

Producer and Artist Representative, **Céline Peterson**, works with some of the most exciting internationally acclaimed jazz artists on the scene today, including JUNO Award winners **Caity Gyorgy**, **Jim Doxas**, and **Robi Botos**, acclaimed vocalist **Paul Marinaro**, tap dancing storyteller **Travis Knights**, Canada's beloved songstress **Jackie Richardson**, Member to the Order of Canada, **Dr. Dave Young**, pianist **Ben Paterson**, and the **Doxas Brothers**. Also an experienced producer, Céline's live event credits include Jazz at Lincoln Center, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts, Massey Hall, and nearly eight years as a producer of Toronto's Kensington Market Jazz Festival.

Céline's career began as a teenager when she started working in Social Media Management and then in 2014, she transitioned to Management at the suggestion of long-time friend, Dave Young.. Her efforts and successes have put her at the top of the list for artists who want to work with a representative with a unique understanding of the industry and a track record with dedication first and foremost to supporting the artist's goals. As an Artist Representative, Céline chooses to adapt her services to fit the needs of the artists she is working with, believing that every artist is entitled to representation. With advocacy being an integral part of accurate representation as far as Céline is concerned, her goal is to encourage a shift in the industry so that sacrificing artistic integrity becomes a less common practice for those who wish to reach certain milestones as artists.

"Céline Peterson is a brave and articulate champion for Jazz. A valiant writer and speaker who works lovingly and tirelessly for the cause of dedicated musicians. Her brilliant mind and deep heart motivate her outspoken support for the present and future of music education. With honest humility and courage, she speaks the truth of the immeasurable importance for our evolving society to realize that Jazz is a precious art form for us to invest ourselves in and to treat with care, dignity and devotion. I'm grateful for Céline's encouragement of my efforts, because her sincerity won't ever allow her to "pretend" where the sanctity of music is concerned. Céline is the real deal and the international Jazz community is blessed by her humanity, soul and voice." - **Benny Green**

From 2016 - 2022, Céline was a producer of the <u>Kensington Market Jazz Festival</u>, which takes place each fall in the heart of downtown Toronto. Céline has also worked extensively with <u>Coalition Canada</u> and their **Youth4Music** initiative as an Ambassador, participating annually in their **Music Monday** celebrations. A proud advocate for the up-and-coming generations of musicians, in addition to her work with the Coalition, Céline has done workshops at various schools including *Durham College*, and *The Chicago Academy for the Arts*. The opportunity to interact with people behind the voices that will shape the future is a significant priority for Céline - not because she needs to be heard but because she wants to hear from them in order to lend her support and aid in amplifying their voices.

Since 2018, Céline has worked with *Christine Mori* and *Alexis Spieldenner* at *Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts*. Céline has been a part of several presentations at their multi-genre festival. Highlights include two years as Artistic Producer of their annual *Voices of Freedom* concert. This unique event has seen performances from *Monty Alexander's Harlem-Kingston Express*, GRAMMY Award winner *Larnell Lewis*, multi JUNO Award winners *Robi Botos*, and *Mike Downes*, acclaimed vocalist *Jackie Richardson*, bassist and educator *Bakithi Kumalo*, saxophonist *Joseph Callender*, and students from *Laura Secord Secondary School*'s concert choir and band. Céline has also curated International Jazz Day programming for Bravo Niagara!, which in 2020 included a brand new arrangement of Max Roach's Freedom Day by *Larnell Lewis*, featuring *Lewis*, *Dione Taylor*, *Robi Botos*, *Mike Downes and Matt Woroshyl*. The 2020 IJD programming also included virtual performances from Lara Driscoll, Laila Biali and Paul Marinaro as well as a celebration of *Dr. Billy Taylor*'s centennial featuring *Monty Alexander* and *Brandon Goldberg*, and '*A Conversation with John Clayton* & *Howard Reich*'. In 2022 for the return of their in-person IJD celebrations, Céline brought together veteran members of Oscar Peterson's quartet, *Jeff Hamilton, Dave*



Young and Ulf Wakenius with special guest Jocelyn Gould and featuring Robi Botos on piano for 'The Music of Oscar Peterson'. Céline was also

on the Production Team for Bravo's brand new ballet, *Kimiko's Pearl*, which held its world premiere in June 2024. 'Kimiko's Pearl' unfurls the bittersweet story of one family – spanning four generations – set against the turbulent backdrop of WWII. To learn more <u>click here</u>.

