



## **Jodi Proznick Interview**

### **Jazz Review Magazine - Summer 2006**

#### **Describe the type of Jazz/Blues or other music you perform?**

I play jazz influenced by the great musicians of the 20th century - mostly, post-bop, modern, brazilian and swing.

#### **What's unique about your approach to the music?**

I think that every musician is unique. My unique history, biology and life experience infuses my music and my performance practice. I grew up surrounded by all kinds of music... they all make their way into my writing and playing.

#### **Describe one of your most rewarding moments performing on stage?**

Opening for Oscar Peterson at the Orpheum Theater in Vancouver with three of Canada's finest jazz musicians - Oliver Gannon on guitar, Miles Black on piano and Blaine Wikjord on drums. Also, playing with Oliver and my husband, Tilden Webb on piano with the legendary drummer Ed Thigpen at the Cellar Jazz Club in Vancouver.

#### **Have you ever had a train wreck, catastrophe or maddening experience while performing?**

Not really. All 'difficult' performances are great learning experiences.

#### **What drew you to the style(s) of music you perform?**

I heard great artists playing this joyful music early on in my life. One such artist that comes to mind is the great bassist Ray Brown. He played with such clarity and such joy. Jazz is an art form where a musician learns how to listen closely and respond sensitively to others, how to take risks in a supportive musical environment and how to support others cooperatively. This is the great joy of playing jazz. It is an art form full of joyful possibilities.

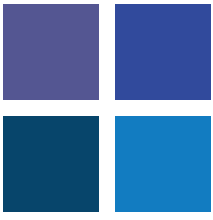
### **GETTING SERIOUS**

#### **Describe any life threatening or life changing experiences you have gone through?**

I lost my best friend to cancer as a teenager. This experience taught me about courage, faith and how to live everyday with an abundance of joy. It also drives me to share that joy with others through the teaching and performing of music.

#### **Describe the main thing you love about the music/entertainment industry?**

The people I get to work with - musicians and music lovers are interesting, inspired, alive people.



**Describe what you hate about the music/entertainment industry?**

The low level of cultural intelligence of the general population and the over dominance of non-music related factors such as what an artist looks like and how an artist dresses. Many people over value what the music represents socially rather than the intrinsic, aesthetic properties of the music itself. I think a strong, inspired music education curriculum taught by strong, inspired teachers would help with this imbalance.

**THE LIGHTER SIDE**

**In your opinion what one artist, business person or organization from the past or present deserves more credit for their contributions to the Arts?**

The CBC is a wonderful, intelligent supporter of the arts.

**FAVORITES**

**List your 3 favorite CD/Records:**

My Funny Valentine/Four and More - Miles Davis

Abbey Road - The Beatles

Bach Cello Suites - YoYo Ma

**Your favorite color:** Red.

**Favorite food:** Perogies (I am part Ukrainian after all).

**Favorite performance venue:** The Jazz Cellar in Vancouver, B.C.

**EXIT STATEMENT**

**Give us your best wish for mankind.**

A state of mindfulness... I wish that humans would be more mindful of each other, the earth and the beauty that is within each individual. It is only through quiet contemplation that good, loving, joyful choices are made.