

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Montavilla Jazz expands artist-in-residence program to fifth graders at Bridger K-8 school.**

*Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence Mary-Sue Tobin brings jazz appreciation to two Montavilla schools in 2020.*

**PORTLAND, Oregon, December 21, 2019**

Something extraordinary happens when young people learn about jazz and its influence on American history and culture. Students in two Montavilla's public schools will learn about the history and cultural significance of jazz during a six-week residency with a local jazz artist, special guest presenters, and representatives from Portland's jazz community.

In January, Montavilla Jazz kicks off the 2020 *Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence* program at Bridger K-8 and Vestal Elementary School. This year's residencies bring enriching arts and culture experiences to one hundred forty fourth and fifth graders at the two schools.

*Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence* is a partnership with PDX Jazz, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and Portland State University, and is funded by proceeds from the 2019 Montavilla Jazz Festival and a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

More information can be found at:

<https://montavillajazzfest.com/about/montavilla-jazz-artist-in-residence/>

*"Vestal is thrilled to have Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence return to our school! Jazz is an amazing tool for our students to learn about art and social justice!"*

—Sabrina Flamoe, Principal Vestal Elementary School

### **Montavilla Jazz generates community support for jazz education**

MJF completed its pilot program the Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residency at Vestal School in the first months of 2019. Vestal students experienced how the sound and spirit of jazz are woven into the fabric of American life during six weeks with Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence, Portland-based jazz saxophonist and educator, [Mary-Sue Tobin](#).

*"It's gratifying to see how excited the kids got about jazz. I'm inspired by the experience last year and excited to do it again!"*

—Mary-Sue Tobin, Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence

Addressing a national trend of limiting funding for music and arts programs, Montavilla Jazz continues to work closely with the Montavilla business community, organizing a Mega Raffle over the 2019 festival weekend with items donated by forty neighborhood businesses which raised \$1,500 directed to the nonprofit's jazz education programming in 2020.

### **2020 Montavilla Jazz Artist Residency**

*Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence* is presented in conjunction with two PDX Jazz education programs: *Jazz in the Schools*, which gives students the opportunity to learn about jazz and

make art in response, and the *Incredible Journey of Jazz*, an interactive performance that teaches the history of jazz and its cultural significance.

*Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence* takes students on a journey starting with the forced immigration of African slaves, the mixing of European, African, and indigenous cultures that led to the birth of jazz, through the boom of popular music in America, up to the current day and the continuing influence of jazz on contemporary music.

*"I love how the Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence program includes history and contextualization of the importance and influence of jazz".*

-Raúl Gómez, Music Director Metropolitan Youth Symphony

Supporting local jazz artists is at the core of our mission. Montavilla Jazz pays artists a fair wage to create and perform new music at the annual Montavilla Jazz Festival. In addition, we provide paid opportunities for local jazz artists to build an audience for their work by sharing their passion for jazz with kids in our community's public schools.

The Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence program gives kids an appreciation for the cultural and historical significance of jazz, and gives local artists an opportunity to develop skills as educators, and meet the next generation of jazz fans.

#### **Residency Programming Includes:**

◆ **Jazz in the Schools by PDX Jazz** kicks off the new year with visits to Bridger 5th grade, and Vestal 4th and 5th grade classrooms in the first week of January, led by PDX Jazz Education Manager, Shelby Walton-Clark.

◆ **Montavilla Jazz Artist-in-Residence**, Mary-Sue Tobin will teach six weeks of jazz appreciation in eighteen total hours of classroom time, with special guests and the assistance of Portland State University Senior Capstone students leading up to the [2020 PDX Jazz Festival](#).

◆ In April, Bridger and Vestal students take a field trip to witness the ***Incredible Journey of Jazz*** as part of the worldwide celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month.

*"PDX Jazz and Montavilla Jazz have forged a strong collaborative partnership and we are excited to share the world of jazz with Montavilla students"*

-Chris Doss, Executive Director PDX Jazz

#### **About Mary-Sue Tobin:**

Mary-Sue Tobin has shared the stage with international jazz and R&B stars and played numerous local festivals including PDX Jazz, Montavilla Jazz, and Cathedral Park Jazz festivals.

Mary-Sue brings her passion for music and 20 years of experience to her work as a music educator. In addition to her performance and education activities. Mary-Sue also serves on the PDX Jazz programming committee.

**Contact:**

- For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities and general questions, please contact [hello@montavillajazz.org](mailto:hello@montavillajazz.org).
- For more information, please visit [montavillajazz.org](http://montavillajazz.org) and [www.facebook.com/montavillajazz](http://www.facebook.com/montavillajazz).

**About Montavilla Jazz:** The mission of Montavilla Jazz is to support and strengthen local music culture and enrich our community by showcasing the best of Portland's originally composed, progressive jazz. Montavilla Jazz is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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