

Transcript - Women in BRASS

[Video starts with various clips of bands and musicians playing, accompanied by jazz music.]

[Text: In 2018 we celebrated women in brass. Hear from the artists about their careers, inspirations and thoughts on being professional brass players.]

[Gunhild Carling Multi-instrumentalist & YouTube star] We have festivals like this, [points to Durham is totally brass sign] and this festival Totally Brass in Durham, that they invest in women playing brass is all and everything!

[Video: Gunhild Carling dancing outdoors with a man watched by a crowd.]

[Crissy Lee The Crissy Lee band] I won the all-female band. I was originally in the Ivy Benson orchestra.

[Picture: Black and white picture of Ivy Benson.]

[Crissy Lee] She was a pioneer of women in music really because she, her band came about during the war. But all her brass players were always from up north. They were from Yorkshire, this area in Durham, because we used to joke around sometimes. All the southerners were sax players, rhythm section players but the best, best without a doubt brass bands were from the north.

[Kirsty Abbott Principal Cornet Carlton Main Frickery Brass Band] I first became interested in playing a brass instrument because my father played trombone for a local brass band in Warwickshire in Shipston-on-Stour. So, I went down to rehearsals quite often with him, found this old cornet and wanted to take it home and started at the age of nine and from there on my dad set up a junior band which then flourished. We had about 35 players in the band. Then I joined the main band and it all started right from there.

[Laura Jurd Jazz Trumpet soloist] One of the first, sort of, jazz bands I played in was my, sort of, local youth jazz band in Hampshire. Again, a kind of big band thing and that's kind of one of the first places, I mean there were a few places where I discovered jazz in more detail. But that was one of the places I kind of got to know a little bit more about jazz and about some jazz artists that I went on, to like, really love and collect their albums and stuff.

[Break Out Brass] Some of us have been to university, some of us haven't studied music and things like that, all of us been in various bands and things like that. And through that, through knowing lots of different musicians, we all met each other and yeah, it just of sort of went from there.

[Annette Brown The Crissy Lee Band] I think the generation is changing, the generation of players. So those male players, I've come across it myself, who sort of look down on you and I'll be sitting in a section and they'll go you can't really play that can you? And you kind of shudder and I think I had a choice of letting them win and I left the band, or I stayed and kind of cheesed them off really. Which is what I did cause I'm a northern fighting girl, but the generation gap is getting, is getting different so that there's more younger blokes who are accepting of female musicians.

[Video Clip: Band performing, in front of and on a bus.]

[Crissy Lee The Crissy Lee band] It is all changed it's the same with me as a drummer, you know, I'd walk round with a drum kit or drum sticks, oh are they your dads? Are they your brothers? We're not female musicians, we're musicians!

[A montage of band images is shown while jazz music plays]

[Shake em Up Jazz Band] We had the pleasure of meeting four local young musicians.

[Video Clip: People sitting in chairs in a circle, some holding musical instruments Woman holding guitar talking. Women play wind instruments.]

[Shake em Up Jazz Band] They played they play different instruments and it was really great to even talk to them about leaning how to overcome fear and newness in their instruments, and then giving them some technical tips on how to we focussed a lot on improvisation and soloing.

[Gunhild Carling] I have been working a lot on YouTube videos, I have been posting almost every day and I have been broadcasting live, and I hope I have inspired many people because that's what I want to do. I want to inspire people to fulfil their dreams so if you have a dream to just do it, just do it.

[Annette Brown The Crissy Lee Band] Listening to pop music that's got brass in, whatever your genre, is there is obviously this fantastic orchestral work. Alyson Balsam is the most phenomenal trumpet player. keep listening to music, and push to have lessons at school, I think that is the most important thing, that's where I started and it's hugely, hugely important.

[Katy Jones Principal Trombone Halle Orchestra] So, to inspire more young girls to play the instrument we just have to been seen to be around. For instance, the first night of the Proms you could see Helen Fallon and Becky Smith in the trombone section playing brilliantly.

[Laura Jurd] I think the more we see, sort of, the more we see kind of females in education, in music education and from the very early age.

[Images: Female school students holding musical instruments.]

[Laura Jurd] I didn't think anything of it because my brass teacher, was a, she was a cornet player and she was female, so yeah, the more situations like that I just completely normalises it, so there is loads of girls that played brass instruments like at school age it's the ones that carry on, that, that's where you kind of loose a lot of people.

[Gunhild Carling] Sweden is very good for every person who wants to, like, it makes a dream come true. you can study all kinds of instruments and it's very much up to yourself like.

[A montage of band images is shown while jazz music plays]

[Break Out Brass] We've just a performance for the children, which was a great part of the Durham Brass Fest.

[Video Clip: People playing musical instruments.]

[Break Out Brass] And yeah, that's what we will be doing all week we are going around schools performing and performing in the festival as well.

[Shake em Up Jazz Band] We had the privilege of doing two assemblies for primary schools, ages from four to twelve, I believe, and exposing our music to these young children and it was so fun, we were highly entertained hopefully they were too [laughter].

[Hannabiell, Break Out Brass] Really cool interesting facts about the Breakout Brass Band is that it was started by Heather and Felicity who both went to Durham University and both felt like "wow".

[Video Clip: Break Out Bass performing.]

[Hannabiell] Heather is a piano player but she's like we need to have more women in brass and more women in jazz.

[Crissy Lee] I think that any girls who are interested in brass instruments should go for it.

[Gunhild Carling] To my concerts often comes girls, young kids, both boys and girls, who plays trumpet and trombone, and I'm glad if I can inspire.

[Image: Young girls smiling.]

[Laura Jurd] As well as lots of other jobs really in any sort of walk of life I think females are sort of having more prominent roles in all kinds of workplaces, and that includes music making.

[A montage of band images is shown while jazz music plays]

[Break Out Brass] Go with the music they love, the thing that you love playing, or that you love listening too, you know just go with it.

[A montage of band images is shown while jazz music plays]

[Break Out Brass] Don't worry too much, you know, I mean I know a lot of people their whole sight-reading music and things like that definitely, definitely a good thing and what you know playing as long as you're playing you know it sort of gets you, gets you, in there, gets you going doesn't it.

[Shake em Up Jazz Band] I never imagined I would be in an all-female band but I'm really happy.

[A montage of band images is shown while jazz music plays]

[Shake em Up Jazz Band] Apart for the fact that we all really love to play together, one of the things that we were reticent at first to embrace but now we are really happy to do it is just being out there and having young girls see a live, a real live kicking all women band even if the topic doesn't come up, even if it is not about any type of feminism or being women it is just nice to see that more, normalize and have visibility, ...yeah... yeah.

[Text Durham Brass Commissioned by Durham County Council and Arts Council England]