In February 2019, the 70th anniversary of Oscar Peterson's US debut at Carnegie Hall was commemorated at Jazz At Lincoln Center's Appel Room, with <u>"Piano Master: The Oscar Peterson Story."</u> For this remarkable 2-night event, Céline called upon 2x GRAMMY Award-winning bassist, composer, arranger, and bandleader John Clayton to act as Musical Director. This special program featured performances from Gerald Clayton, Bill Charlap, Ben Paterson, Robi Botos, Kenny Barron, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Paul Marinaro, Jeff Hamilton, and Ulf Wakenius. Also in 2019 Céline joined in the celebrations for jazz legend Art Blakey's centennial at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz Congress, moderating a panel that brought together more than 25 of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and was the first reunion of its size in celebration of this jazz icon and his legacy. Panellists included Wynton Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Benny Green, Melissa Slocum, Jon Faddis, Randy Brecker, Branford Marsalis, Harold Mabern, Ralph Peterson Jr. and more.

One clear theme in most aspects of Peterson's work is her dedication to celebrating legacy. In 2022 she joined forces with pianist, composer and Executive Director of <u>Neranenah</u> in Atlanta, Joe Alterman, to produce a celebration of the life and work of jazz music's greatest and most prominent impresario, Norman Granz. While Granz's name is surely known to jazz fans as founder of **Verve Records** and **Jazz At The Philharmonic**, outside of those circles few are aware of his immense impact not just on the jazz artform but on Civil Rights. Through music and conversation, Benny Green, John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton along with Alterman came together to pay tribute to "The Man Who Used Jazz For Justice."

Céline also has a history in broadcasting. In May of 2019, Céline joined the team at **JAZZCAST.ca** where she hosted **No**, **I Do Not Play Piano**, a weekly program dedicated to music that she has connected to over the years. *JAZZCAST* was founded in 2019 by **Dani Elwell**, **Garvia Bailey**, **Walter Venafro** and **Heather Bambrick**. JAZZCAST was an online platform where listeners can enjoy 24/7 jazz programming as well as curated programs from an impressive list of hosts. In 2022, Céline continued the program when it moved to **JAZZ.FM91** alongside other Jazzcast programming. The show concluded in fall of 2022.

Céline currently sits on the Board of Directors at Calgary's <u>BuckingJamPalace (BJP</u>); a family organization rooted in intimate live performances educational programming. Since its inception from founders Lisa and Tom Buck, BJP has contributed significantly towards the enrichment of the jazz scene in western Canada and has expanded the organization's scope to include new and exciting initiatives rooted in artistic expression and excellence. Born from their friendship and like-minded goals, BJP Artistic Director Lisa Buck, Board President Jodi Lucas (CKUA), and Peterson joined forces to launch **SASS Artist Management**, a new start-up focusing on amplifying and supporting female-identifying voices within music in Canada.

Within 2022-2024, Céline enjoyed working on additional projects including *Jazz.FM91's Discover Women in Jazz Series*, a new recording of Oscar Peterson's Hymn To Freedom to commemorate the song's 60th anniversary, and was selected as Curator for the Canadian Music Centre's new concert series, *Jazz at the Centre*, which is approaching its third season.

Looking ahead to 2025, Céline is hard at work on planning for a year of celebration of what would be **Oscar Peterson's Centennial**. There are a series of exceptional events and projects scheduled throughout the year from The Estate of Oscar Peterson in collaboration with the production team of Peterson and **Jim Doxas**. The first announcements for this occasion will be made on August 15, 2024, so visit <u>OscarPeterson.com</u> to be the first to receive updates.

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