



## STANDING ROOM ONLY

« Singer-songwriter **Keisha Hutchins**, representing the folk/soul sound with dark, watery melodies and haunting lyrics, performs with Monica McIntyre at Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St. NW, Washington. Info: 202-387-7638, [www.busboysandpoets.com](http://www.busboysandpoets.com).



## OPENING TODAY

### 'BALLS OF FURY'

When a comedy opens on the infamously worst box-office weekend of the year, it's already suspect. But when they call it "Balls of Fury"? Yikes. If the title must resort to genitalia-related double entendre for a pathetic attempt at a laugh, a film critic can only cast down her eyes, shake her head and groan. — *Sally Kline* (For a full review, see *The Examiner's Friday Movie section*.)



Versatile freelance musician Susan Jones has played with dozens of visiting artists at the Kennedy Center, Constitution Hall and Ford's Theatre, including Barry White, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

— Courtesy



## STAGES » MUSIC

# There's something about Susan

Maryland grad has been charming D.C.-area music lovers for three decades

By Emily Cary  
Special to The Examiner

Susan Jones has filled the Washington area with exciting music for nearly 30 years as a leader or member of ensembles representing multiple genres of music. Along with her popular Susan Jones Jazz Quartet, scheduled to jam on Woodrow Wilson Plaza Thursday, she is heard live all around town with the classical Silver String Quintet, the Machaya Klezmer Band, Mariachi De las Compadres and the Jane Doe rockers.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, the versatile freelance musician has played with dozens of visiting artists at the Kennedy Center, Constitution Hall and Ford's Theatre, including Barry White, Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

"I was trained classically, but I've always liked variety, and in high school I discovered rock and roll," she says. "The need to learn as much as I could developed because my father started to lose his eyesight at an early age and I had no idea if the condition was hereditary.

"The first time I heard the French jazz artists Stephan Grappelli, his music brought me total joy. When I found that I had a similar knack for improvisation, I was thrilled. My goal became to play like that and make people happy."

Jones's first full-time gig in D.C. during the '70s was with Lady Finger. Although jazz remained her signature genre, she soon joined a country band, a mariachi band and a klezmer band. Recently, the mariachi band became so popular it split in two to cover the demand. Because it needed more violins, she continues to play with them. At the same time, she could not resist joining the klezmer band because of its spirited style and her own Jewish heritage.

In 1999, Jones arranged and released her first jazz CD, "Violin

### IF YOU GO

The **Susan Jones Jazz Quartet** in concert  
» **When:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday  
» **Venue:** Live! On Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
» **Admission:** Free  
» **Information:** [itcdc.com](http://itcdc.com)

Dreams," featuring standards by Porter, Berlin, Charlie Parker and others. "Nuts and Bolts," a joint venture of original acoustic jazz by Jones and saxophonist/clarinetist/flutist Seth Kibel, draws on their expertise in a variety of genres. Released in 2004, the track ranges from funk and klezmer to Spanish folk music and bossa nova. Honored by four- and five-star reviews, it is currently in rotation on WPFW/89.3 FM, WRNR/103.1 and Whole Wheat Radio online.

Jones composed all but two of the numbers on her latest recording, "Violin Caliente." She is backed by an ensemble of drums, bass, flute, guitar, trumpet, trombone, and alto and tenor saxes. All her recordings are available at [www.violindreams.com](http://www.violindreams.com).

Her live performance schedule encompasses gigs at embassies, government events, hotels and private parties along with jazz clubs, classical ensembles and local community celebrations.

"Most people hiring a jazz group don't think of sticking in a violin, so that's an advantage of having my own jazz group," she says. "I never particularly wanted to front a group, but it turned out that I can be funny and that adds something to the performance."

"Because there are lots of great instrumentalists in the area, I've developed a pool of musicians I work with a lot and am comfortable with. My regular members, Bob Abbott on bass, Brian Litz on guitar and Tom Jones on drums, will play with me on Woodrow Wilson Plaza. We always like to please the crowd, so we'll do standards they recognize and also some things that will surprise and please them and send them away in a joyful mood."

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is dazzlingly silly."  
—THELMA ADAMS, US WEEKLY

# BALLS OF FURY

ROGUE PICTURES, INTREPID PICTURES AND SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A BRINBAUM/BARBER PRODUCTION A LENNON/GARANT FILM  
"BALLS OF FURY" DAN FOGLER CHRISTOPHER WALKEN GEORGE LOPEZ MAGGIE Q THOMAS LENNON ROBERT PATRICK (C) 2007 JULIE ASHTON-BARSON  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARYANN BOZEK PRODUCED BY RANDY EDELMAN WRITTEN BY JOHN REFUGA A.C.E. DIRECTED BY JEFF KINPP PRODUCED BY THOMAS E. ACKERMAN A.S.C.  
CASTING BY RON SCHMIDT COSTUME DESIGNER DEREK EVANS EDITOR ROGER BRINBAUM EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS GARY BARBER JONATHAN GLICKMAN THOMAS LENNON  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THOMAS LENNON & ROBERT BEN GARANT WRITTEN BY THOMAS LENNON & ROBERT BEN GARANT DIRECTED BY ROBERT BEN GARANT

**PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED**  
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13  
Crude And Sex Related Humor  
And For Language

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