NOW Conference in DC.
- I wish the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland would do a show on women's music. I have suggested it to them in an email and it sounded like there was interest but I have not heard of anything happening with it.
- Saffire played my university one time, brought in by the Music Department.
- From Laurie Fuchs: Duke University, 1975: June, Cris, and Jackie. Y'all were late, got there at midnight!
- I'm almost ready to forgive you. Years ago, I drove Sonia Johnson to some event. We were all put up in various homes and I was told I had to share a double bed with Alix Dobkin. I waited and waited and no one showed up. My loss!
- Totally want to interview her for KPFA's *Women's Magazine*.
- From Margie Adam, Speaker: Want to be sure to acknowledge Laurie Fuchs and Lynette of Goldenrod Distribution and Terry Grant of Goldenrod Distribution, essential to disseminating our beloved women's music.
- As well as women's bookstores! (Making Lesbian music accessible). And to the women's bookstores, everywhere, where women could walk in and find both the records and the announcements of concerts on the bulletin boards. Communication central!
- And women's publications.



- Also, let's acknowledge Toni Armstrong Jr. of *Hotwire* magazine, the premier women's music magazine.
- From Beth York: Shoutout to Laurie Fuchs and the Ladyslippers who produced my album *Transformations* in 1983!
- From Margie Adam, Speaker: Much appreciation for the women's publications like *Sojourner*, *off our backs*, *Plexus*, and on and on. These newspapers connected all of our communities from coast to coast.
- From Laurie Fuchs: And let's acknowledge the network of hundreds of producers in almost every city and state (and some internationally) who brought women's music directly to women's communities everywhere—the often-unsung heroes.
- Karlene Faith was co-coordinator of Women's Studies at Sonoma State University with me. Miss her so much.
- From Jamie Anderson, Speaker: She [Karlene] gave me some great stories for my book.
- Thank you all for music that was the sound track of my Lesbian life. It was a life saver.
- I love Sweet Honey in the Rock. I was lucky enough to hear them in Sheffield, north of UK.
- Wow, rock and roll girls' camps. That's wonderful! [Mentioned by June Millington for IMA.]
- Your band came to Wimminfest in Albuquerque (to María Cora about Azucar y Crema).
- Shout out to the interpreters, too—they always made the music extra enjoyable for me!
- Yeah for Anima Rising, Beth York and Yer Girlfriend Phyllis Free!! and all the other musicians who contributed to women's music!!
- AND community radio stations—I did “Lesbian Power Authority” on KFAI Minneapolis/St. Paul from 1993-2003.
- From Jamie Anderson, Speaker: I did radio, too.
- There is still a feminist show on KPFA *Women's Magazine*.
- Oven Productions in Cleveland ... woohoo!
- Mary Watkins, “Soul of Remembrance,” premiering in Seattle tonight (9/17/20) (<https://marydwatkins.com/>). Mary Watkins/Seattle Symphony concert Five Movements in Color: Soul of Remembrance.



- Alix was a wonderful supporter of the Lesbian community at the Pagoda in St. Augustine, Florida, and gave several concerts for whatever we took in at the door. We so appreciated her.
- From Beth York: I was so fortunate to perform at the International Women's Music Festival in Israel, 1986.
- From Toni Armstrong Jr.: Please, everyone check out <https://wwtllc.org/> and the We Want The Land Community group on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WWTLLC/>.
- We all loved Lesbian music.
- It was softball, women's music, and women's book stores that brought us active duty military women together in safe places.
- Such a shame there are not women's music festivals any more.
- My first women's music festival was in Amsterdam and Alix performed the ABC song. It was the first time I said the word *Lesbian*, and have proudly used it since!
- There are women's music festivals still; fewer, but some. Virginia has Campfest in May and another one in September.
- Several festivals still exist, including Ohio Lesbian, National Women's Music Fest (Madison), Michigan Family Reunion, and others, too.
- And there are multiple gatherings on The Land where MichFest used to happen. (Cancelled because of COVID-19 this year.) "For Women. For Girls. Forever." 🌿 😊 ❤️ 🌿
- Wow, good to hear there are still women's music festivals. There is one left here in the UK but it is not women only.
- Check out *Lesbian Connection* magazine; they usually have a list of the festivals, and more, coming up.
- If there are women's online festivals, I'd love to know; then we can join in the UK. This Zoom is such fun.
- From June Millington, Speaker: So it's <https://www.ima.org/> to check out our virtual workshops (especially the upcoming Recording "Camp"), and to purchase my book, *Land of a Thousand Bridges* (go to the help tab, and to merchandise:))
- Olivia has been featuring musicians and comedians via Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/OliviaCompanies/>.
- Singer/songwriter Lucie Blue Tremblay does Facebook concerts every Wednesday and Saturday.



