

# Generation J(azz):

**Generation J(azz):** is one of many ensembles that take place weekly at a small school in the Beach area of Toronto. The ensembles, made up mostly of high school students and junior high students, are part of a music program called 'Discovery Through the Arts', created by Madoka Murata who has been teaching piano privately for 35 years. When some of her piano students wanted to play other instruments about five years ago, the ensembles were formed. Beginning with rock and song writing, interest from the students led to jazz ensembles, Rhythm and Blues, vocals, and now composition as well.

The jazz ensembles are led by composer/trumpeter Charlie Gray and Lucian Gray when he is home from Berklee College of Music in Boston, and Linda Cara leads the vocals. Other teachers are multi Instrumentalist John Mavrogiannis and drummer Anthony Szczachor. Many others assist in teaching and senior students help the beginner groups in what Madoka calls 'Teach to Learn', a system Madoka has been developing for years.

No music is *out of bounds*: Herbie, Aretha, Cannonball, Miles, Duke, Ray, Chick, Hendrix, Zeppelin... the emphasis is to have fun while building valuable ensemble skills such as playing with *good time*, playing *in tune* with the *right chords*, and *listening* to each other. Solos and arrangements evolve over time, and the development in all the students has been astounding! They occasionally perform at the *Trane Studio* and other venues to get experience in front of an audience.

Check out these amazing young musicians!

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*Pictured is a recent recital at the Trane Studio on Bathurst:*

