

WWW.JULIAKEEFE.COM

# Julia

## KEEFE

INDIGENOUS BIG BAND



## OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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BOOKING:

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DIRECTOR & VOCALIST

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# JULIA KEEFE INDIGENOUS BIG BAND



## ABOUT US

"Jazz is a uniquely American art form. The Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band... takes that one step further." - Olympian, 2022

The Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band (JKIBB), an all-Indigenous 16-piece big band, premiered at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Olympia, WA on May 19th, 2022.



# JULIA KEEFE

## INDIGENOUS BIG BAND



Indigenous jazz musicians, ensembles, and big bands have their place in the contemporary jazz world as well as in jazz history. There were small ensembles and big bands on reservations across the US in the first half of the Twentieth Century and several Indigenous musicians who ascended to celebrity with jazz as their medium.

Since time immemorial, songs have been the vessels for prayers and stories for the Indigenous people of the Americas. The goals of JKIBB are to celebrate and continue that tradition, to compose and perform new music inspired by traditional melodies, and to create a community of likeminded peoples from all backgrounds to uplift the next generation of Indigenous jazz musicians.

Indigenous cultures are not monolithic. JKIBB reflects a wide range of Indigenous cultures, from South America to Canada, Northeast to Southwest. Together they represent a long silenced, long-forgotten chapter in history: the participation, contribution, and legacy of Indigenous jazz musicians. JKIBB is both a reflection of a time long forgotten and a window into the future. It is the bridge for all peoples to see themselves on the bandstand regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Available for performing arts centers, clubs, private events, and outreach engagements.



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# OUR TEAM

## **JULIA KEEFE**

**DIRECTOR &  
VOCALIST**

Julia (Nez Perce) is a nationally acclaimed and award-winning Native American jazz vocalist, actor, activist, and educator currently based in New York City.



## **DELBERT ANDERSON**

**CO-DIRECTOR &  
TRUMPET**

Delbert (Diné) is enjoying a music career as one of today's most forward-thinking artists.

Recording, touring, community outreach, music educational workshops, composing, arranging and guest appearances keep Anderson busy not only in his hometown of Farmington, NM but worldwide.



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## RICO JONES

CO-DIRECTOR &  
TENOR SAXOPHONE

Rico (Mesoamerican and Andean) is an emerging artist on the jazz scene in New York. He is an avid practitioner of the history of the music and a composer who pushes the boundaries of the art form.



## MALI OBOMSAWIN

ADMINISTRATIVE  
SUPPORT & BASSIST

Mali (Odanak First Nation) is an award-winning songwriter, bassist and composer from Odanak First Nation. With an eclectic background in indie rock, American roots/folk and jazz, Obomsawin carries several music traditions.

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### PERSONNEL

#### TRUMPETS

**Kalí Rodriguez**, Taino, Trumpet  
**Delbert Anderson**, Diné, Trumpet  
**Chuck Copenance**, Ojibway,  
Trumpet  
**Chad Willis**, Choctaw Nation of  
Oklahoma, Trumpet

#### TROMBONES

**Armando Vergara**, Taino,  
Trombone  
**Christopher Gonzales**, Mestizo,  
Trombone  
**Wade Demmert**, Lingít/Oglala  
Lakota, Bass Trombone

#### WOODWINDS

**Asa Peters**, Mashpee Wampanoag  
and Narragansett, Alto Saxophone  
**Rogan Tinsley**, Native Hawaiian,  
Alto Saxophone  
**Rico Jones**, Mesoamerican and  
Andean, Tenor Saxophone  
**Michael Gutierrez**, Comanche and  
Cheyenne-Arapaho, Tenor  
Saxophone  
**Orion White**, Nez Perce and  
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Bari  
Saxophone



#### RHYTHM SECTION

**Adrien Wagner**, Blackfeet -  
AmskapiPikanii, Piano  
**Mali Obomsawin**, Wabanaki First  
Nation at Odanak, Bass  
**Edward Littlefield**, Lingít, Drums

#### VOCALS

**Julia Keefe**, Nez Perce, Vocals

\*Personnel subject to change



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THANK YOU

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