



Hall of Fame Inductee

Name: NANCY BIERMA

Instrument: Piano

Year Inducted: 2017

Although she moved to Minneapolis over 20 years ago, Nancy Bierma left an impact on the Des Moines scene as a pianist, advocate for women in jazz, and educator. Born in Newton, Nancy came to Des Moines in the 1970s to earn her music degree at Drake University. It wasn't long after her arrival that she started performing in local clubs, solo and with musicians including her husband bassist Jim Bierma. Nancy's own bands became regular features at Julio's on Court Avenue, the Hotel Fort Des Moines, Green Jeans and many other clubs of that era. A strong advocate for female jazz musicians,

Nancy created and co-produced the popular annual Women In Jazz Concerts of the 1980s and '90s. She also played a significant role in starting the Jazz In July series with Metro Arts Alliance. Nancy and her husband, Jim, moved to Minneapolis in the late 1990s, where she continues to pursue her passion for jazz there while enjoying a successful career as a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist.

