# PRESS KIT

## Biography

Jill Benson is a long-time vocal, flute and piano professional. She teaches private piano, flute and voice lessons at Musicology in Burlington, Wisconsin. Jill also performs with several regional acts throughout the Midwest.

Jill’s lifelong musical journey began in grade school where she played both flute and piano. By high school, Jill was competing in numerous solo and ensemble contests, including Wisconsin’s State Solo Ensemble, where she received star firsts in both voice and flute solos all 4 years of high school. She performed in several musicals and received the prestigious John Philip Sousa band Award. Studied flute privately for 3 years with Karen Gifford, UCLA graduate and doctorate degree recipient from UW Madison.

Jill attended the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point as a double music major (vocal and instrumental music education) after receiving a vocal scholarship awarded through auditions. She had the opportunity to study voice with Gretchen D'Armond and flute under Paul Doebler, both graduates of Julliard.

Jill has performed in bands for over 30 years, and is very active in the Burlington, WI music scene, where she gigs with the local band Time and Gravity, is a member of the band Mad Bark and is working with The Conviction Band. She contributes her talents in flute, keyboards and vocals.

Jill writes and performs original music, most recently releasing “Dreamscapes” in November of 2021.

## Photos

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## Press articles/reviews

Dodgeville Chronicle/Mineral Point paper. Scan. PDF from both papers forthcoming.

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## Achievements

| **EDUCATION AND TRAINING** | |
| --- | --- |
| 1976-1987 | Private Flute and Piano Lessons (1976-1987) |
| 1984-1986 | Private lessons and music clinics under Karen Gifford, Donald Jackson, Gregory Dennis, Harold Wildung, John Johnson, Robert Spevacek, Walter Lamble, Dennis Loy, Francesco Italiano |
| 1987-1990 | University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point (Vocal and instrumental music education) |
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| **EXPERIENCE** | |
| 1987 | Hope Lutheran Church Choir (Assistant Director) |
| 1993 to present | Private piano, voice and flute instructor |
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| **AWARDS** | |
| 1982 | 1st place, flute solo |
| 1982 | 2nd place, vocal solo |
| 1983 | 1st place, flute solo |
| 1983 | 1st place, flute quartet |
| 1984 | 2nd place, flute choir |
| 1984 | 2nd place, vocal solo |
| 1984 | 2nd place, flute solo |
| 1984 | 1st place, flute trio |
| 1985 | Star 1st rating, flute solo |
| 1985 | Star 1st rating, vocal solo |
| 1986-1987 | Voted class band president |
| 1987 | 1st rating, flute choir (as director) |
| 1987 | Star 1st flute and vocal solos, |
| 1987 | State solo & ensemble competition, first place |
| 1987 | UW-Stevens Point Vocal Scholarship (audition-based) |
| 1987 | Mineral Point Music Boosters Scholarship |
| 1987 | John Philip Sousa Band Award (National award) |
| 1986 | State solo & ensemble contest participation, flute solo |
| 1986 | State solo & ensemble contest participation, vocal solo |
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| **PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE** | |
|  |  |
| 1980-1983 | Tell It Singers, vocals |
| 1980-1984 | 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade band, flute |
| 1983-1984 | First chair, flute |
| 1983 | Jazz band, tenor saxophone |
| 1983 | "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", Snoopy |
| 1984-1987 | Swing choir (audition based) |
| 1984 | Southern Eight Honors Band, Michael Leckrone (audition based) |
| 1985 | "Guys and Dolls". soloist |
| 1985 | Flute quartet |
| 1985 | Flute choir |
| 1985 | Swing choir |
| 1985 | "Godspell", Robin |
| 1985 | Southern Eight Honors Choir, Clay Dawson (audition based) |
| 1986 | WNBA All State Band, Miles H. Johnson (audition based) |
| 1986 | Jazz band |
| 1986 | "Cats", ensemble |
| 1986 | World of Music Festival, participant |
| 1986 | Wind symphony |
| 1986 | Madrigal singers |
| 1986 | Show choir |
| 1986 | Flute duet |
| 1986 | Vocal duet |
| 1986 | Flute choir |
| 1986 | Jazz ensemble |
| 1986 | Mineral Point City Band |
| 1986 | Southern Eight Honors Band, John Paynter (audition based) |
| 1986 | "Little Shop of Horrors", Ronnette, ShakeRag Players |
| 1987 | WMBA All State Honor Band, Dr. John Zdechlik |
| 1987 | Mineral Point City Band |
| 1987 | Piccolo solo, "Stars And Stripes Forever" |
| 1991-1993 | Spun Gold, 50s & 60s cover band |
| 2000-2018 | Various Cover Bands, Racine, Kenosha & Illinois |
| 2018-Present | Time and Gravity, flute, keyboard & vocals |
| 2018-Present | The Conviction Band, flute, keyboard & vocals |
| 2018-Present | MadBark Band, flute, keyboard & vocals |
|  |  |
| **RELEASES** |  |
| November 2021 | "Dreamscapes" (LP) |
| November 2021 | "Chasing the Dream" (single) |
| December 2021 | "A Midnight Snowfall" (single) |
| January 2022 | “Unnamed” (single) |
| January 2022 | “Reflections” (single) |
| March 2022 | “Reminiscence” (single) |
| March 2022 | “Kintsugi” (single) |
| April 2022 | “Old Relics” (single) |

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## Discography

| 2018 | The Fake ID’s, “Suspicious Behavior” (flute, backing vocals) |
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| 2018 | Mykal Bass, “I Wanna Be You” (vocals) |
| 2019 | Bryan Soland, “California 101” (flute, backing vocals) |

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## Contact & Social Media information

Jill Benson

email [singrnaband@gmail.com](mailto:singrnaband@gmail.com)

Mobile/SMS +1 262-332-1166

web <http://www.jbmusicconnection.com>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGfNpe8oISyAAh2RvVrB6Wg

Instagram: @jbmusicconnection, <https://www.instagram.com/jbmusicconnection/>

TikTok: @jbmusicconnection https://www.tiktok.com/@jbmusicconnection

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jbmusicconnection