

MUSICWOMANTM

Gathering great women musicians together and getting their music heard by multitudes!
Spring 2021

Issue #3

Ana Popović



Kim Clark



20
21

Mariea Antoinette



Cynthia Sayer



Magazine.com Women Who Pluck Strings spring 2021

A black and white close-up portrait of a woman with long, dark dreadlocks. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle expression. She is holding a cello, with the neck and scroll visible on the right side of the frame. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her face and the texture of her hair.

K KAREN BRIGGS

MUSICIANS
are
ESSENTIAL

GJ: How did you come to music as a child?

KB: I grew up with music. My father played saxophone. Mom was a gospel and spiritual singer. My grandfather, our next-door neighbor, was a trumpet player, keyboardist, and pastor of our family church. I listened to all of the recordings brought home by my older brother and sister. Aunts Christine and Doris were organists. Music was in the house like wallpaper, inconspicuously pouring into my subconsciousness. Family jam sessions in the house weren't uncommon. My competency for music was determined by a music aptitude exam distributed throughout schools in the state of Virginia, when I was in 5th grade. I was one of two children in our state who got all of the answers correct on this test.

GJ: Did you study music theory?

KB: It came with the territory of learning violin. I took some courses in college.

GJ: Do you compose music? If so, how many songs have you composed?

KB: I don't know. But I'd go broke trying to properly release all of them.

GJ: Do you have a publishing company with ASCAP or BMI?

KB: Yes. ASCAP.

GJ: Are you aware of the challenges women face in the male-dominated music industry?

KB: The challenges that face women in the male dominated world are pretty universal. But I usually work well with guys musically.

GJ: What advice do you have for younger women entering the world of music?

KB: Know that this unconventional lifestyle is not for everybody. Although it's doable, most of my sister friends in the music industry have no children. You can't just get up and go on the road like your colleague fathers and leave your child with their mother and childcare is high.

At times, you will need a loyal representative whom you trust and have chemistry with. That is not easy to find. Otherwise, you will have to fight all your own battles, which can be a drain or a compromise of the lady that you want to be, just to earn your respect. More important is that you play and develop what you do and don't just be a cute girl playing bullshit. Have real integrity about your presentation.

GJ: What music project are you working on?

KB: I am always working on projects, my own and with others that are truer to my own sense of musicality. Some are videos, arrangements, compositions, and a new band. I am building my social media following. My website is www.karenbriggsviolin.com

GJ: How has the pandemic affected you and your musical expression?

KB: I have good days with it and bad. Some days, I just resent it. My introspective self gets too much time to analyze. Being a musician takes you out of the mundane life and makes it easier not to dwell on bullshit. But when you have the eventual downtime, it can all come up in your thought processes in an overwhelming way, causing anxiety. You can only hope that it inspires you.

GJ: Who's in your playlist?

KB: Too many to name. I listen to as much music as possible and from various cultures and parts of the world. There's so much music out there.

GJ: What are your goals and objectives for 2021?

KB: To re-invent myself as a musician, perform live concerts again in the USA, Africa, and the Middle East, but more under my own name. I want to buy a nice home for me and my girls.

GJ: Anything you want to share with the world about the legacy will you leave?

KB: I appreciate the loyal fans and audiences who have hung in there with me through the decades and various schools of music that I have had opportunity to be a part of. I have enjoyed performing for the people everywhere I've been. It gives me life when they like it. I appreciate all the schools of music I attended, inherent with all of the musicians I have had synergy with. I appreciate the various platforms that I have been able to appear on.

I will leave a legacy that covered international ground as a boutique violinist. I made music history, while raising two beautiful daughters. I am a parent in an oftentimes horrendous industry, in a world populated with users and shysters. I hope that one day the USA will employ a Minister of Culture in some office of power who can look out for artists and musicians. I hope that I have contributed to establishing a sense of cultural pride. I feel like I opened a door of hope if there is anyone that took up music or violin because of my work.

God is Good!