



Dear Friends,

As I'm writing this overdue message, I find myself struggling with conflicting emotions. Sorrow for the life-changing events which have thrown us all into a previously unimagined world; sense of loss of effortlessly seeing, touching, comforting and caring for treasured family and friends; loss of so many of our blessed musicians, including our beloved Johnny Mandel who we had planned to honor with the "Terry" award last April; the inability to hear live music in the company of our cherished "jazz buddies;" and, underscoring the sadness, the overriding uncertainty of what comes next...and when.

And yet...the response from the jazz community to these circumstances has been joyful, creative and life-affirming. I am so proud of our musicians, our fans, and all of the people who have responded to the California Jazz Foundation's call for help to assist our musicians who find themselves with little or no income. I am bursting with pride at our Board of Directors, each of whom has rallied in his or her own way to do whatever needs to be done, as well as unexpected and so appreciated reaching out from the community. Just a few examples include, but are certainly not limited, to the following:

Greg Porée, our Music Director, who has joyfully taken on the creation of a series of podcasts ("Sonic Tonic"), learned how to produce, interview, edit and market wonderful pieces for the series and has taught the rest of us so much! Due to Greg's well-received efforts, many previously unknown or little-known musicians have been given a voice and introduced to the jazz community, with the result that CJF has new members from all over the globe.

Robert Kyle, well-loved saxophonist and flutist, has quietly pledged and sent CJF 50 % of his earnings from a weekly outdoor gig.

John Clayton, who stands ready on a moment's notice to help with anything he can, has never to my knowledge said "No" to any request for help. Most recently, he has made a videotaped, heartfelt plea for donations to CJF, which is posted on our website.

Kyle Scranton, a local pre-med student who also plays jazz trumpet, recently reached out to us with a query as to what he could do to help CJF and its applicants. Kyle had just learned about us and, after a Zoom get-acquainted meeting, it became obvious that he fulfills all of the criteria necessary to fill a volunteer slot I have long been contemplating: Director of Applicant Services. Kyle will work with Applicants referred by Amanda Steele, our social worker, and assist them in navigating the maze of governmental and nonprofit resources available to them. This is a huge blessing.

That brings me to our 2020 award presentations. A decision was made to continue our plans, albeit in a different format: the aforesaid podcasts, along with supplemental videotaped material honoring Billy Mitchell and, posthumously, Johnny Mandel. I hope that you are as thrilled as I am with the generous response to our requests for material. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this process and who has leaped to assist in making both of the award ceremonies special, though distinct from our usual Galas. The podcasts and the video supplements will remain prominently on the CJF website for your ongoing access and pleasure.

In November, I plan to resume monthly newsletters spotlighting members of our Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and “Significant Others” who deserve notice for what they give to our musicians in need. Please continue to support our cause ... become a member, make a donation of any amount, attend our fundraising events once they have resumed, and help us to spread the word. We love to hear from you. With your support and generosity, we will always be here ... to help.

Thank you, Edythe

Edythe L. Bronston  
Founder and President