- Gaye's album *Gaye and the Wild Roots* is very good.
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBluesFoundation/photos/gaye-adeqbalola-the-wild-roots/10154190275518588/>.

Miscellaneous Comments:

- This is so much fun, seeing all my favorite singers/entertainers. Love ya and miss ya.
- Anybody remember NEWMR?
- WOW! 340 OF US ENJOYING THESE FABULOUS MUSICIANS! Terrific! Thank you. [Editor's note: 344 registered, 224 attended.]
- From Jamie Anderson: This feels like a festival!
- So many beautiful women! I love our community so much. Dyke love to all of you from Eugene, Oregon!
- We made a world and that world still resonates through the ashes of the world we're in now.
- Sorry. I gotta go. ❤️💖💖💖🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻
- To MARGIE ADAM: It is so great to see and hear you, Margie. Meanwhile, at home, you were supporting women by hiring us to lay drain pipe at your house. And you were so nice to us! Thank you always.
- I LOVE Dykes!!
- Dykes FOREVER.
- DYKE LOVE <3.
- Wonderful Lesbian dyke wimin! Wooowooo!
- Yes, thanks to Frances Perkins, first woman Labor Secretary with FDR, we have Social Security. [Social Security: how Old Lesbian musicians support themselves.]
- It would be great if we could have a women's music festival with all these great entertainers before they and we are gone.
- Thanks Melanie, María, Gaye, and all for bringing up the importance of voting at this moment that has potential to become even more disastrous.

Shout-Out of Places/People that Supported Women's/Lesbian Music:

- Flash Silvermoon
- Sylvia Kohan, *Moon Over Venice*
- Nona Gandelman in Colorado. Woman to Woman in Denver, Colorado.
- Boadecia's Books



- SisterSpirit Bookstore in San José, California
- Book Garden, Denver, Colorado
- *Lesbian Connection*
- New Words Bookstore in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Women's Coffeehouse, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Flaming Nerve, Frigging Little Bits, Ova, Ferron
- naomi littlebear
- Wired Women in St. Louis, Missouri
- Robin Flowers
- Louise Griffin
- Ferron played here at IMA Winter 2019, is well, and still kicking it:))
- Barbara Higbie
- Hello to Willie Tyson wherever you are...

Thanks:

- Thank you to you musician and producer/technician heroes who have written and sung the music of our dyke lives. And thanks to OLOC for organizing this wonderful opportunity to hear and see these bright lights. Sending love <3 <3 <3.
- Thank you so very much for this and everything over the many, many years!
- Thank you all for enriching our lives and giving us opportunities to gather.
- Mev, Retts, and panel, thank you for this fantastic gathering. Melanie, love you.
- This has been great, sharing our lives.
- We love you all. Thank you!!!
- Thanks for this wonderful gathering.
- So happy for all the wonderful memories and the very rousing energy to go forth.
- Thanks for the musical magic for so many inspiring fun and life-changing years!
- Thanks, everyone, for the music and for this program.
- What an incredible, incredible experience!!! Much thanks for all who helped make this happen, and everyone on the call.
- Loving my OLOC dykes! What a wonderful meeting.
- Thank you for hosting this great panel discussion. It's the highlight of the virus Zoom.



- What a wonderful event this has been!
- Would we have done this if not for the pandemic? Some gratitude!!
- Heart is full—thank you!
- Thank you, OLOC, for a thoroughly pleasurable afternoon.

Some Resources for Lesbian Music:

- Jamie Anderson's book, *An Army of Lovers*. Loved Jamie's book. Encyclopedic, but an encyclopedia that is very readable.
- Ladyslipper catalog: <https://www.ladyslipper.org/>.
- Goldenrod Music: <https://www.goldenrod.com/>.
- IMA: The Institute for the Musical Arts: <https://www.ima.org/>.
- Bonnie Morris' book, *Eden Built by Eves: The Culture of Women's Music Festivals*.
- Feminist Lesbian bookstores: <https://oloc.org/feminist-bookstores>.
- If you are on Facebook, this group is the best place to find great women's online music options:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/womenseventsonline/>.

Panelist Websites:

- Alix Dobkin: <https://www.alixdobkin.com/>
- Gaye Adegbalola: <https://adegbalola.com/>
- Jamie Anderson: <https://jamieanderson.com/>
- June Millington: <https://www.facebook.com/June-Millington-48343226295/>. IMA: <https://www.ima.org/>. From June Millington, Speaker: Anyone, by the way, can reach me at junemillington@gmail.com.
- Margie Adam: <https://margieadam.com/>
- Melanie DeMore: <http://www.melaniemore.com/>

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