

# JGH Jazz: Voices of hope

*Celebrating women on stage  
and at the patient's bedside*

Women were centre stage at the Jazz Fest, back for its 11th harmonious edition this past summer. Hospital patients, their families, visitors, staff and passers-by were treated to musical performances featuring some of Montreal's leading female jazz artists.

"We wanted to pay homage to the women of this hospital, whose compassion and care bring reassurance, comfort and, above all, hope to patients and their families," explains organizer and JGH Music Therapist **Bryan Highbloom**. The Hope Notes theme also celebrates the female musicians themselves, who lifted the spirits of patients during the Jazz Fest and have brightened their lives in special in-hospital performances throughout the year.

Festival enthusiasts were treated to a wide range of styles this year from clarinetist Lori Freedman; Catherine Potter, bansuri player and composer; vocalists Helene Engel, Tamara Vickerd, Kim Zombik, Nadia Bashalani and Moroccan singer Sabah Lachgar; sound artist Kathy Kennedy; and baritone saxophonist Ida Toninato. Also on the bill: Nicolas Caloia, Damian Nisenson, WDJ, Open Standards and Mad Parish.

"I'm mostly familiar with blues, rock and jazz, but Bryan brings us all kids of music, which is great," says **Lynne Dagenais** of the JGH Foundation. "That way, it appeals to all generations, because we have younger patients in the hospital. Also, new types of music expand our horizons and we learn about different cultures and even different instruments."

"I come to JGH Jazz every year. After a morning of work, it's a great break, and not only for staff. This year I saw a stroke patient here every day with his wife. It must have been such a spiritual help, a chance to get some fresh air, to relax, to see people, to enjoy something. The music re-



ally touches you. People were tapping their feet and smiling. It's contagious!"

Moving to the beat of the music was **Esther Lorenz**, of JGH Volunteer Services, who also attends every year. "Give me music, and I'm there!" she exclaims. "I appreciate that Bryan showcases different styles of music. I can't even pronounce the names of some of the instruments! I've been a caregiver for so many years and I know that music does a lot of good for everyone, because it's so positive and upbeat. Bryan works so hard to bring in all these musicians; I think it's absolutely phenomenal what he does."

All performances were also streamed live to patients via the closed-circuit TV channel provided by Hopitel. **P** [jgh.ca/jazz](http://jgh.ca/jazz)



*Ida Toninato performs with Bryan Highbloom.*

## **Looking for Da Vinci? Skip the surgical suites and head for the cafeteria**

Some of the Jewish General Hospital's most artistic staffers are coming back to the Cafeteria for seconds. Their work will be on display in the fall edition of Galerie 3755, the sequel to the staff art exhibit that proved so popular earlier this year.

You can view works by new and returning contributors from October 20 to January 18, 2011, throughout the JGH Cafeteria.

For more information, contact Galerie 3755 co-curators **Mona Rutenberg** (JGH Art Therapist) at extension 4631, or **Shiri Alon** (Health Sciences Library Archives Assistant) at extension 2453.

